

# KENDALL DEMONSTRATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Washington, D.C.



#KDESwildcats

[kdes.gallaudet.edu](http://kdes.gallaudet.edu)



# A PLACE TO LEARN

## A PROUD HISTORY

Walk through the front doors of Kendall Demonstration Elementary School (KDES) and find deaf and hard of hearing students thriving in a bilingual learning environment. KDES was founded in 1857 by the U.S. Congress and is part of a rich history of educating deaf and hard of hearing students on the campus of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. KDES enrolls students from birth through eighth grade from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Today, the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center operates KDES as a demonstration school in service to the nation. KDES attracts collaborations from educators and researchers from across the nation interested in exploring bilingual teaching practices. Through KDES's affiliation with Gallaudet University, a renowned institution of research and teacher education, University students and researchers learn from and mentor KDES students. These advantages ensure dynamic practice and current theory for each student in addition to a language-rich academic and family environment that is accessible to everyone.



KDES provides a tuition-free, comprehensive day school program to deaf and hard of hearing students. The majority of the teachers and staff are deaf or hard of hearing and serve as language and role models. The school is federally funded, and all of the programs and support services are offered free of charge.

To be eligible for enrollment at KDES, applicants must be deaf or hard of hearing and be able to benefit from a visual-based, bilingual learning environment. Applicants with secondary disabilities are considered provided that their primary educational needs are related to deafness. Students receive individual supports for American Sign Language (ASL) and/or spoken language development in accordance with language and communication goals that are established by teachers and staff with parental involvement. ASL is used to access communication and learning throughout the school.

KDES holds dual accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf.



## For Families

- Family ASL classes
- Full-time family educator
- Parent newsletter
- Parent-teacher meetings
- Kendall Parent Teacher Association
- Shared Reading Program (for families with children through third grade)







# ACADEMICS

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program serves deaf and hard of hearing children and their families from birth through pre-kindergarten. It is composed of three levels of programming:

- Birth-to-3
- Preschool
- Pre-kindergarten

The current ECE placement policy can be found in the *KDES Parent-Student Handbook*. The staff monitors the development of both ASL and English using the Visual Communication and Sign Language Checklist as well as tools for spoken English.

Each child in ECE participates in a variety of sensory-based experiences in a bilingual environment. Learning takes place in child-centered, play-based classroom centers that incorporate active learning and hands-on developmental experiences. ECE also partners with other service providers families may be using for their child.



## ■ Birth-to-3 Program

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate in Birth-to-3 Program activities. Home visits and visits in other natural environments are determined based on the needs of the child and the family. Infants and toddlers with their parents, or a caregiver designated by the family, attend class two mornings a week if a child is under 2 years old. Children ages 2 to 3 years old attend from three to five mornings a week, with the days of the week determined at the start of the school year. Parents drop off and pick up their children from class. Our staff collaborates with families and early intervention programs in the National Capital Region.

## ■ Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten

The preschool program introduces the child to his or her first full-time school experience. Students attend school five days a week.

The literacy-based environment encourages the development of a community of learners with emphasis on social-emotional and pre-literacy skills. As the students begin to acquire more independence, they learn about making decisions for themselves as individuals and as part of a team. What they learn in preschool and pre-kindergarten will serve as a foundation for future Common Core State Standards learning that they will encounter in kindergarten and through the elementary school years.



## Outdoor Classroom

One of the favorite places for preschool and pre-kindergarten students is the Outdoor Classroom. This specially designed outdoor learning center stimulates curiosity through hands-on experience with nature in all types of weather and all seasons. This environment supports STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) activities. Students start to use photography to document change over time in seasons, weather, and plant growth. They build bird houses and bird baths. They plant flower and vegetable gardens that lend themselves to discussion of the events in the natural world, seeing in action what they read in their classroom books and learning about measurement, volume, and other early math concepts.

## The ECE program offers families:

- Support services as identified during the IEP process
- Family ASL classes
- Shared Reading Project for home-based ASL story reading tutorials
- Staff member home visits (Birth-to-3 Program)
- Connection and networking with other parents and caregivers







# ACADEMICS

KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 8



From kindergarten through eighth grade, students experience hands-on learning that is academically rigorous, IEP-driven, and aligned with the Common Core State Standards. They learn how to ask questions, find answers, and work with others to share new knowledge. Field trips and special activities off campus connect the students' classroom learning with the world-class resources available in the Washington, D.C., area.

