



Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are happy to send this invitation for your 8th grade child to participate in the 45th annual Keith Valley Challenge, the largest middle school fundraiser of its kind in the United States. The Keith Valley Challenge is a long-standing tradition, revered and generously supported by the entire Hatboro-Horsham community. This year we are celebrating the 45th year of 8th grade students working together to raise money to support children with serious medical conditions by granting them wishes. The “Challenge” will be held on Tuesday, June 8th from 8:00 AM and will conclude at 4:00 PM, with a rain date of Thursday, Jun 10th. Proceeds will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Our goal is always to have 100% of our 8th grade class participate. The Keith Valley Home and School Association has graciously offered to provide funding for student participation in the KV Challenge this year. This will provide students with a T-Shirt, snacks, and a catered lunch. **All 8th grade families are asked to complete an online permission form by Monday, April 12th so we can plan for the KV Challenge accordingly.**

Please [click here](#) to access the permission form.

Following, you will find information detailing the relevant history, rules, and details regarding the 45th KV Challenge. Please review this information with your child. We appreciate your help to relay the special purpose of the “Challenge,” including what it means to commit to helping others while carrying on a rich, humanitarian tradition in the Hatboro-Horsham Community.

[Click here](#) to donate to the 45th KV Challenge.

On behalf of Keith Valley and our partnership with Make-A-Wish, we are looking forward to this year’s KV Challenge. Although the KV Challenge will look different this year, we are certain your child will do an exemplary job, and we truly appreciate your support in perpetuating this most worthy event. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the 8th grade office at 215-420-5056.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Kircher, Principal
John Ewerth, Assistant Principal



History of the Keith Valley Challenge

The first Billy Whitehead Marathon was held in 1977 in memory of Billy, an 8th grade student at Keith Valley Middle School, who passed away January 18, 1977 of a rare congenital heart defect. In his memory school administrators, staff and 8th grade students sponsored a hockey marathon and pledged to raise money for St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. In 1981, the marathon took on a new name – THE KEITH VALLEY CHALLENGE. At this point, the students willingly took on an additional “challenge” of supporting a second charity. This year marks the 45th year of the Keith Valley Challenge. Last year's 8th grade class raised \$44, 393. To date, Keith Valley students have raised and donated over \$1,196,334.

[Click here](#) to donate to the 45th KV Challenge.

Supported Charities throughout the Years

- American Cancer Society
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Barry Ashbee Leukemia Foundation
- Montgomery County Association for Retarded Citizens Infant Program
- Transplant Games/National Kidney Foundation
- Arthritis Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House
- Multiple Sclerosis Society
- American Heart Association
- Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
- Redland Middle School
- Flyers Wives Fight for Lives
- ALS Foundation
- Make-A-Wish

45th KV Challenge FAQ

Q: Am I able to participate if I have attended KV virtually this year?

A: All students can participate! We have planned the KV Challenge to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. Masks will be worn at all times except while eating or during a mask break.

Q: How many teams will there be and how will I know which team I am on?

A: We plan to have 16 teams this year and students will be teamed up with other students from their homeroom. Each team will have their own shirt color and team name. Homeroom teachers will serve as the “team chaperone.”

Q: Will teams play floor hockey in the gym like the past?

A: Teams will participate in many activities, mostly outdoors, and spread throughout the KV property. These may include floor hockey, kick ball, soccer, minute to win-it, etc. Our Health & Wellness and Creative Arts teachers will be running the activities.

Q: Will there be a kickoff assembly?

A: The Challenge Day kickoff assembly will be held outdoors. Students will sit by team on the back hill with the assembly stage on the field hockey field. Only 8th grade students will be attending the assembly this year. We are looking into the possibility of streaming the assembly for 6th & 7th grade as well as parents and our HHSD community.

Q: How much does it cost to participate?

A: This year, KV Home & School Association is donating funds to cover the cost of a Challenge T-shirt for every 8th grade student and all food & drink during the Challenge. Thank you KV HSA!

Q: What about raising money for Make-A-Wish? Is there a minimum amount that I must raise?

A: Online donations for the Keith Valley Challenge are strongly encouraged. [Click here](#) to access the 45th KV Challenge donation page. The minimum donation requirement, typically \$80, is being waived this year. Students are simply asked to make at least one donation in any amount that they are able. Family and friends that wish to donate on behalf of a student are welcome to do so as well. Please share the link for online donations with them as well. Cash and checks made out to Keith Valley Middle School will also be accepted.

Q: Can my parents come and watch during the day?

A: With most of our activities taking place outdoors during the school day this year, we are unable to accommodate parent spectators this year. However, a few parent volunteers are needed to help serve lunch. Please reach out to KV HSA if you can help. All volunteers must have their current clearances on file with HHSD.

Rules & Regulations

Keith Valley Middle School rules and regulations will be strictly enforced. The school reserves the right to send a student home at any time due to inappropriate behavior and failure to follow the pre-established rules. Please see the Student/Parent Handbook, pages 38-39 and page 44 for further details.

Use, possession, or distribution of any illegal or controlled substance is a violation of Hatboro-Horsham School District policy and will not be tolerated in any way. A student suspected of this will be removed from the KV Challenge immediately and the district's discipline code and policy will go into effect.

We encourage students to leave valuables at home for the duration of the Challenge. KVMS will not be responsible for valuables that are misplaced, lost, or taken during the Challenge.

Lunch, snacks, and drinks will be served throughout the Challenge. Students should not bring their own personal snacks. Outside food and/or beverages will not be permitted during the event without prior approval from administration.

All students are expected to stay until the Challenge ends at 4:00 PM. Parents are welcome to pick up their students at 4:00PM. District school bus transportation will also be provided.