

July 2015

KeyNews—Keeping Up With Keystone

Contact Keystone:

1-800-255-4937

info@keystonehighschool.com

A Culture of Continuous Improvement

“New and Improved” are words that are heard quite frequently in the marketplace. Sometimes the concept of new and improved is a gimmick, or nothing more than new packaging to create some buzz. That is not what Keystone focuses on when we make improvements.

When Keystone implements tools and services that are new and improved, you can be assured that they truly are designed to improve the student experience and impact student success. Continuous improvement is part of our commitment to you as Keystone students, parents, and school officials.

Our strong commitment to continuous improvement was recognized in our recent reaccreditation visit

with AdvancED. It was obvious to the accreditation team that we have processes in place to evaluate our own practices, feedback, and student outcomes, and proactively develop improvements and strategies to help students to be more successful. In last month’s newsletter, we focused on some of the successful improvements we implemented in the 2014-15 school year. Highlights included implementation of the Strong Start Program and Keystone Strong website designed to improve student engagement and support, the addition of new elective courses, improved guidance communications resulting in a 100% increase in college applications, revision of the parent meeting strategy, increased focus on the quality of teacher feedback, and several other initiatives.

In preparation for the coming traditional “school year”, the Keystone academic team has no less than 25 projects we are completing that are either new initiatives, improvements on existing programs, or strategies that support student success. Some of the changes are not visible directly to students and parents, but form the foundation for improving the student experience. Some of the key improvements are highlighted in this issue of KeyNews.

As you read the newsletter, I think you will see, just as the AdvancED accreditation team did, that Keystone is focused on a culture of continuous improvement.

Keystone is a highly flexible independent learning model school, with high quality teacher support availa-

ble whenever students need it. Our improvements are focused on retaining that flexibility and independence for students, while making as many targeted resources as possible available for important things such as academic support, student engagement, and post-secondary planning. Quite simply, Keystone student success is our success, making us partners with you in this effort.

Many of the improvements we make come directly from parent and student feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to provide your suggestions to us at info@keystonehighschool.com. We appreciate the trust you have placed in us and we pledge our attention to making Keystone the best it can be!

Lisa McClure—Head of School



College Application Toolkit

Keystone’s guidance counselor has developed a College Application Toolkit, where students and families can access all links and information relevant to the college application process ‘offline’. Feel free to print this document or save it to your desktop for quick access!

Please click the following link below to access the College Application Toolkit:

<https://fw.unitymg.com/rdr/C:12551>

Please click the following link so Keystone’s Guidance Department can collect your contact information if you will be a college bound senior (starting college in the fall of 2016)!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016KeystoneSeniors>

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Senior College Acceptances 2014-2015 To Date

Alamance Community College	Michigan State University	Texas Christian University
Alvernia University	Michigan Technological University	The Boston Conservatory
Ann Arundel Community College	Misericordia University	The Juilliard School
Arizona State University	Montclair State University	The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
Barnard College	Mount Holyoke College	The University of British Columbia
Brigham Young University	Nazareth College	The University of Central Florida
Butler University	New England Conservatory	The University of Utah
Cleveland Institute of Music	New York University	University of Calgary
College of Charleston	Northwestern University	University of Colorado- Boulder
College of the Ozarks	Oral Roberts University	University of Colorado- Boulder
Colorado State University	Pace University (NYC campus)	University of Denver
Colorado University at Boulder	Palm Beach Atlantic University	University of Idaho
Cornell University	Pepperdine University	University of New Hampshire
DePaul University	Point Loma Nazarene University	University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill
Elizabethtown College	Purdue University	University of North Carolina- Charlotte
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Relativity School	University of North Carolina Wilmington
Florida Atlantic University	Salisbury University	University of North Georgia
Florida Southern College	Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Pennsylvania
Florida State University	Sierra Nevada College	University of Puget Sound
Full Sail University	Southern Arkansas University	University of the Arts
George Mason University	Southern Methodist University	University of Vermont
Georgetown University	St. Norbert College	University of Washington
Georgia Southwestern State University	Stetson University	Victoria University
Indiana University	SUNY Albany	Western Carolina University
Indiana University Bloomington	SUNY Fredonia	Whitworth University
Kean University	SUNY Oneonta	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Manhattan School of Music	SUNY Oswego	Xavier University
Marquette University	SUNY Purchase	
Miami University	Texas A&M University	

Congratulations to Keystone's **67** May Graduates from 21 US states and 6 countries!

Best Wishes on your future success!!



**Total Scholarship Count So Far:
\$1.3 Million and counting!**



New Resources for Keystone Parents

What's new for Keystone parents? We have listened to feedback from our parents and we know that the "getting started" process can be as challenging for parents as it can be for students. You were probably full of questions when your student was starting. What's my role with Keystone? How can I help my student be successful? What skills does my student need to be successful? How does Keystone help with college planning? We have heard your questions and this fall will be rolling out new resources for parents to answer those questions.