## ■ Kindergarten-Fifth Grade

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade receive instruction in ASL and English language arts, math, social studies, and science. In ASL and English language arts, students receive guided viewing and signing as well as guided reading and writing instruction. Curriculum enhancement classes and activities are available in areas such as ASL, computer skills, visual arts, performance arts, and physical education.

## ■ Sixth-Eighth Grade

Students in sixth to eighth grade rotate to different teachers who provide specific core subject instruction throughout the day. In addition to core academic subjects, students take curriculum enhancement classes and participate in activities such as visual and digital art, dance, ASL performing arts, physical education, and STEAM projects. As they progress through middle school, they engage in activities that prepare them for the transition to the academic and social world of high school.

## ■ Extended School Year

KDES offers ESY for three weeks during the summer. A student's eligibility for ESY is determined through the IEP process using a multifaceted evaluation. Students are selected for ESY for a variety of reasons that may include, but are not limited to, the continuation of support for emerging skills or if a student is at risk of regressing without services/support through the summer break.

## ■ The Adventure Ahead

As students enter eighth grade, KDES teachers and support staff prepare them for transition to high school. Students receive guidance in the areas of academics, health, responsibility, and independence. When KDES students complete eighth grade, they are automatically eligible to continue their education at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD). Located adjacent to the elementary school, MSSD is a four-year, fully accredited, tuition-free high school with a residential and day program.

For more information, visit the MSSD Admissions web page at [MSSDadmissions@gallaudet.edu](mailto:MSSDadmissions@gallaudet.edu), or call or fax to:

(202) 250-2216 (Videophone)  
(202) 651-5397 (Voice)  
(202) 651-5362 (Fax)



## Field Trips Connect the World to the Classroom

With the national and international resources of Washington, D.C., available nearby, KDES takes field trips to a whole new level.

- American Art Museum
- Cox Farms
- Frederick Douglass House
- Gallaudet University's House One
- Imagination Stage
- Maryland Science Center
- Mount Vernon
- Newseum
- National Arboretum
- National Children's Museum
- National Museum of Natural History
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- National Museum of African Art
- Port Discovery
- Public Playhouse
- Smithsonian National Zoo
- Underground Railroad Experience Trail
- Union Station
- U.S. Capitol
- White House





# COMMUNICATION

Language has a critical role in student achievement. At KDES, students are provided with stimulating, language-rich learning spaces, and teachers and staff actively incorporate language learning into all aspects of the curriculum. Teachers, staff, administrators, and guest speakers model language use both inside and outside of the classroom, providing students with exemplars of clear communication. The goal is for students to graduate with proficiency in both ASL and English.

In the younger classes, storybooks come to life during dedicated ASL story time in the classroom and at the school library. Students expand their command of ASL skills throughout the day, from interactions with their teachers and peers to using interactive ASL computer programs and videos in classrooms and labs.

## ■ ASL Immersion

Fluency in ASL is an essential building block for greater access to academic learning, more meaningful peer and student-teacher interaction, and communication with

family members. The ASL specialists, teachers, and staff create a fully immersive language environment in which students can develop their skills in grammar, production, vocabulary, and communication strategies.





As students progress through the grades, teachers challenge them to use higher-level ASL skills in the creation of literary and visual arts projects. The students create videos using the equipment in the ASL video/studio lab to highlight and expand on what they are learning in their classrooms. Throughout the year, families have opportunities to come see students give live demonstrations on academic work, art exhibits, and performances in ASL.

In deaf studies classes, ASL specialists help students grow in their knowledge of ASL, Deaf culture, and deaf history. At various times throughout the year, students have an opportunity to meet and participate in workshops with deaf guest presenters, artists, and athletes and take part in ASL contests such as the annual Marie Jean Philip Competition for ASL Poetry, Storytelling, and Deaf Art.

