

2026-2027

School

HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT

KIPP COOPER NORCROSS SUMNER ACADEMY

Contact Information

School Information

KIPP Sumner Academy (KSA)	School Directory
Grades Served	Kindergarten - 6th Grade
Phone	856-263-6240
Fax	856-295-8320
Address	1600 S. 8th Street, Camden, NJ 08104
Website	kippnj.org/schools/kipp_sumner-elementary/

Leadership & Family-Facing Staff

Name	Role	Email
Ken Calemmo	School Leader	kcalemmo@kippnj.org
Carmella Carter	Assistant School Leader / AP of Culture	ccarter@kippnj.org
Kelly Meaney	Assistant School Leader	kmeaney@kippnj.org
Dr. Jennifer Nieves	Assistant School Leader	jnieves@kippnj.org
Giana Barbera	Assistant School Leader – Special Education	gflamini@kippnj.org
Matthew Brown	Social Worker	mbrown5@kippnj.org
Sharae McGill	Director of School Operations (DSO)	smcgill@kippnj.org
Ms. Dee Muniz	School Operations Manager	dmuniz@kippnj.org

Mission, Vision & Values

Mission

> The mission of KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy (KCNA) is to create a network of schools in Camden, New Jersey that instills in students the desire and ability to succeed in college in order to change the world.

Vision & Values

At KIPP Sumner Academy, we are a joyful, justice-driven community rooted in Camden and united by the belief that every child deserves a world-class education. We honor the full stories and cultures of our students while building the academic excellence, social-emotional strength, and leadership needed to navigate and transform the world. Through rigorous learning, authentic relationships, and purposeful celebration, we unlock each child's brilliance and cultivate problem-solvers, advocates, and changemakers. Our students lead with empathy, curiosity, and pride—prepared to shape a future filled with choice, opportunity, and collective liberation.

Our student values are:



School Hours

KSA has an extended day. Our students start earlier and end later than many other schools, which sets them up for success in college and career.

Day / Schedule	Times
Monday – Friday (Regular Day)	8:45 AM – 3:45 PM
Half Days (as noted on the calendar)	8:45 AM – 1:15 PM

Important Notes:

- The daily dismissal list is finalized at 11:00 AM. All dismissal changes must be called to the main office before that time.
- The main office closes 30 minutes before dismissal as students transition to dismissal locations.
- You MUST show a photo ID and be on the approved pick-up list when picking up a scholar.
- Students not picked up by 4:00 PM (full day) or 1:15 PM (half day) will be brought to the main entryway. After one hour of no call/no show, police will be contacted.
- For dismissal changes, contact Miss Dee or Miss Jo at 856-263-6240.

No early dismissals are permitted during the following windows:

- Full Days: 3:15 PM – 3:45 PM
- Half Days: 12:45 PM – 1:15 PM

The Main Office is closed to visitors and parents 30 minutes before dismissal.

Academic Belief

At KSA, we believe that every student can achieve at the highest level when given rigorous instruction, strong relationships, and the opportunity to learn from mistakes. We hold high expectations because we believe high expectations are a form of love.

Students are graded on their mastery of grade-level standards. Progress reports and report cards reflect student mastery assessed through writing samples, reading level testing, and reading and math assessments. Attendance, homework completion, and behavior also contribute to a student's overall performance.

Course Offerings

KIPP Sumner Academy serves students in Kindergarten through 6th Grade.

KSA students receive the following daily instruction.

- English Language Arts (ELA) – including reading, writing, and speaking & listening
- Mathematics
- Science (5th - 6th Only)
- Specials (PE, Art, and/or Music)
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)
- History (5th-6th Only)

Extracurricular Offerings

> Note: Specific extracurricular offerings for 2026–2027 will be communicated to families at the start of the school year. Please contact the main office at 856-263-6240 for the most current information.

KSA is committed to providing students with enriching experiences beyond the classroom. Extracurricular activities and after-school programming are offered throughout the year and may include academic clubs, enrichment activities, and special events.

Field trips are also an important part of the KSA experience, offering students exposure to a variety of life experiences. Written parent/guardian permission is required for all field trips. Parents and guardians are welcome to serve as chaperones, as space permits.

Arrival & Dismissal Logistics

Arrival

Doors open at 8:45 AM. All students must arrive by 9:00 AM.
Students enter through the designated entrances on 8th Street.
Students arriving after 9:00 AM must enter through the main entrance and will be marked late.
Students may still receive breakfast until 9:45 AM.

Dismissal

Students must be picked up between 3:45–4:00 PM (regular days) or 1:15–1:30 PM (half days).
Students should be picked up inside at the designated pickup location.
The daily dismissal list is created at 11:00 AM. All dismissal changes must be called into the main office before that time.
The main office closes 30 minutes prior to dismissal as students transition to their dismissal locations.

Recess Policy

Recess provides students with a short break, fresh air, and informal participation in positive social and physical activities.

Recess will be held outside whenever possible. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

Parent requests for inside recess during cold weather create a supervision challenge, as teachers must be outside with students. If your child has a medical reason preventing outdoor participation, please contact the school nurse.

