



MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Be Respectful - Be Responsible
Be Ready To Learn



2021 - 2022 New Student Welcome Packet

3901 N 28th St., Tacoma, WA 98407
(253) 571—7000

<https://www.tacomaschools.org/mason/>
@masonmustangstps



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2021 - 2022

Welcome Packet

Mason Middle School
3901 N. 28th St
Tacoma, WA 98407

Main Office: (253) 571 - 7000

Attendance: (253) 571 - 7086

www.tacomaschools.org/mason

facebook.com/masonmustangstps

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Course Selection Sheet	Online
Jump Start Registration	Online/ TBD
After School Activity Form	TBD

Mission Statement

To promote a safe, successful, and rigorous academic community for diverse learners.

Vision Statement

- To implement research-based learning strategies that are continually adjusted to improve student performance and the instructional program.
- To create an environment that has clear, articulated focus for student achievement.
- To provide a structured and developmentally appropriate curriculum.
- To facilitate the teaching and learning strategies of acquiring, questioning and evaluating.
- To promote opportunities for social, emotional and physical growth of every individual.
- To provide avenues for students, staff, and parents to explore learning and foster the desire to learn more.
- To inspire community involvement through collaboration and responsibility.
- To provide professional development for staff that is aligned with Mason's focus and expectations.

Hello Future Mason Families,

We are excited to have you join Mason. We know students and families starting middle school can be both excited and a little nervous. Our goal is to increase your excitement and calm some nerves. It might help by understanding what we are all about here at Mason; empowerment.

Why are we here?

To empower our students, staff, and community.

Mason is an amazing community where we continually seek ways to empower our students, families, and staff. We work to ensure our students grow academically and social-emotionally. Our students are engaged, have ownership of their learning, and most exceed expected growth and proficiency. Our students, staff, and community succeed because we work and learn together as a team.

How will we empower our students, staff, and community?

Social Awareness, Ownership, and Discourse (aka S.O.D.)

We know that our students, staff, and community may feel disconnected and feel a lack of power/ownership with the trauma of Covid. Knowing this, we are committed to always focusing our efforts on increasing social awareness, ownership, and discourse.

1. **Social Awareness:** We build communities in each classroom, on each team, and with our families so we are connected. Our advisory lessons focus on learning about the world and the experience of other people through social awareness.
2. **Ownership:** We also know it is important to support one another with organization, follow-through, accountability to our learning, goal setting, reflection of learning, and ownership. Our students, families, and staff work together to stay organized, informed, and empowered by using the tools in Schoology.
3. **Discourse:** Our students, staff, and community seek out ways to engage in discussion and discourse with one another. We will ensure each voice is part of our learning.

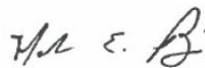
We are excited to see how our incoming 6th graders and families help us continue our efforts to empower by focusing on S.O.D. If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to ask. We are here to support and empower you as you join our Mason community.

Sincerely,



Josh Zarling, Ed.D.

Principal



Mark Phillips

Assistant Principal



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Mason students begin their day with an Advisory class. Following Advisory, students have 6 class periods throughout the day, which consists of math, English language arts, social studies, science and AVID reading (for 6th grade).

Sixth grade mathematics is about connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Science uses a hands-on inquiry based approach where students explore topics in Structure and Function, Genetics, and Weather and Climate. Throughout the year we learn and use reading strategies to aid in comprehension of non-fiction text.

In Social Studies students will cite evidence, identify main ideas, use primary sources, integrate subject vocabulary in their writing, recognize relationships between humans and their physical environments, use text features effectively and write organized responses to showcase their learning. Students will examine the world using the five themes of geography. The themes are: location, region, movement, place, and interaction.

In English Language Arts, students will be building their knowledge and skills of the writing and reading processes, which ties nicely with the adopted District curriculum, *SpringBoard*, The College Board's official Pre-AP program. With the curriculum comprised of literary and informational texts, students will master the skills necessary to succeed in high school and be college and career ready. Students will hone their writing and language skills, such as vocabulary, grammar, and language conventions through actively participating in activities, independent writing, and weekly reading assignments. Students will also develop their communication skills through presentations, participation, and collaboration.



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Mason Music: Band and Orchestra

Mason Middle School offers two exceptional music programs with Band and Orchestra. Many students begin learning to play an instrument through 5th grade music programs. Others begin learning how to play an instrument in the 6th or 7th grade at Mason.

Band

Mr. Ronning is the Band Director at Mason. He offers 4 levels of band – beginning, intermediate, advanced and concert band. Beginning band is for students who have never played an instrument, or have played one for less than one year. Intermediate band is for students who have successfully completed a 5th grade band program, or have established skills from private lessons, and will be continuing with the same instrument.

