

John F. Kennedy High School SOAR

Application Packet 2014-2015 School Year

Application Deadline:
December 18, 2013

Mr. Robert A. Johnston
Principal

422 Highland Ave. Waterbury, CT 06708
203-574-8150
203-574-8154 (fax)

WATERBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

APPLICATION SCHEDULE 2013-2014

Visit feeder schools: October-November 2013

Applications become available: October 18, 2013

SOAR Open House: November 7, 2013

Student shadow days in SOAR: November 4, 2013 – December 13, 2013

Application Deadline: December 18, 2013

Notification letters released to families: January 31, 2014

Student acceptance deadline: February 28, 2014

Registration for those accepted: Spring 2014

Summer Workshop:

July 2014 at Kennedy High School—REQUIRED of new students!



John F. Kennedy High School

SOAR

ADMISSION POLICY AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS for the 2014-2015 school year

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the SOAR Program. The SOAR program is an advanced academic program and we have limited enrollment. These application materials will allow us to assess your qualifications for our program. All information must be completed, signed and returned by December 18, 2013.

The Application Checklist will help you organize your materials. Please complete this form neatly and accurately. The form must be signed by you and a parent/guardian.

We look forward to receiving your completed application. If you need any assistance in completing this application, please call 203-574-8150 and we will be happy to help you. You can also email Jahana Hayes, Chairperson of the SOAR Review Board, at jhayes@waterbury.k12.ct.us. By January 31, 2014, we will mail you information about the status of your application to the SOAR Program.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Johnston
Principal
Kennedy High School

SOAR

Application Checklist School Year 2014-2015

Name: _____
(Please print)

The Application Review Committee will not review an application until **all** required items have been received. The following checklist is provided to help you organize these items. Check off each item as you complete it and assemble the items ***in the order listed below***. ****It is the parent and student's responsibility to ensure receipt of the application and necessary materials to Kennedy High School by the deadline.** This may mean sending reminders to your child's school and teachers.

Required Items:

- _____ Application Checklist (page 4)
- _____ Application Form (page 5)
- _____ Shadow Application (page 6)
- _____ Copy of the latest report card including first semester grades and attendance
- _____ Copy of most recent CMT scores or scores from a nationally-normed test
- _____ Two teacher recommendation forms: one recommendation from the language arts or social studies teacher and one from a math or science teacher. These can be mailed directly to Kennedy High School or faxed by the teacher (pages 7 and 8).
- _____ Essay Component (see page 9 for rubric)

Return your completed application to:

SOAR Admissions
John F. Kennedy High School
422 Highland Ave.
Waterbury, CT 06708

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:

Essay	25%
Grades	25%
Standardized Test Scores or other as described above	25%
Teacher Recommendation Forms	25%

Application Deadline: December 18, 2013
Deadline to Shadow/Visit: December 13, 2013

J. F. Kennedy High School

SOAR
APPLICATION
2014-2015 school year

Applicant Information

Elementary School:	Middle School:	Grade applying for:
Last Name:		First Name:
Current Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Date of Birth:	Circle: Male or Female	

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name:		E-mail:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:
Parent/Guardian Name:		E-mail:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:

Acknowledgement and Signature

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ACCEPTANCE, THE APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PARENT/GUARDIAN AND STUDENT.

Student's Signature:	Date:
Parent's Signature:	Date:

SHADOW REQUEST FORM

Shadowing Dates: November 4, 2013 – December 13, 2013

Students interested in applying to SOAR must submit a SHADOW REQUEST FORM as soon as possible. Shadowing is mandatory for all applicants.

On your confirmed shadow date, please arrive by 7:00 am, in dress code. Report to the main office where you will meet the principal, guidance counselor, and a present 9th grade SOAR student.

Shadowing students can be picked up at 1:30 pm in the main office. You will be provided with an absence form to turn in to your home school. Visiting students should bring pen and paper.

Submit your request to Kennedy High School by fax or mail to SOAR Admissions, Kennedy High School, 422 Highland Ave. Waterbury, CT 06708, phone (203) 574-8150, Fax (203) 574-8154. You may also email your request to rjohnston@waterbury.k12.ct.us.