Uniform Policy

All KSA students are required to wear the complete KSA uniform every day. Our uniform policy builds a sense of pride within our school community and ensures students look professional while remaining comfortable as they learn. Students must remain in uniform tops at all times while on campus.

K–6 Uniform Requirements

K-4 Students must wear one of the following uniform tops:

- Gray KSA t-shirt
- Gray KSA short sleeve polo
- Gray KSA long sleeve polo
- Gray KSA crewneck sweatshirt
- Any school-sanctioned KIPP shirt (iReady, Field Day, NJSLA, etc.)

5-6 Student must wear:

- Navy KSA t-shirt
- Navy KSA short sleeve polo
- Navy KSA long sleeve polo
- Navy KSA crewneck sweatshirt
- Any school-sanctioned KIPP shirt (iReady, Field Day, NJSLA, etc.)

Bottoms:

- Students may wear any pants of their choosing.
- No shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers, or dresses.

Additional Dress Code Rules

- Belts are recommended and must have a small, plain buckle and a solid color strap.
- All shirts must be tucked in.
- Makeup and false fingernails are not allowed.
- Sleeveless or midriff shirts or blouses are not permitted.
- Jewelry should be minimal and may be removed if distracting.

- No hats or hoodies on inside of the building.
- Shoes must be closed-toed. Athletic or dress shoes permitted — sandals, flip flops, heels, platforms, and wheeled/light-up shoes are not permitted.
- Only KSA crewneck sweatshirts are allowed. Coats and jackets must be left in cubbies at the start of the day.

Uniform Violations

Any article of clothing or accessory that becomes a distraction to learning will be sent home with a note. Students dressed improperly may be required to call a parent/guardian to bring appropriate clothing. Repeated or intentional violations will result in additional consequences.

Ordering Uniforms – Flynn & O'Hara

Method	Details
Online	www.flynnohara.com
Phone	(856) 931-8838
Store Hours	Mon 10am–7pm | Tue–Wed 10am–6pm | Sat 10am–5pm
Store Location	Garden State Pavilions, 2240 W. Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Parent Involvement

Parent–Teacher Communication

> Every Thursday, important communications will go home to families in your student's binder. Please check for flyers, notices, progress reports, and other important documents each Thursday.
> Inform your student's homeroom teacher of your preferred method of contact and the best way to reach you in an emergency.
> Teachers also send home weekly exit tickets to keep families informed of their child's academic performance.

At KSA, our top priority is student learning. Parents are encouraged to first address concerns with the classroom teacher, then the grade level chair, then the assistant principal, and finally the principal as a last resort. Please do not interrupt instructional time. Appointments are strongly recommended.

Visitors

All visitors, including parents and guardians, must check in at the main office.
Visitors must sign in using a valid photo ID (driver's license preferred) and will be issued a visitor badge to wear at all times.
Please sign out at the main office before leaving.
Visitors who do not follow security procedures or who are disruptive may be asked to leave by school staff or security personnel.

Birthday Policy

KSA recognizes the importance of birthdays in a student's life and will do our best to make each student's birthday special while respecting the wishes of those who choose not to participate.

If families wish to celebrate their child's birthday at school, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Families must notify the child's teacher(s) at least one day prior.
- Birthday treats may be sent on the scheduled day and will be distributed at a time determined by the classroom teacher.
- All birthday treats must be store-bought, sealed, and nut-free.
- Treats may not include nuts as an ingredient.

Recommended Supplies

The supplies listed below are recommended but not mandatory.

Supplies for Students to Bring to School

- Backpack
- *Kindergarten and 1st Grade: One change of clothes to keep in cubby (including socks and underwear)*

Supplies to Keep at Home for Homework

- Child-safe scissors
- Pencils (plenty)
- Large eraser
- Glue
- Crayons
- Reading books (students should read at least 20 minutes every night)
- Paper (for writing and drawing)

Bathroom Accidents

Students of any age who have a bathroom accident with no extra clothes will follow the procedure below:

- The student will wait in the nurse's office until a change of clothes is secured.
- The parent/guardian will be notified to bring clothes to school. We ask that parents make every effort to respond as soon as they are notified.
- If a student has frequent bathroom accidents, the parent should follow up with the student's primary care provider.

Students may use the restroom at the teacher's discretion throughout the day.
Please notify the school if your child has any unique restroom needs.
We ask that each child in Kindergarten and 1st grade keep a change of clothes (pants, shirt, underwear, and socks) stored at school for emergencies. Soiled uniform items will be sent home to be cleaned.

Personal Electronic Device Policy

Personal Electronic Device Policy Summary

To ensure our students can thrive in a distraction-free environment that promotes academic excellence, social-emotional growth, and character development, KIPP Cooper Norcross schools implement a strict No Cell Phone Policy during school hours, including recess. Student devices will be collected at the beginning of the day and returned at the end of the day.

KSA is not responsible for personal devices, including headphones, cell phones, tablets, etc. Students should leave them home.

For all official policies and additional important information, visit the KIPP Cooper Norcross Regional Student & Family Handbook at:

https://kippnj.org/school-resources/

KIPP COOPER NORCROSS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

kippnj.org

This is a school supplement only. To access official district policies, see the KIPP Cooper Norcross Regional Student & Family Handbook at: https://kippnj.org/school-resources/