

Kenmore Elementary Paw Prints

September 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Cub Families,

It was wonderful to meet many of you last week as you visited us for Kindergarten Camp (K-Camp) and Kenmore Campus Check-in. Thank you to families who were able to attend both events, staff were thrilled to welcome you as they scurried about between professional development days and setting up their classrooms! I hope you will excuse me as I tried to place many of you and connect dots to our initial connections which may have been via email, zoom, phone or a parking lot pick-up. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kenmore Elementary has been off and running these past few weeks, with professional development for admin and staff, logistical maneuvers during the day, and the stacks of emails at night. Finally, tomorrow is our first day! Please know that we are going to operate out of caution in the days/weeks ahead and adjust as necessary.

It's been a heavy lift to get here, and we can't wait to get this school year started. Below you will find a newsletter loaded with important information, please take the time to read the latest (Updated 8/31) on:

- Arrival & Dismissal
- Your Student's Day at Kenmore
- COVID updates
- 5th grade Band Strings & Music
- Office Updates

Lastly, as stated in last night's communication from the district, we are in the final stages of planning COVID-19 testing in our schools. We ask that you [complete this brief interest survey](#) to help inform how many testing supplies we order. Please complete the form no later than 5:00 p.m. **today**. Your response is important to our planning. We know this will reflect your interest and not your final decision.

Wishing you all a Happy September! and...

To our families celebrating Rosh Hashanah, L'Shanah Tovah!

Geetha George-Shapiro

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed, Sept 1st - First Day of School! (Full Wednesday - 3:40pm Dismissal)

Wed, Sept 1st - Rosh Hashanah

Mon, Sept 6th - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL

Wed, Sept 8th - Early Release, 2:10pm

Tues, Sept 14th - Curriculum Night (Virtual)

Wed, Sept 15th - Yom Kippur

Wed, Sept 15th - Early Release, 2:10pm

Thurs, Sept 16 - Head Start Preschool: First Day of School!

Wed, Sept 22nd - Early Release, 2:10pm

Wed, Sept 29th - Early Release, 2:10pm

Thurs, Sept 30th - Individual Picture Day

***TBD - Title I Info Night**

SCHOOL DAY & COVID SAFETY UPDATES

NEW ADJUSTMENTS

- Free breakfast & free lunch will be available through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Students can choose to bring meals from home. If you do not want your child to eat breakfast at school, please inform their teacher.

ParentVUE and StudentVUE

With ParentVUE and StudentVUE, families can access information on attendance, class schedules, report cards, course history, graduation status and more. Don't have a ParentVUE account? [Visit our website to learn how to create one.](#)

YOUR STUDENT'S DAY AT KENMORE (Updated 8/31/2021)

Arrival

- Supervision will start at 8:50 am, students should not be dropped off before 8:50 am.
- Playground will not be open before school.
- All students will wait outside their classrooms.
- By Car—Please remain in your car for drop off in the upper parking lot.
- By Foot (Walkers)—During arrival, if escorted with a parent, students should be released to their classrooms midway between the upper and lower parking lot located at the 73rd Avenue entrance.
- By Bus—Bus route information is now available for families with bus riders. You can find your route information by [clicking here](#). Additionally, the District will launch a new application, called My Stop, which will allow you to find updated arrival time for your student's bus. This will be available beginning Sept. 1, but you can download the app now. The free My Stop application will improve communication with families about student's bus schedules. Students should still arrive at their bus stop at least five minutes early. [Learn more about My Stop.](#)
- Students should proceed to their classrooms and wait for breakfast and to start their day.

The Day

- Masks are required for all students and staff when indoors and outdoors at all times.

- Lunch will be a time when students may take a mask break when eating. Teachers and staff will encourage students to stay socially distanced when eating and move outside when possible. We will continue to monitor times when students eat and adjust as necessary.
- Recess: We have reinstated recess zones and each class will be assigned a zone during the 15-minute and 30-minute recesses. Students will be asked to remain in their zone with their classmates. Recess equipment has been assigned to each class and students are welcome to engage in socially distanced games learned from Playworks. During recess, if a student wishes to take a break from wearing a mask, staff will have them step away from other students to do so.
- Students will be encouraged to frequently wash their hands and use hand sanitizer.
- PE: Masks are required for indoor and outdoor PE classes. Teachers will provide opportunities for students to remove their mask, while physically distanced from peers, at various times during PE.
- Music: Students need to be masked both indoors and outdoors. Students can be provided with an opportunity to remove their masks at various times throughout class when they are outdoors and socially distanced (at least 6ft).
- Band & Orchestra will be offered to 5th grade students. Guidance and safety protocols will be shared during orientation.
- During class, students will be seated 3 feet apart when possible. Teachers may use small groups and allow for other movement in the classroom to support learning.

