

**JOHN F. KENNEDY  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**SOAR**

**School of Academic Renown**

**2022-2023**

**Robert Johnston  
Danielle Byron**

**Principal  
Chairperson**

**JOHN F. KENNEDY  
SOAR  
School of Academic Renown**

**SOAR signifies School of Academic Renown. This program is based on the concept of a school within a school. Courses within this program are assigned additional quality points and are designated a level above our honors program. Participation in this program is indicated on a student's transcript.**

**Criteria for acceptance into this program include academic achievement at the honors level, above average standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation. Once accepted into the program, requirements include advanced coursework and attainment of credits beyond those required by the State of Connecticut for high school graduation.**

**Additionally, students are obligated to enter into a contractual agreement along with their parents requiring community service, compliance with the dress code, and a stringent disciplinary policy, such that they serve as role models for the entire school.**

**PHILOSOPHY**

**John F. Kennedy School of Academic Renown is a place for serious study and appropriate behavior. The students in this program are an integral part of the Kennedy High School student body and participate in extra-curricular and community activities. The program itself is an accelerated honors program geared toward college bound students who follow a rigorous course of studies. The program will foster an interdisciplinary approach to academic achievement, and aims to produce well rounded civic minded individuals who will easily transition into a college environment.**

**JOHN F. KENNEDY  
SOAR  
School of Academic Renown**

**DISCIPLINARY CODE**

SOAR students will follow the Waterbury Department of Education's Disciplinary Code with the following additions:

**ATTENDANCE**

SOAR students are only allowed ten absences per year and no more than four tardies per marking period. Three tardies equal one absence. Two dismissals will be allowed per year unless there is an emergency. Students are expected to make medical and other necessary appointments after regular school hours.

**MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work necessitated by legitimate absences will be administered at the discretion of the subject teacher; it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the subject teacher as soon as possible after the date of the absence.

**HOMEWORK**

If a student misses three assignments they will be referred for disciplinary action.

**ACTIVITIES**

**It is mandatory** for students to engage in one extracurricular school activity, club, or sport per semester. A minimum of 15 signed hours of community service will be given to the Chairperson of the SOAR Review Board within two weeks of completion. Community-based service activities must be approved prior to participation.

Students who fail to complete community service will be referred to the Discipline Review Board. Community service hours will then be doubled to 30 hours and must be completed by July 1st of the current school year. The student will also be placed on probation for the following academic year. Any subsequent offenses, including but not limited to community service, may result in removal from the program.

**SUMMER READING**

**It is mandatory** that SOAR students complete summer reading. Within the first week of school students will be tested on their summer reading assignments. If a student fails the test or it is clear that they have not completed the assignment the following will apply:

Students must read the material and retake the test within one month.

The retake grade must be passing or students will be referred to the review board.

If this becomes a yearly occurrence the student will be referred to the review board for possible removal from the program.

## **PROBATION**

If a student is placed on probation for any reason he/she must fulfill all requirements of the probation as well as not commit future violations of the SOAR rules. Academic probation will last until the end of the school year, unless otherwise stipulated. Probation for discipline or behavior will last one year, unless otherwise specified.

## **GROUNDINGS FOR EXCLUSION FROM PROGRAM**

This section describes the school-related disciplinary offenses for which a student, in accordance with other sections of this Code, may be subject to exclusion. For the purpose of this Code, "school related disciplinary offenses" refers to a violation of this Code occurring while the student is on school grounds, during a school-sponsored activity, while on school-provided transportation en route to or from a school or school-sponsored activity, or when such misconduct is likely to have an adverse effect on the maintenance of discipline in school, while walking to or from school, waiting for or riding on public transportation.

1. Students who fail to maintain a 75 average or better each marking period in academic subjects can be excluded from the program. If a student fails an academic subject for the year they will be considered for removal from the program. SOAR students are not permitted to have any credits earned through grade retrieval programs apply to SOAR credit. A student who fails a class is encouraged to attend summer school in order to maintain their credits, however this does not guarantee they will remain in the program. Students must be enrolled in SOAR classes for all academic subjects.