## ■ Emerging Signers Program

All classes, programs, and services are conducted in ASL. Students come from a wide range of communication backgrounds. The Emerging Signers Program (ESP) provides support for students with little or no ASL fluency at the time of enrollment. The staff assists with communication and the acquisition of ASL skills in academic and school event settings. Services are tailored to meet individual students' needs, and services will be gradually reduced in direct correlation to a student's expanding skills and independence.

The range of potential services includes:

- Direct ASL instruction and assessment
- ASL as a curriculum enhancement class
- Direct one-on-one interaction with an ASL specialist
- Teacher accommodations
- Interpreting
- Note taking
- Language mediation/Certified Deaf Interpreting
- Communication Access Realtime Translation/captioning
- Spoken English interpretation
- Social-emotional support specific to identity, culture, and language acquisition
- Counseling

## ■ Spoken Language

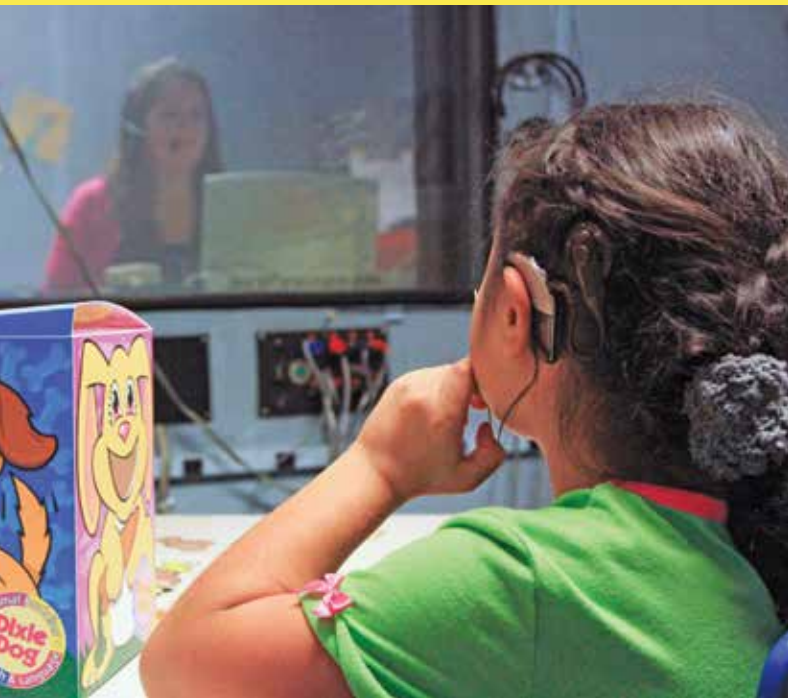
KDES identifies, with parental involvement, supports for spoken language development in accordance with the student's language and communication goals. Supports include:

- Speech and language therapy
- Allocated time for using spoken language in the classroom
- Allocated time for using spoken language in social settings
- Support from a spoken language resource specialist as needed





# SUPPORT SERVICES



## Keys to Success

An array of educational support services is available to each student. If a student needs a particular service, the related service provider will be involved in developing the student's IEP.

Support services available at KDES include:

- Academic planning/IEP
- ASL skills development
- Audiological services, including support for students with cochlear implants
- Occupational and physical therapy (OT/PT)
- Psychoeducational services
- Social work and counseling
- Speech and language services



## ■ Academic Planning/IEP

IEP case managers work with students, parents or legal guardians, the IEP coordinator, and other school personnel to develop an educational plan tailored to each student's needs and postsecondary goals. The case managers also help monitor student progress and ensure students are becoming self-directed, independent, and resourceful learners.

## ■ American Sign Language

ASL use and development is incorporated throughout the instructional program. ASL teachers are integrated into the classroom to support ASL development for all students. These teachers work collaboratively with teachers and other support staff. Additionally, ASL teachers provide individual and small group ASL intervention services based on a student's IEP.

## ■ Audiological

Students can receive no-cost services including, but not limited to, hearing and technology assessments, hearing aid evaluations, and cochlear implant services (except for mapping).

## ■ Occupational and Physical Therapy

OT and PT services support students' development in fine and gross motor skills, life skills, and sensory integration that directly impact their level of achievement

in academics and social-emotional growth. OT and PT services are provided individually and are based on IEP goals.

