



Greetings from Samantha Smith Elementary,

August 18, 2021

It is my hope this letter finds everyone doing well, feeling relaxed and invigorated after an enjoyable summer. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you, as part of our educational family, to another and hopefully slightly more normal school year. Whether you are returning parents or new parents, please accept our heartfelt welcome to Samantha Smith Elementary.

Our staff is excited for students to return to school. We have been busy planning an exciting year of meaningful learning and community connection. Our goal is to help students have a smooth and successful transition into school routines and to help students develop positive relationships with both peers and staff.

We would like to officially welcome some new members to our Smith Teaching Team. Welcome to Mrs. Dahl who will be joining our fifth-grade team. Welcome back to Mrs. Ross, teaching fifth grade. We have a new itinerant music teacher, Mrs. Harris who will teaming with Mr. Berg this year. We have a new itinerant PE teacher, Mr. Coe who will teaming with Mr. Bair this year. We are very lucky to be working along such wonderful professionals. Go Smith!

To help keep you informed, important dates and details are listed below.

Kindergarten Parents

If you are a kindergarten parent, you will be receiving a letter in the mail regarding our Kindergarten Experience Monday, August 23rd as well as other details for the start of the school year.

Kindergarten Start Dates

This year, our Kindergarteners will have a staggered start, meaning your Kindergarten student will start school on **either** Tuesday, Sept 7, Wednesday Sept. 8 or Thursday Sept. 9. About one-third of our Kindergarten students will attend on each of these days. We sent an email earlier this summer taking your requests for start dates. We will do our best to try to accommodate your request. Please note that we cannot guarantee days as we need to balance the number of students for each day. The staggered start is intended to ease your child into school and allow the teacher to provide more support to students on the first day. You can expect an email from our secretary, Mrs. Eaton regarding your child's start date on Tuesday, August 24th. Shortly after this email, your student's teacher will be sending an email to sign you up for your Family Connection Meeting. Kindergarten will be conducting **Family Connection meetings on September 1st, 2nd, 3rd**.

COVID Safety & Building Implementation

We know you probably have a lot of questions regarding the implementation of safety procedures regarding COVID. We believe maintaining school safety is critical and we value transparent

communication with students and families regarding adjustments and/or changes of safety practice. Safety plans and procedures will be based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Health (DOH), Seattle and King County Public Health as well as state and district directives.

Here is the current guidance:

- Mask requirements throughout the day for both staff and students
- Parents/Families will need to wear masks in our school at all times regardless of vaccination status
- NO daily attestation for your student
- Physical distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Students will be eating in our lunchroom, seated at least three feet from each other.
- Masks are required on our buses and seating charts will be implemented
- Handwashing and or hand sanitizing will still be priority throughout the day
- Strict health monitoring and reporting protocols
- Cleaning protocols implemented throughout the day
- Limited indoor cohort interactions

Upcoming Dates

August 27 th	Teacher Assignment Posted on Skyward, classroom teacher will email families
August 27 th	PTSA Ice Cream Truck and PTSA Kick Off- at school outdoors
September 1 st	First Day of School (1st – 5th grade) PTSA-provided Coffee and Conversation under the covered area (9:00 am)
September 1 st – 3 rd	Family Connection Conferences (Kindergarten ONLY)
September 2 nd	Virtual Curriculum Night- see times below, teacher will send Teams invite
September 6	No school - Labor Day
September 7 th – 9 th	Staggered Start (Kindergarten ONLY)
September 10 th	First day for all Kindergartners together PTSA-provided Coffee and Conversation under the covered area (9:00 am)

At Samantha Smith, we have a strong PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association). Please consider joining our amazing PTSA by visiting <http://smithptsa.org>. They are hosting a **Welcome Back PTSA Ice Cream Truck and PTSA Kick Off, Friday, August 27th**.

Kindergarten- second grade 3:30-4:00

Third grade- fifth grade 4:00-4:30

*Siblings are welcome to join whichever session needed.

Thursday, September 2nd: Curriculum Night

Due to safety concerns, we will be hosting Curriculum Night virtually again this year.

Grades 3, 4, 5, 4/5 Quest from 5:30-6:30pm

Grades K, 1, 2, 2/3 Quest from 6:30-7:30pm

Your teachers will send information regarding accessing this meeting via Teams.

Be sure to visit our website at <https://smith.lwsd.org/> for more school specific information such as school newsletters, contact information, Safe Arrival Attendance email, etc.

If your family needs before or afterschool care, please visit this link. We are lucky to have the local YMCA back on campus to help out our families. [School Enrichment | YMCA of Greater Seattle \(seattlymca.org\)](https://seattlymca.org)

Samantha Smith is a safe school community, and we will do everything in our power to make sure your child feels respected, safe, happy and successful. We look forward to partnering with you for another successful year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Warner

Principal of Samantha Smith Elementary