2. Offenses which can cause exclusion:

- |                                  |                    |               |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| a. Serious disciplinary offenses | d. Vandalism       | g. Plagiarism |
| b. Cheating                      | e. Forgery         |               |
| c. Stealing                      | f. Insubordination |               |

3. Offenses which, when repeated, may lead to exclusion from the Program:

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. Class cut/ disruptions           | e. Smoking                       |
| b. Gambling                         | f. Dress Code Violation          |
| c. Leaving class without permission | g. Lying                         |
| d. Insolence                        | h. Use of Obscene Language       |
|                                     | i. Possession electronic devices |

**First offense:** Discipline referral handled by assistant principal, and on a case by case basis by the chairperson of the SOAR Review Board.

**Second offense:** Discipline referral handled by assistant principal. Referral to Review Board. Board may exclude student from program or place on probation. Referrals to the Review Board will jeopardize the student's participation in field trips. The principal will make the final decision.

**Third offense:** Discipline referral handled by assistant principal. Exclusion from program. The Principal will make the final decision.

**GROUNDS FOR EXCLUSION CONT...**

4. Non-school related offenses which will cause automatic exclusion from the Program:
  - a. Felony convictions
  
5. Non-school related offenses which will cause referral to the Review Board:
  - a. Misdemeanors
  
6. If, at any time, a student is unable to fulfill all of the SOAR requirements they may be counseled out of the program.

## **S O A R Dress Code**

### **1. Collared shirts only for Boys and Girls.**

- Solid black or navy blue “polo” or “golf” style, collared shirts, with or without the “Waterbury Public Schools” or Kennedy “Eagle” logo.
- Solid black or navy blue cold weather fleece may be worn **WITH** the solid black or navy blue “polo” or “golf” collared shirt.

### **2. Plain dress style pants, skirts, skorts, or dresses for boys and girls, solid black or khaki. All pants must be worn at the waist.**

- Pants, skirts, skorts, or dresses must be worn at the waist and completely covering undergarments, and no more than three inches above the knee.
- Note: leggings, stockings, or other stretch/form fitting coverings may only be worn under skirts, skorts, or dresses. No exposed undergarments, cleavage, or midriffs.
- Students may only wear shorts when the dress code is “relaxed” and they are given permission.

### **3. Footwear.**

- Shoes or sneakers must be worn at all times.
- Laced shoes must be laced up and tied.
- Sandals, clogs, flip-flops, heels, or bare feet are not permitted. All shoes must have backs.

### **4. Additional requirements.**

- No cargo pockets
- No zippered pockets
- No jean type pants
- No denim material or material that appears to be denim of any color
- No ornamentation or detailing whatsoever (chains, gloves, armbands etc)
- No form fitting pants
- No oversized pants
- No hooded sweaters
- No outer coats or jackets of any type.

### **5. Whatever is worn will be neat in appearance.**

**JOHN F. KENNEDY**  
**SOAR**  
**School of Academic Renown**  
**PARENT/ STUDENT CONTRACT**

I have read the **Dress Code, Disciplinary, Exclusion and Attendance** policies of the John F. Kennedy School of Academic Renown. I agree to abide by all of these rules and regulations as stated. I fully understand that failure to observe these rules may result in exclusion from the program.

Additionally, students agree to be actively involved in the school through participation in clubs and activities, and in the community through their community service projects.

We believe that SOAR is a partnership between parents and educators in creating the best possible education for our child. Therefore, parents are strongly encouraged to attend at least three Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) meetings per year.

The SOAR faculty agrees to work tirelessly to ensure that your child secures the academic knowledge and skills to prepare him/her for the nation's finest colleges and universities.