## ■ Psychoeducational

The school psychologist assesses students' cognitive, social-emotional, academic, and behavior needs related to educational and transition plans. The psychologist teams with teachers and students to implement instructional strategies outlined in the students' IEPs.

## ■ School Counseling and Social Work

Counselors, the social worker, and the school psychologist offer services that support access to academics and foster emotional intelligence. They help middle school students strengthen transition skills they will need in high school environments. In addition to planning individual or group services as outlined in students' IEPs, they coordinate school-wide workshops and programs on critical issues such as conflict resolution and bullying prevention. The social worker, in particular, offers family support and community outreach.

## ■ Speech-Language

Speech-language services are individualized based on each student's IEP. Areas addressed may include spoken English, language, auditory training, and literacy support. Services are provided individually or in small groups, or they are integrated within the classroom.





# AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Learning at KDES does not stop when classes end for the day. The After School Program (ASP) is designed to promote recreational and educational learning among students and to help students develop a lifelong appreciation for sports and recreation. The ASP staff includes Gallaudet University recreation and education majors who serve as language and adult role models. Students are provided with opportunities for growth in both developmental skills and everyday problem-solving techniques through activities and projects. The activities teach students skills such as planning, teamwork, leadership, and organization.

The program staff supports students by providing them with an environment conducive to personal growth, where students discover more about their own individual needs and strengths.

The After School Program includes:

- Athletics
- Arts and crafts
- Homework help
- Intramurals
- Performing arts and ASL
- Swimming



ASP is held after school Monday through Thursday from 3:15-5 p.m. Students ages 4 to 15 are eligible to join the program. KDES offers team sports (grades 5 to 8); recreational activities, including homework help; and occasional field trips. Activities include, but are not limited to, parkour, cooking, sports clinics, and arts and crafts. Experts in these areas work with the students to increase their skill levels.



## Athletics

KDES takes great pride in its athletics program. Its teams compete in the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference and the Tri-State Basketball Tournament. Teams also compete locally against private and public schools as well as against nearby schools for the deaf.

KDES offers the following sports to students in grades 5-8:

### FALL

Girls volleyball, youth soccer, cross country

### WINTER

Boys and girls basketball

### SPRING

Track and field, intramurals







# FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

## The KDES-Family Connection

Parents and caregivers are valued partners in education at KDES. Families stay connected with teachers and staff throughout the school year with Back-to-School Night, parent events and conferences, student performances, and family newsletters. All family events are interpreted, and free child care is provided.

Free family sign language classes offer great opportunities to learn, practice, and enhance ASL skills. Families of all levels are invited to bring everyone who has a role in the student's home life

to family sign language classes. Families fluent in ASL are encouraged to participate as mentors.

A parent educator works with all parents of students in creating opportunities for information sharing and family development.

Examples of special events held for families throughout the year:

- Fall, winter, and spring gatherings
- Family dances
- Movie nights in the KDES gym
- Parent presentations and workshops



## ■ Parent-Teacher Association

The Kendall Parent Teacher Association (KPTA) provides dynamic opportunities for parents, guardians, and other caregivers to be involved with the education of their children at KDES. The KPTA board hosts various workshops and meetings throughout the school year for information sharing.

KPTA annually hosts fun seasonal social activities such as the fall Spooktacular, the Winter Festival, and the Spring Fever picnic. KPTA also sponsors fundraising activities, including the Scholastic Book Fair and the Chocolate Ball, to benefit school-wide programs. Find KPTA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/29483974238](https://www.facebook.com/groups/29483974238).

## ■ Multicultural Services

KDES offers multicultural and transliteration services for families who speak languages other than English. The services range from interpreting and translation at school meetings, IEP planning meetings, and school events to the translation of written school communication materials from English to families' home languages. The Language Helpline assists families with spoken and written communication needs during school hours and evening events.

## ■ Transportation

Bus service is provided at no cost for students within a 15-mile radius of the U.S. Capitol Building. Students residing outside of the service area may receive bus service from established pick-up and drop-off points.







## APPLY NOW

We invite families to tour the school and meet with our enrollment coordinator.

Visit us online at [www.gallaudet.edu/kdes/admissions.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/kdes/admissions.html).

## CONTACT

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