New Parent Orientation Webinar – This webinar will be held monthly for new parents of full time Keystone students. We will go over the role of the Keystone parent, what you can expect from Keystone and how you can help your student be successful. Although these meetings will be geared toward parents that are new to Keystone, all parents are welcome to attend.

New Parent Welcome Kit – The Parent Welcome Kit will be emailed to new parents when they first enroll. It will include information such as homeschool implications, an explanation of our Strong Start program, career and college information, and more! Our goal is to give new parents a place to go to get their questions answered. This information will also be accessible to all parents on the Keystone Strong website.

Quarterly Parent Meetings – While these meetings are not new for Keystone, we will be continuing parent meetings in the coming year. Look for new topics and more ways for you to get involved.

Keystone Strong Website – Again, this is not a new resource, but we will be continuously updating this resource to make it a "go to" for Keystone information. Look for webinar times and topics, new parent information, newsletters and more. Check it out at www.keystonestrong.com.

Look for these resources and more in the coming months and continue to share your suggestions for how we can support you!

Check out the July Webinar Schedule

Getting Started webinars are designed for new students and parents, but any Keystone student or parent is welcome to sign up and attend! You can click on the event to sign up or use the links provided below.



<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Audience</u>
Getting Started The Right Way With Keystone	July 1st	3 pm ET	James Bonham	New Students and Parents
Getting Started The Right Way With Keystone	July 9th	7 pm ET	James Bonham	New Students and Parents
Getting Started The Right Way With Keystone	July 15th	12 pm ET	James Bonham	New Students and Parents
Getting Started The Right Way With Keystone	July 23rd	7 pm ET	James Bonham	New Students and Parents
Getting Started The Right Way With Keystone	July 29th	3 pm ET	Aubree Kresch	New Students and Parents

Getting Started Webinars 7/1, 7/9, 7/15, 7/23: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aa5aa2aa1f58-getting1>

Getting Started Webinar 7/29: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0949a5ad23a2fd0-getting>

How Much Work has My Student Completed?

Not sure about what your student has completed? Here are the steps to take to find out! First, for parents that have students taking an online course, go to <http://keystoneschoolonline.com> and login using the Parent Observer account. If you cannot locate your login information, contact Student Services at 1-800-255-4937. Next, once logged in, select a course from the list on the left hand side in the box labeled "My Courses". Once in the course select "My Grades". In the "My Grades" page you will see the student's current grade, running total of points, a list of assignments for the course and how many points each one is worth. Here are a few pointers for understanding the gradebook:

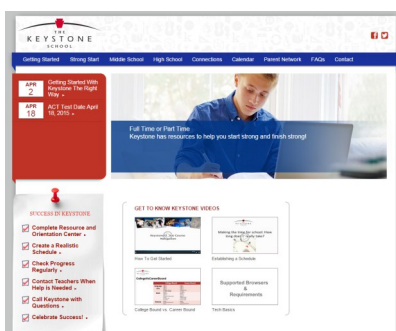
- When the assignment states upcoming and shows -/34 that means the assignment is worth thirty-four points but has not been started or completed.
- When an assignment has been started it will show this in progress icon : 
- When an assignment has been completed and is waiting to be graded by the teacher, you will see: 

Once an assignment is graded you will see the total number of points the student has earned out of the total amount of points possible. Example: 28/34. When an assignment is graded it then counts toward the student's percentage complete.

Another way to figure how much a student has done is to keep track of the progress reports that are sent out every other Monday. The progress reports will display the percentage of the course completed. This number is calculated by the total number of assignments that have been graded, divided by the total number of assignments for the course. Once the answer is calculated, multiply it by 100. Example: Course A has 200 assignments and there have been 40 assignments completed. $40/200 = 0.2 \times 100 = 20\%$ complete.

If you have any questions regarding work completed, always feel free to reach out and talk with your student's Learning Coach or contact Student Services.

Become Keystone Strong



As you may know at Keystone, we provide you with many materials and resources to help you succeed with your education experience. Sometimes it may feel like you are not sure which resource to utilize first. Well, now there is an excellent one-stop-shop-site that both students and parents can go to get a well-rounded idea of our program. This is our Keystone Strong Start website: www.keystonestrong.com. Here you will find information for students and parents as well as information about both print and online courses. Many of our resources are one click away from watching or downloading onto your computer! So go on and check it out today!!

Student Government Association Message



The Keystone Student Government Association has been hard at work over the past several months. The government is currently on summer break until the end of August, but below summarizes the initiatives that they have been working on:

Student Tutors
 Honor Roll and Yearbook
 Website/Advice Column
 Discussion Boards/Media Network
 Keystone Mascot Contest

Can submit creations September 1st – October 1st

Instructions for entering the completion will be posted soon

More information on each of these topics will be released soon.

New elections will be held for each position on the last Tuesday in October. Students that are interested in running for one of the government positions should go to the SGA website to complete the application documents after August 31st. All information will be posted then.

Website: <http://knhssga.wix.com/keystudentgovernment> **Facebook:** /keystonehighschoolsga

Twitter: @Keystone_SGA **Advisor:** Mr. Kelly – dkelly@thekeystoneschool.net

Keystone Kudos!!!