**Signed agreement must be returned to Kennedy High School.**

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature

Please return to:

Mr. Robert Johnston  
Principal  
John F. Kennedy H.S.  
422 Highland Ave.  
Waterbury, CT. 06708

## SOAR Faculty

- Mr. Anthony Caruso English
- Ms. Alena Cybart-Persenaire English
- Ms. Heather DeVeaue English
- Ms. Emily Drewry English
- Mrs. Kara Sullivan English
- Mr. Matthew Wiener English
- Mrs. Lana Elder Social Studies
- Mr. Aaron Heron Social Studies
- Ms. Angela Joyce Social Studies
- Ms. Arianne Salcito Social Studies
- Mr. Matthew Turek Social Studies
- Mrs. Brigitt Szwaba Math
- Mr. George Flaherty Math
- Ms. Danielle Byron Math
- Ms. Carly Sullivan Math
- Mr. Sukru Unluturk Math
- Mr. Allan Bernabe Science
- Ms. Laura Borges Science
- Mr. Joseph DelDebbio Science
- Mr. Donald Lafayette Science
- Mrs. Ann Marie Wright Science
- Ms. Lisbet Morris Science
- Mrs. Rosanna Cinquegrana World Languages
- Ms. Denise Gianelli World Languages
- Mr. Robert Likorama World Languages
- Ms. Catalina Rincon World Languages
- Dr. Mary Ann Sagnella World Languages
- Mr. Michael Clark Talented & Gifted Program
- Mr. Craig Poulter School Counselor

**SOAR**  
**Course of Study**  
**Grades 9 – 12**

**GRADE 9**

English 9

Algebra 1  
Geometry  
Algebra 2

World History

Biology

Italian 1  
Spanish 1

Physical Education (½ year)

Health (½ year)

Elective(s)

**GRADE 10**

English 10

Algebra 2  
Pre-Calculus  
Geometry

Civics (½ year)  
U.S. History 2 (½ year)  
**European History AP**

Chemistry

Italian 2  
Spanish 2

Physical Education (½ year)

Health (½ year)

Elective(s)

**GRADE 11**

**American Studies English UCONN**  
**English Language AP**

Pre-Calculus  
Calculus  
**Calculus AB AP**  
**Statistics AP**

**American Studies U.S. History UCONN**  
**U.S. History AP**

Physics  
**Physics AP**  
**Biology AP**  
**Chemistry AP**  
**Environmental Science UCONN**

Italian 3  
Spanish 3

Math SAT Prep (½ year)

English SAT Prep (½ year)

Elective(s)

**GRADE 12**

English 12  
**English Literature AP**

Calculus  
**Calculus AB AP**  
**Calculus BC AP**  
**Statistics AP**

**U.S. Government & Politics AP**  
**Comparative Government AP**  
**Psychology AP**  
**Sociology UCONN**

Physics  
**Physics AP**  
**Biology AP**  
**Chemistry AP**  
**Environmental Science UCONN**

Italian 4  
**Italian UCONN**  
Spanish 4  
**Spanish AP**

Elective(s)

## College Acceptances

Amherst	Johns Hopkins	Swarthmore
Babson	King's College	Syracuse
Bentley	Lehigh	Temple
Boston College	Loyola Marymount	Trinity College
Boston University	Manhattan College	Tufts
Brandeis	Marist	Union
Brown	Mercyhurst	University of Bridgeport
Bryant	MIT	University of California, Irvine
Carnegie Mellon	Mount Holyoke	University of Chicago
CCSU	Mount St. Mary	University of Connecticut
Colgate	Northeastern University	University of Hartford
Columbia	Norwich University	University of Iowa
Cornell	NYU	University of Massachusetts
Dartmouth	Penn State	University of New Haven
Drexel	Princeton	University of North Carolina
Duke	Providence College	University of Pennsylvania
ECSU	Quinnipiac University	University of Rhode Island
Emerson	Rensselaer	University of Rochester
Fairfield	Rochester Institute	University of Southern California
Fordham	Roger Williams	University of Wyoming
George Mason University	RPI	Vassar
George Washington University	Sacred Heart	Villanova
Georgetown	Salve Regina	WCSU
Hamilton	SCSU	Wellesley College
Harvard	Skidmore College	Wentworth Institute of Tech
Hofstra	Smith	Wesleyan
Holy Cross College	Stanford	Wheaton
Howard University	Stonehill	Williams
		WPI
		Yale

