

# Navigating At the Kastle

[AK Website: cms.k12.nc.us/Schools/High School/Ardrey Kell High School](https://cms.k12.nc.us/Schools/High%20School/Ardrey%20Kell%20High%20School)

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year at Ardrey Kell High School, home of the Knights!

- Please use this resource to find information about AK to complement existing school communication channels ([AK Website](#), email, phone, AK events).
- **Handbooks** are available online from the [AK Website](#), click [Code of Student Conduct Handbooks](#), and are excellent sources for details about CMS and AK specific policies and terminology.

## BE AK READY

- Familiarize yourself with the [AK Website](#), including the topics in the left menu
- Pay the AK annual \$35 Student Fee online ([AK Website](#), click [Online Bill Payment System](#)) required for all students - Student Fee covers: Agenda, class t-shirt, Naviance subscription, grade-level treats, and ID
- Review the [AK Student Handbook](#), available on the [AK Website](#) and printed in the front of the Student Agenda, for familiarity with topics such as: attendance, dress code, early dismissal/late arrival, Knights in Action, Knight Time, lockout, lunch regulations, parking, security, and tardies
- Create a PowerSchool account to keep track of your child's grades, assignments, and attendance
  - From [AK Website](#), click [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) under CMS Resources on the bottom left
- Link your Harris Teeter VIC Card to AK (#6093) to earn \$ for AK

## STAY IN THE KNOW

- Ensure your email/phone # are up to date in PowerSchool (Parent Portal) to get automated emails/phone calls
- Visit the [AK Website](#) weekly to review timely and upcoming important information on home page:
  - [School Announcements](#) and [Current Calendar Events](#)
  - Select [View Full Calendar](#) link for all school events, including exams and holidays
- Subscribe to AK Group Emails, according to your interests
  - From [AK Website](#), click [Group E-mails/Knightly News Sign-Up](#)
- Read the AK Knightly News
  - From [AK Website](#), click [AK Knightly News](#)
- Follow AK on Social Media
  - Facebook: Ardrey Kell High School PTSO
  - Twitter:
    - Follow @ArdreyKellHS for AK Student Information
    - Follow @AKSportsInfo for AK Sports Information
    - Follow @AKStudentNews for Student Council Information
  - Text: Text @AKInfo1819 to 81010 to sign up for AK REMIND alerts
- Make it a priority to attend school events (check [AK Website](#) for dates) such as:
  - [Open House](#) the week before school starts for parents & students to visit classrooms, meet teachers, obtain supply lists, purchase PE uniforms
  - [Curriculum Night](#) scheduled in first 3 weeks of school year for parents to meet child's teachers and learn about academic expectations and course curriculum
  - [Coffee/Sweets with Mr. Switzer](#) morning/evening events throughout year for parents, hosted by Mr. Switzer, who shares information and answers your questions/concerns
  - [Grade Level Nights](#) hosted by grade level administrators to address current needs/concerns
  - [AP Fair](#) held each spring for parents & students to learn about Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered and their requirements
  - [College, Career & Wellness Expo](#) held each winter for parents & students to learn about college & career planning and staying healthy
- Contact Teachers and Staff, as needed
  - From [AK Website](#), click [Faculty & Staff](#); click envelope icon to send an email

## EMBRACE AK OPPORTUNITIES (for students)

- Join a club, after school activity, sport(s), theater, band, etc.
  - From [AK Website](#), click [Club Information](#)
- Attend Tutoring
  - Mornings before school, Monday-Friday, 6:55am–7:15am
  - Afternoons after school, 2:30pm–3:30pm; see teachers for specific days/times
  - Sign up for Knight Time with teachers; see [AK Student Handbook](#) for further description
- Create a relationship with your guidance counselor
  - From [AK Website](#), click [School Counselors](#); assigned based on last name
  - Students may stop by Students Services during lunch, or email counselor to schedule an appointment

## CONTRIBUTE to AK's SUCCESS

- Join the PTSO (Parent Teacher Student Organization) to be involved at AK
  - From [AK Website](#), click [PTSO Information](#)
  - Meetings: second Monday of every month, starting September 10, 6pm-7pm, media center
  - Recommended \$25 minimum annual contribution, per family
  - 10 scholarships awarded annually to Seniors who are members of PTSO
- Join the #AKPTSOrai\$ingdough fundraiser to benefit students & teachers; see [PTSO Information](#) page
- Join Booster Club(s), including: Athletics, Band, Chorus, Royal Theater Patrons, and ROTC

## SHOW AK SPIRIT

- From [AK Website](#), click [Athletics](#) and scroll down to find the link; site active for periods throughout year
- Purchase an AK Magnet (\$8) in the Main Office
- Purchase a "Home of a Senior Knight" yard sign (\$15) in the Main Office
- Attend a school event: athletic, musical, theatre, see [View Full Calendar](#) on [AK Website](#)
- Paint the school rock out front (first come, first served)

## GRADE LEVEL HIGHLIGHTS

### Freshmen:

- From [AK Website](#), click [School Counselors](#), click [Freshmen Information](#)
- Students eligible for Drivers Education classes at age 14 ½; all registration is done on the Jordan Driving School website; classes fill up fast
- GPA/class rank for transcript first calculated at end of first semester Freshmen year

### Sophomores

- From [AK Website](#), click [School Counselors](#), click [Sophomore Information](#)
- Students take PSAT and Pre ACT (both administered by AK); can use test results to strategize test preparation options in advance of taking the SAT and ACT

### Juniors

- From [AK Website](#), click [School Counselors](#), click [Junior Information](#)
- Juniors eligible to apply for Parking Spot (by lottery only), see [AK Student Handbook](#)
- Juniors can register for college visits at AK, from [AK Website](#), click [College & Career Center](#)
- Students take PSAT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) and ACT (both administered by AK)
- End of Junior year GPA/class rank will be used for college applications submitted prior to the end of first semester Senior year
- Junior/Senior Prom annual Spring tradition

### Seniors

- From [AK Website](#), click [School Counselors](#), click [Senior Information](#)
- Seniors eligible to apply for Parking Spot (must meet all requirements), see [AK Student Handbook](#)
- Seniors can register for college visits at AK, from [AK Website](#), click [College & Career Center](#)
- Students complete Graduation Project; from [AK Website](#), click [Graduation Project Information](#)
- Students typically take SAT/ACT tests for college applications (student's responsibility to register)
- Senior photos, and quotes (for Yearbook)
- Junior/Senior Prom annual Spring tradition