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Student Name: _____

Male Female

Current School: _____

List the date you would like to shadow: _____

I hereby grant permission for my child, named above, to be at Kennedy High School on a shadow visit.

Daytime Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

SOAR

Teacher Recommendation Form—Language Arts or Social Studies

Student Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Teacher Name: _____ School: _____ Circle: Language Arts Social Studies

This evaluation is an integral part of our screening process. It will help us identify students who are most apt to benefit from the SOAR course of study. Please complete all the items and return this form to Kennedy High School before December 18, 2013.

		Below Average	Average 1	Above Average 2	Excellent (top 10% this year) 3	One of top few I have ever met 4
Academic Ability	Academic Performance					
	Academic Skills					
	Oral Communication Skills					
	Written Communication Skills					
	Curiosity					
Work Ethic	Motivation					
	Industry					
	Homework Completion					
	Initiative					
	Ability to Work Independently					
	Responsibility					
Peer Relationships	Empathy					
	Cooperation					
	Interactions with Peers					

Comments (feel free to comment on the back)

SOAR

Teacher Recommendation Form—Science or Math

Student Name: _____ Current Grade: _____
 Teacher Name: _____ School: _____ Circle: Science Math

This evaluation is an integral part of our screening process. It will help us identify students who are most apt to benefit from the SOAR course of study. Please complete all the items and return this form to Kennedy High School before December 18, 2013.

		Below Average	Average 1	Above Average 2	Excellent (top 10% this year) 3	One of top few I have ever met 4
Academic Ability	Academic Performance					
	Academic Skills					
	Oral Communication Skills					
	Written Communication Skills					
	Curiosity					
Work Ethic	Motivation					
	Industry					
	Homework Completion					
	Initiative					
	Ability to Work Independently					
	Responsibility					
Peer Relationships	Empathy					
	Cooperation					
	Interactions with Peers					

Comments (feel free to comment on the back)

Essay Component

Choose one of the topics listed below. Write this essay in your own handwriting on the page provided. Do not exceed this space. The essay must be a minimum of 200 words.

Topics:

Describe a significant person or event in your life.

What strengths and interests will you bring to SOAR?

Write a review of the last book you have read outside of school.

Writing Rubric

Key Quality	1	2	3	4
Ideas	Weak formulation of ideas; writing not personal	Some ideas presented that are personal and interesting for reader	Solid evidence of including several ideas that are interesting for reader	Strong and overwhelming evidence of mastery of formulating ideas that are personal and interesting to the reader
Organization	No paragraphing skills evident. Writing lacks a sense of organization	Some evidence of organization of ideas and writing	Solid evidence of writer proficiency with paragraphing and organization of ideas	Strong and overwhelming evidence of writer attention to organization of ideas
Voice	Piece of writing lacks the personal voice and experience with little attention to detail throughout	Some evidence of student voice is apparent in parts of essay along with some attention to detail	Most of the writing shows solid evidence of personal voice and experience with attention to detail	Strong and overwhelming evidence of personal voice and experience with great attention to detail.
Word Choice	Words are confusing or misused in essay	Some of the words chosen show writer's skill and maturity of expression	Most of the writing shows skillful and mature use of student word choice and expression	Strong and overwhelming evidence of student's own word choices, maturity of expression
Sentence Fluency/ Conventions	Many sentences are difficult to follow, go off topic, or have the same structure. Little to no attention to grammar, usage, or mechanics	Some evidence of sentences flowing to form ideas or expressions. Some evidence of knowledge of grammar, usage and conventions	Solid integration of a variety of types of sentences that flow together on topic throughout Solid evidence of awareness of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics	Strong and overwhelming evidence of mastery of crafting a variety of sentence types. Strong and overwhelming evidence of mastery of grammar, usage, and mechanics
Presentation	Essay is messy and difficult to read	Some evidence of awareness of how the essay is presented	Solid evidence of understanding the importance of neatness and appearance of essay	Strong and overwhelming evidence of care being taken to present a paper that is neat, complete, and easy to read

Based on a rubric presented in Traits of Writing by Ruth Culham

TOTAL: _____

Note: The essay is scored on seven criteria:

- ideas
- organization
- word choice
- sentence fluency
- conventions
- presentation