Unless a student already plays an instrument, it is recommended by Mr. Ronning that students wait until class begins before actually selecting the instrument that they would like to play. The information that he provides to students and parents is invaluable in making an instrument selection that fits the student, and that also compliments the band class. The majority of students provide their own instruments by either purchasing or renting them from a local music store. A band book will also need to be provided by the student. Parents who are unable to provide an instrument for their student may contact Mr. Ronning to see if a district-owned instrument is available for rental for a nominal, annual maintenance fee. Concert band is an audition-only ensemble comprised mainly of 8th grade students.

Orchestra

Mr. Banet is Mason's Orchestra Director. He teaches 4 levels of orchestra – beginning, intermediate, string, and concert orchestra. Beginning classes are for students who have never played an instrument, or who have played an instrument for less than one year. Intermediate students will have successfully completed at least one year of instruction, or have had private instruction and can demonstrate the skills required for this class. Concert orchestra is an audition-only ensemble comprised mainly of 8th grade students.

Beginning orchestra students should wait until the beginning of class to select an instrument. A method book needs to be provided by the student. Parents who are unable to provide an instrument for their student may contact Mr. Banet to see if a district-owned instrument is available for rental for a nominal, annual maintenance fee.

AVID - Advancement Via Individual Determination

The Mission of AVID is to close the opportunity gap, and prepare all students for college, careers, and life. Mason's AVID program is six years strong and we have been recognized as an AVID School of Distinction for three years now. The power of AVID at the secondary level is the ability to impact students in the AVID Elective class and all students throughout the campus. AVID students reflect and question while mastering content rather than just repeating and memorizing. Our students work together to problem solve and to change the level of discourse in the classroom as they prepare for success. Students are taught to articulate what they don't understand and learn how to seek out the resources they need. By teaching critical thinking, inquiry, and self-advocacy, AVID educators empower students to own their learning.



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Mustang Merits

Mason is 1 of 26 schools in our district implementing the Tacoma Whole Child Initiative (TWCI). This initiative focuses on developing, defining, teaching, and learning clear expectations to help develop positive behaviors during the school day. TWCI is a collaborative partnership between Tacoma Public Schools and the University of Washington - Tacoma.

Mason Students can earn Mustang Merits from all staff members for being respectful, responsible, and ready to learn.

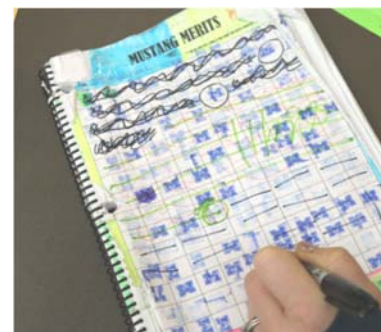
Each week students can “cash-in” their Mustang Merits for a reward. This can include: free shirt day, free dress day, front of the line for lunch, Lunchroom DJ, or a homework pass.

Our motto for expectations of all students and staff at Mason is:

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Ready to Learn





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Mason Clubs, Sports, and After School Activities

Mason Middle School offers a wide range of [extracurricular activities](#) to encourage maximum participation for each middle school student. The programs emphasize skill development of all students wishing to participate. They also strive to create in each student a sense of self-worth. These activities help students explore special non-academic interests and increase cooperation with others. Mason's athletic activities, clubs, and other high-interest activities are offered after school.

Students who participate in school sports and club activities will be required to purchase an ASB membership from the Main Office. The current cost of ASB is \$15.00.

Transportation is provided from Mason to the nearest elementary school to your residence. The after school activity bus leaves Mason at 4:00 PM. The sports activity bus leaves Mason at 5:00 PM.

Sports

Sports participation throughout the year provides students an opportunity to compete with other schools. Sport physicals, [FinalForms](#) Registration, along with an ASB Membership, are required to participate in any and all sports. The ASB Membership helps to pay for sport uniforms and bus transportation. Coaches will hold informational meetings before the beginning of each sport. Parents will need to register their student on [FinalForms](#). (See the Mason Webpage under quick links for more information.)

Session 1

Baseball
Cross Country
Girls Soccer
Boys Basketball

Session 2

Volleyball
Boys Soccer

Session 3

Girls Basketball
Football
Bowling

Session 4

Wrestling
Fastpitch
Track & Field

Clubs

Club activities make up a large part of Mason Middle School's after-school program. An After School Activity Permission slip needs to be completed in order to stay after school. Clubs meet on various days of the week, from 2:45-4:00pm. Here are examples of offered activities (clubs vary by year according to student demand):

Homework Club	Robotics
Computer Club	GSA Club
Creative Writing	Yearbook
Multicultural Club	Book Club
ASB	Chess Club