Dismissal

- By Car—Car pick ups will be in the upper parking lot. IMPORTANT: Please display your student's dashboard sign on the car dashboard to more quickly facilitate us calling students and moving traffic. Teachers will provide the dashboard signs to your child. Cones and staff will help guide traffic.
- By Foot (Walkers)—Students will be released midway between the upper and lower parking lot located at the 73rd avenue entrance.
- By Bus—Students will be escorted by staff to the bus loading area.

COVID

As a reminder, please continue to monitor your students each day for the following symptoms: *fatigue; headache; muscle pain or body aches; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; or diarrhea*. Students with one or more of these symptoms lasting more than 24 hours, should stay home as well as students with fevers of 100.4 degrees or higher. Use the chart [linked here](#) to determine if you should keep your student at home or send to school. Monitoring symptoms, wearing masks, hand washing, and being cautious keeps everyone safe and schools open.

During the school day, Kenmore Elementary is a closed campus. We are limiting access to keep our kids safe and reduce the potential spread of COVID. As the district shares plans for potential volunteers, we will share that information. Thank you to everyone who has inquired and offered to help—we'll be in touch when things open up.

Technology

With ParentVUE and StudentVUE, families can access information on attendance, class schedules, report cards, course history, graduation status and more. Don't have a ParentVUE account? [Visit our website to learn how to create one.](#)

If you have a student in grades 2-5, please remember to complete the district's technology user agreement by clicking the link <https://bit.ly/nsdddeviceform> or scanning the QR code.

If you are a family that wishes to have student information withheld from the Student Directory, please take a moment to [submit this form from the district website](#) or [download the PDF](#), sign and return it to

the main office. Should you wish to complete this form, please do so no later than Oct. 15. If you have already completed this form this year on ParentVUE, no additional action is required.

Parents Please:

Complete An NSD Student Device Agreement by visiting:

<https://bit.ly/nsddeviceform>



PICTURE DAY

Individual Picture Day is Thursday, September 30th

Picture order forms will be coming home with your student soon!

OFFICE REMINDERS

Daily School Schedule

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9:10am – 3:40pm

Early Release Wednesday: 9:10am – 2:10pm

No student drop off before 8:50am

There is no supervision on campus until 8:50am.

Attendance

Washington State Law requires parents/guardians to inform the school of student absences. Please report your child's absence/tardy including the reason before 10:00am by leaving a message on the school attendance phone line at 425-408-4810. Student absences need to be reported in writing, by phone, or in person to the school office. In addition, absences not excused within two days of the absence are considered unexcused absences.

Without a note, your child will not be able to make a change from their daily routine. If you forgot to send a note, please call the office as early in the day as possible. Calling late in the day is disruptive to the classroom since it requires the office to interrupt during learning time.

Early Student Pick Up

Your child's participation in the entire school day is important to their growth and success. Please do not pick your child up early unless absolutely necessary. Please do your best to schedule routine medical and dental appointments before or after school. In the event that you do need to pick your child up early, please notify the teacher in writing ahead of time. When picking up the child, please come to the main office to sign your child out and have them called to come to the office to meet you. Only adults on your child's emergency contact list may pick up your child in your absence. Be sure to bring photo ID with you to the office.

Dismissal

The school day ends at 3:40pm, and 2:10pm on Early Release Wednesdays. Please arrive on time to pick your child up at the end of the day. Students who have not be picked up by 3:55pm will be brought into the office for office staff to call parents and then emergency contacts to ensure someone is coming for pick up.

5TH GRADE MUSIC

5th Grade Families ~

This year all Northshore School District elementary schools will offer students in grade 5 an opportunity to choose between Beginning Band, Beginning Strings and General Music classes during the academic school day. In previous years, students in grade 5 wishing to participate in band or strings had to take those classes before school, and often had to travel to neighboring schools to participate. This letter will provide important information regarding the new 5th Grade Music Program structure for this year.