Kudos to Xavier N.! Xavier has been with the Keystone School since 9th grade, and will be attending SUNY Oneonta this Fall. Best of luck to you, Xavier!

Keystone's Senior Survey!

Please click the following link so Keystone's Guidance Department can collect your contact information if you plan to graduate between September 2015-August 2016!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016KeystoneSeniors>

Course Updates: Coming This Fall

The Keystone Academics team is working hard to prepare for the coming 2015-2016 school year. We are excited to announce the future addition of a few elective and core courses to the fall catalog.

We are preparing updated versions of US History, Environmental Science and Fine Art and add Forensic Science to the core science offerings. We have reviewed and will be adding some new career focused electives such as, Fashion and Interior Design, Entrepreneurship, Public Speaking, and Veterinary Science. In addition to the newer courses, we are also looking to make some updates to teacher contact and essential course information.

We are continuously striving to better serve the needs of our students through the courses we offer, and the layout/navigation of the courses. To help our efforts, please be sure that each time you complete a course, you take a few minutes to provide necessary feedback on the end of course survey.

Important Tip for Successful Course Completion -

Be Sure to Complete all Discussion Board Assignments Correctly

In looking back over some challenges in the past year, the one thing I have noticed that could help students to avoid frustration when trying to finish their courses is to pay close attention to the requirements of Discussion Board assignments. Most Discussion Board assignments require students to make an original post, following some specific guidelines, and then to make substantive responses to two or three other students' posts in the same board. Many students and parents mistakenly think a student has finished a course, only to find it is still sitting there, not completed, because the student did not follow all of the Discussion Board requirements.

Here is a tip from Mr. Dan Kelly, Instructional Supervisor, on making those response posts to other students' posts:

In regards to student's 2 response posts to other student's posts, follow this recommended approach. You should read the post, and then provide whether or not you agree with the claim(s) made by the student. Once you do this, you then NEED to go further by providing additional supporting details, evidence, and explanation as to why you feel this way. This will further the conversation and give you the best chance at full points. Remember, you are arguing a point. You need to be specific!

If students have questions about what is required for their Discussion Board posts, they should e-mail their teacher.



Summer Can Be a Time of Recovery—Credit Recovery That is!



Do you know someone who might need to take a credit recovery course this summer?? Or maybe someone who would like the opportunity to enroll in a supplementary course at Keystone that maybe isn't offered at their own school? Consider telling them about Keystone.

Students who are full time with Keystone, or taking a supplementary course with us may not know about Keystone's extensive Credit Recovery program. With both print-based packets and online course offerings, students can earn the credit they may have lost out on through a failed course during the school year. Keystone can be a great supplement to traditional public school, and many districts use Keystone exclusively for the credit recovery needs.

Anyone interested in credit recovery can call Keystone at 800-255-4937 to learn more and get enrolled!



Tech Tip of the Month

Newer Computers and Keystone

Purchasing a new computer can be an exciting prospect, but you should be sure that the computer you settle on is compatible with Keystone! Thankfully, there are a wide variety of modern computers, operating systems, and browsers that can be used when taking Keystone courses.

Please see the helpful chart below for more specifics about which configurations are most compatible with this program:

Platform	Operating system	Browsers
PC	Microsoft Windows Vista or later	Mozilla Firefox is no longer a supported web browser for the Blackboard environment due to security changes made by Mozilla.
		Internet Explorer 10 or later
		Google Chromebooks are not supported at this time; the Chromebook does not permit the installation of JAVA and this program is required for Blackboard functionality. Google Chrome 30 or later (PC and Mac)
Macintosh	Apple Macintosh OS X 10.5 or later	Mozilla Firefox is no longer a supported web browser for the Blackboard environment due to security changes made by Mozilla.
		Safari 6 or higher (Mac OSX)
		Google Chrome 30 or later

NOTE: When using Windows, if you are using a 64-bit browser, you need to install 64-bit Java to match. If you're running a 32-bit browser, then you'll need to install 32-bit Java.

Please note that most of our online courses contain Flash, which is not supported in Apple's mobile operating system (iOS). This makes our courses incompatible with iPads (and iPhones).

Additionally, the following requirements must be met for Blackboard 9.1:

	Popup Blocking Disabled JavaScript Enabled
Operating Systems:	Windows Vista or later Macintosh OS X 10.5 or later
RAM:	512MB or higher
Resolution:	1024 X 576 or higher
Media:	Soundcard and Speakers/Headphones Microphone required for certain courses
Plugins:	Sun Java 7 Flash Player Version 11 or higher QuickTime Version 7 or higher Real Player required for certain courses Jaws 11 or higher (for accessibility)

Keystone's Mission

The Keystone School provides high quality, individualized educational experiences in a safe, technology enabled learning environment to empower students to achieve their academic and personal goals.

More information about Keystone's mission and our expected school wide learning results can be found in the student handbook posted in the online homeroom and on our website.