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Mason School Supply List

- Backpack (no wheels, multiple pockets; make sure 3-inch binder fits)
- 3 inch binder (given in AVID Homeroom)
- 8-10 - spiral notebooks, 70 pages
- 8-10 composition books, college ruled
- Pencil pouch, sturdy cloth
- Dividers, strong plastic with pockets
- Pencils, 4-6 #2 with erasers
- Highlighters, variety of colors
- Pencil sharpener, hand held
- TPS charged laptop
- Pens, blue/black/red
- Colored pencils/markers/colored pens
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Metric scale ruler, 12" and 6"
- Calculator
- Tissues (for AVID Homeroom)
- **Ear buds or head phones for testing**

Additional Items Paid to Mason Middle School Cashier

- \$10 Junior Scholastic magazine. Grade 6 Social Studies*
 - \$10 Art fee
 - \$5 Technology fee
 - \$12 Science Lab fee Grade 8
 - \$10 Science World magazine or lab fee. Grade 6 and 7
 - Foreign Language: teachers do not have a set class fee however they would appreciate any donation
- *Fee is dependent on which teacher is assigned

- \$2 Mason Logo earbud case with earbuds (optional)
- Mason t-shirts, sweatshirts, and more are sold by Mason PTA.
- Supplies will need to be replenished throughout the school year.
- Extra supplies should be kept at home and sent to school when needed.



**Information is subject to change.



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Mason Student Dress Code Standards

Item	Description
ALL CLOTHING - No exposed skin from collar bones to three inches above the knees and no see-through material. All patterns including logos permitted within all guidelines below, and all colors are permitted.	
TOPS	*No tears, holes, or cuts below collar bone and no tank tops or crop tops
BOTTOMS	*Must be denim or khaki material *Shorts- no higher than 3" above the knee *Dresses or skirts- no higher than 3" above knees *No rips, tears, holes, or cuts
FOOTWEAR	*Must have toe covering and backs/heel straps and soles *No flip flops or sandals, slides, slippers, moccasins, or wheeled shoes *No heels taller than 2 inches *No wooden, metal, or plastic/rubber shoes
JEWELRY & ALL ACCESSORIES	*Must be safe, non-suggestive and not disruptive *Backpack or purses must be stored in lockers *No spiked or dog collars, chains, wristbands, gloves *No chains, bandanas or straps hanging out of pockets or pants

The items listed as not permitted in the Description column above apply and also not allowed:

Baggy * Bandanas * Hats/hoods * Slip hems * Sagging * Spikes * Stapled * Sunglasses * Taped Underwear showing

All clothing items can never promote or reference the following:

Alcohol * Bigotry * Drugs * Gangs * Racism * Sex * Suicide * Tobacco
Vandalism * Violence



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Frequently Asked Questions

****INFORMATION IS TENTATIVE. ALL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON DISTRICT GUIDELINES.**

Q: Where do I go when I arrive to school every morning? Where do I go after school?

A: When students arrive to school each morning they are to wait in the designated drop off areas at the end of each grade level hallway (on 29th St.) OR inside the cafeteria if they are eating breakfast. Breakfast is served between 7:45 AM and 8:07 AM. ***Students are NOT permitted in the hallways until the first bell rings at 8:07 AM.***

When the bell rings at 2:45 PM to dismiss students for the day, students who are picked up by their parents/guardians must wait on 29th St. Bus riders will load on to the bus on 28th St. As a reminder, if you have optionally enrolled into Mason, no District Transportation will be provided.

Q: Can we ride bikes to and from school? Am I allowed to bring my skateboard, scooter?

A: Yes, students are allowed to ride their bike to and from school. Students must wear their helmets, which is required by law! Once on school property students must lock their bikes to the bike racks with a chain and lock. No scooters or skateboards are allowed on school property, they do not fit in lockers and are not able to be locked to the bike racks.

Q: How much time is there between classes?

A: Students have four minutes in between each class. This is plenty of time to go to lockers, restrooms, and get a drink before arriving to the next class.

Q: How long is lunch break? And is there recess?

A: Students will have 30 minutes for lunch, which includes free time outside or in the gym depending on the weather.

Q: When can I go to my locker? **TENTATIVE

A: Students may go to their lockers when the first bell of the day rings to put away their backpacks and gather materials for periods 1,2, and 3. Before lunch students may visit their lockers to put away their materials. It is advised students DO NOT bring their binders or other materials to lunch with them. After lunch, students may visit their lockers to gather materials for periods 4,5, and 6.

REMEMBER—Before, Before, After, After

How to Open Your Locker with a Combination

1. Turn your dial to the right, two or more revolutions (complete turns past zero). Then stop at the first number.
2. Turn the dial to the left, one full turn passing the second number, and stop at the second number.
3. Turn the dial to the right and stop at the last number.
4. Push up on the locker handle and pull to open the door
5. When done with your locker, make sure the door is locked and all backpack straps, coats, etc. are not hanging out of the locker!