Course Options

- Beginning Band: Learning to play a band instrument (flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone) as part of a performing band ensemble (Concert performances).
- Beginning Strings: Learning to play a string instrument (violin, viola or cello) as part of a performing string ensemble (Concert performances).
- General Music: Singing, moving, creating and playing a variety of instruments - Instruments vary by school – examples may include: marimbas, guitars, ukuleles and percussion instruments. (Informal or concert performances dependent on school)

What to Expect

In September, all students will participate in a series of exploratory lessons during which they will learn about Beginning Band, Beginning Strings and General Music. Following these exploratory lessons, students will be asked to rank their top three choices for their musical experience this year. Our music staff will observe and record your child's initial aptitude and interest throughout the exploratory process. At the end of the exploratory process, you and your student will receive a packet with a recommendation for the instrument and class placement your child might enjoy. This packet will also include specific information for all three classes, including: required materials and titles of course books. The recommendation packet is provided to help you make the best music course selection for your student. **You and your child will have the final say in selecting their class and the instrument they would like to learn.**

Please do not purchase or rent any instruments or other supplies until the process is completed and you have had an opportunity to review the information provided at the end of the exploratory period.

The Northshore School District is committed to offering music experiences that are accessible and equitable for all students. Supplies for all music course offerings (including instruments for band & strings) are available for check-out through the District if students are in need of those resources.

Requests for instrument/equipment check-out will take place after the exploratory lessons in September, and instructions for supply purchase, rental and check-out will be included in the recommendation packet.

After making their selection, students in grade 5 will continue to attend music class twice a week, and will cover all grade 5 music standards through their chosen area of focus.

Feel free to contact me with questions you may have regarding this exciting opportunity. You may also [contact your school music teacher](#) to better understand the process for helping your student explore the different instruments.

Sincerely,

Hillary Radocaj

hradocaj@nsd.org

(425) 408-7719

NEW SAFETY PROJECT AT KENMORE ELEMENTARY

We are excited to share that a new fencing project is scheduled to begin for our campus this fall. The fencing will provide enhanced school perimeters, guiding visitors to check-in at the main office during the school day. It also shows where visitors are permitted on campus prior to checking in, giving a consistent approach for the District as planning for installation at other campuses is underway.

This important safety and security project is possible thanks to the 2018 bond, which was approved by our generous Northshore voters.

Once the project is complete, select gates will remain open after hours and on weekends to allow community access to our fields and playgrounds.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our Northshore community safe!

DISTRICT NEWS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Our Early Childhood Education Programs in Northshore School District are currently enrolling for the Head Start, ECEAP and Ready Start Preschool Programs.

NSD Families that have children ages 3-4 years old can contact Stephanie Gonwa at 425-408-4829, or Emily Birchman at 425-408-4862 to receive program information and help with applications.

INJURIES AT SCHOOL

The health and safety of our students is of critical importance to the Northshore School District. Even so, accidents may and do happen and the resulting medical bills can be expensive. However, many families are unaware that the district does not carry insurance for student personal injury costs and

Parent/Guardian Responsibility: What this basically means is that if your child gets hurt during school day or during a school activity, you as the parent or guardian, are financially responsible for any medical bills incurred.

This includes students participating in athletics, PE, recess and after school activities. If your student participates in a sport, please make certain your family insurance plan covers athletic participation.

Optional Student Health Insurance

As a service, the district provides information on an optional student accident/health insurance plan. Although not the only provider of this coverage type, Meyers-Stevens & Toohey has been recommended by our Washington Schools Risk Management Pool. This coverage plan is made available by many school districts across the state.

If you have questions regarding the available plans, please call Myers-Stevens & Toohey at (800) 827-4695 or visit their website at www.myers-stevens.com.

If you would like a hard copy enrollment form, please contact your school's office.

ANNUAL DISTRICT FORMS

Annually the District provides parents/guardians with notification of forms that must be acknowledged, including:

- WA State Attendance Letter
- Rights and Responsibilities Handbook
- Weapons Letter
- Student Housing Questionnaire
- Permission to Withhold Student Directory Information
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We ask that you [login to ParentVUE](#) today to view these forms. If you have never logged into ParentVUE, you will find instructions on how to do so when you click the link above. Please know that when you next login to ParentVUE, you will be prompted to download, read, and take action for each of the forms listed above. Additionally, secondary students will be prompted to download, read and acknowledge the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook when they login to StudentVUE. Families with elementary students are encouraged to review the handbook together in ParentVUE with their students. These forms must be completed no later than Oct. 15.

The forms are available in English, Spanish, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Russian, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Korean, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. If you would like to access a paper copy of these forms, please contact your school's main office.

If you have any questions about these forms, please contact Student Services at (425) 408-7725 or by email at studentsvcs@nsd.org.

Northshore School District prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, sex, marital status, genetic information, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, unless based upon a bona de occupational qualification, in all its employment procedures, training, programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged unlawful discrimination: Doug Hale, Human Resources Director, 3330 Monte Villa Parkway, Bothell, WA 98021, (425) 408-7606.