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if I forget my locker combination?

A: Students need to write their locker combinations on a piece of paper and tuck it into a compartment in their binders. If a student still cannot remember his/her combination, he/she can request their combination with Mrs. Duesterbeck, Security.

Q: Am I allowed to bring my backpack or bag to class?

A: All bags must be stored in your locker. Students are not allowed to bring any backpacks or small bags to class.

Q: How do I earn a free shirt or free dress day?

A: Students may earn a free shirt or free dress day by exchanging their Mustang Merits. Students may also earn free shirt or free dress throughout the school year based on various grade level activities.

Q: Am I allowed to bring my cellphone or electronic device to class?

A: Please understand that Mason is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones. If students choose to carry a cell phone, they must remain silent and out of sight at all times, unless a teacher has given specific permission for cell phones to be used for an academic purpose in a classroom.

Q: Do I get a choice for lunch? When and where do I turn in lunch money?

A: Students may choose from the sandwich line, nacho/taco line, pizza, or the regular entrée line, as determined by the food service department. All lunches include regular milk, chocolate milk, and choice of fruits and vegetables. The cost of a student breakfast is \$1.90 and lunch is \$3.25. Lunch money can be deposited in the cafeteria or online at www.tacoma.k12.wa.us select Parents > School Meals > Lunch Money Now

Q: Where do I sit at lunch?

A: You may sit anywhere in the lunchroom. Seats are available on a first come, first serve basis. Students may not save seats for their peers.

Q: How do I check my grades online?

A: Students and parents may monitor student progress by checking the Home Access Center or Schoology. Parents are encouraged to sign-up for notifications when their students grade has dropped below a certain percentage. Each student is assigned their own user name and password. And each parent/guardian is assigned a separate user name and password. If you have multiple students in the district you will be able to see them using one login. You can obtain your login information from the School Counseling Registrar masoncounseling@tacoma.k12.wa.us. The Home Access Center can be found on the district website at www.tacoma.k12.wa.us and selecting Parents > Home Access Center. Schoology access codes will be provided by your student's advisory teacher.

School Immunization Requirement

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In Washington State, the Tdap vaccine is required for school attendance in certain grades. The Tdap is a booster vaccine which continues to protect your child against the tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis diseases they were immunized against as young child.

On August 1, 2020 the Tdap school requirement is changed to start at 7th grade to better align with the updated 2019 national immunization schedule (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html>). In the past the Tdap booster was required starting at 6th grade.

For the 2021-2022 school year all students attending grades 7 through 12 must have had one dose of Tdap vaccine:

- For students in 7th grade, the Tdap vaccine must be given at or after age 10 to be accepted for school entry.
- For students in 8th to 12th grades, the Tdap vaccine must be given at or after age 7 to be accepted for school entry.

To update your child's Tdap immunization record at the school, you will need to turn in a medically verified immunization record. Your child's health care provider can print this for you, or you can print it from [MyIR](#), which is a free Department of Health online tool that allows families to view and print their official immunization records themselves. Go to <https://wa.myir.net/register> to begin the sign-up process.

If you have already let the school know that your child has had the required Tdap vaccine or your child has a valid exemption on file with their school, they will be unaffected by this rule change and you will not need to do anything.

To find out more about this change, or the other changes to immunization rules also happening this fall, please visit the [Washington State Department of Health's website](#) at www.doh.wa.gov/schoolimms2020.

Sincerely,

Mason Middle School: Health Room
Phone: (253) 571-7087
Fax: (253) 571-7091



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Jump Start

Dates: To Be Determined

Time: To Be Determined

Breakfast: To Be Determined

Lunch: A lunch will be provided by TPS Nutrition Services at no cost to students.
If preferred, students may bring a lunch from home.

Supplies: All students will be provided materials for the week.

Dress Code: Please refer to Mason's dress code on page 7 or our Mason Website

Drop-off/Pickup: Please make sure your student knows the drop off/pick up plan for each day.
Teachers will walk students outside at the end of each day.

DRIVING: Drop off/pick up on N 29th Street

BUS: Students will be picked up/dropped off at your neighborhood elementary in Mason's catchment. When at Mason, students will be dropped off/picked up in the bus zone on N 28th Street.

WALKING: Students may enter at the West End Parking lot entrance or the cafeteria entrance on N 29th Street.

Registration: TBD

First day: On the first day of Jump Start, students will report to the cafeteria. Sixth grade teachers will greet the students and will call the names of their first group of students and led them to their classroom.

Student Expectations: During Jump Start students will practice opening lockers, move from class to class like a typical middle school bell schedule, go on a school tour, meet other students and staff, participate in AVID strategies and gain confidence as in incoming middle school student.

Any questions, please contact masoncounseling@tacoma.k12.wa.us