



June 7, 2024

Dear McAuliffe Families,

Thank you for another outstanding year at Christa McAuliffe Elementary. I feel extremely fortunate to work at a school with such amazing educators, supportive parents, and wonderful students. The success of our students has been the result of a true partnership between school and home.

McAuliffe is a special place, which was evidenced at our Block Party last night. I am always impressed by the attendance at our school and PTSA events. Last night was no exception, with pretty much our entire school showing up for this fun end of year celebration. I loved seeing our current students singing and dancing, families connecting with each other, and former McAuliffe students showing up to say hello. Four of the five vendors at last night's event had a connection to McAuliffe as well, which added to enjoyment last night. Thank you for your support at our school events this year!

I would also like to thank our PTSA and community for their financial support of our school this year. Because of your generosity we were able to raise \$97,355 to fund classroom supplies, school events, field trips, and more. A special thanks to Julia Dos Remedios and Amanda Mathis for their leadership as President and Vice President of the PTSA. Both they, and our board, did an outstanding job of leading our PTSA for the benefit of our students and have been amazing to work with.

As we head off to our summer break, I wanted to share some final updates to help get us through the end of the year. Also included are important reminders as we look towards next year. Please read through so you are caught up on all that is going on at McAuliffe.

- Beginning of Year Calendar for 2024-2025
- Student Involvement in Equity Work
- Lexia and Dreambox – Summer Availability
- McAuliffe Night at the Mariners!
- Lost and Found
- Registration and Variance Requests for 2024-2025
- No School Lunch – Last Day (6/21)
- June Events and Celebrations
- August/September Calendar Items

Although this year is ending, I am already planning and looking forward to next year. I am excited to continue our work together next year in support of your children. Thank you for giving us the privilege of teaching your student(s) each day. McAuliffe is an outstanding place because of your amazing children, our partnership with parents, and our gifted and caring teaching staff.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer with your family. Enjoy the gift of your time with your kids, play in the sun (hopefully), and create memories to last a lifetime.

Go Challengers!

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

Beginning of Year Calendar for 2024-2025

The Lake Washington School District will again hold Family Connection Conferences and implement a Kindergarten Staggered Start in September of next year. Family Connection Conferences are an opportunity for teachers and families to build relationships at the beginning of the year in support of our students. Having a staggered start for our Kindergarten students helps them with the transition to elementary school.

As a result, the first 5 days of the school year will have differing schedules for Kindergarten and grades 1- 5. Included below is information about our school schedule for the first two weeks of school, including Parent Connection Conferences and Kindergarten Staggered Start.

Family Connection Conferences:

- Family Connection Conferences will be 20 minutes in length, with students welcome to attend
- Family Connection Conferences will be in-person, with teachers able to hold the conference virtually, if requested
- Parents will be assigned their conference day/time, with communication about their assigned date being provided the week of August 26 - 30

Grades 1-5 Information:

- Students in grades 1 – 5 will attend school for a half-day on September 3, 4, and 5 to accommodate individual Family Connection Conferences (12:20pm dismissal)

Kindergarten Information:

- Kindergarten students will not attend school the first three days of school (in accordance with House Bill 1723), allowing for Family Connection Conferences and the Kindergarten WaKIDS component.
- Kindergarten students will have a staggered start into the school year to help with the transition to school.
- A staggered start schedule includes having half of our Kindergarten students attending a full day of school on either Friday, September 6 or Monday, September 9. Teachers will assign students to one of these days, with communication coming during Kindergarten Orientation in August. All Kindergarten Students will attend school on Tuesday, September 10

	Sept 2	Sept 3	Sept 4	Sept 5	Sept 6
1st – 5th grade	No School Labor Day	HALF day 9:20 – 12:20 Family Connection Conferences 12:30 – 4:00	HALF day 9:20 – 12:20 Family Connection Conferences 12:30 – 4:00	HALF day 9:20 – 12:20 Family Connection Conferences 12:30 – 4:00	FULL day 9:20 – 3:50
Kindergarten	No school Labor Day	No School Family Connection Conferences 8:00 – 4:00	No School Family Connection Conferences 8:00 – 4:00	No School Family Connection Conferences 8:00 – 4:00	First Day Group A (Group B stays home) 9:20 – 3:50
	Sept 9	Sept 10	Sept 11	Sept 12	Sept 13
1st – 5th grade	FULL day 9:20 – 3:50	FULL day 9:20 – 3:50	Early Release 9:20 -2:20	FULL day 9:20 – 3:50	FULL day 9:20 – 3:50

Kindergarten	First Day Group B (Group A stays home) 9:20 – 3:50	FULL day ALL Students 9:20 – 3:50	Early Release 9:20 – 2:20	FULL day ALL Students 9:20 – 3:50	FULL day ALL Students 9:20 – 3:50

Student Involvement in Equity Work

It is our goal to provide opportunities for students to “see themselves” through various school assemblies, events, and celebrations. Our Building Equity Team has created learning opportunities for students that represent our diverse population. A highlight of our work in this area has been involving students in this work. Students have provided resources, book recommendations, helped create virtual assemblies, and led/hosted in-person assemblies.

As we look to next year, we would like to again invite students to support our school’s equity efforts. Next week interested students who are currently in grades 2 – 4 will be offered an optional survey to fill out an optional interest survey. This optional survey will provide students with an opportunity to indicate any events and/or holidays they are interested in supporting next year. We are asking parents to sign the survey, giving interested students permission to participate. The survey will be offered to interested students on Monday, June 10th and is due to the school office by **Tuesday, June 18th**.

Lexia and Dreambox – Summer Availability

Lexia and Dreambox will be available to students and families until 8/2/24. These programs will not be available following this date as the district completes the student rollover process.

McAuliffe Night at the Mariners!

McAuliffe students, families, and friends are invited to join us at “McAuliffe Night at the Seattle Mariners” on Wednesday, June 12th at 6:40pm. This is going to be special night as our very own “Rocket Choir” will be singing the national anthem for the second year in a row. Our entire community is encouraged to attend as we watch our students sing the anthem and celebrate the end of the school year as a community.

Tickets can be ordered online at the link below at a discounted price of \$15 (300 level) or \$25 (100 level). Tickets must be ordered by Tuesday, June 11th. The Mariners will be donating a portion of your ticket price to McAuliffe, which will help support our 2024-2025 Rocket Choir and next year’s Fifth Grade camp. We hope you will join us at this exciting event. Go McAuliffe! Mariners!

Order Tickets Here: [McAuliffe Night at the Mariners](#)

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with clothes, lunch boxes, and other student items. The Lost and Found is located in the Commons (lunch room) for students explore during their lunch. Parents can also stop by the school to search for missing items. All items will be donated on June 21st.

Registration and Variance Requests for 2024-2025

Registration is open for the 2024-2025 school year! If you know of a family in your neighborhood who has a school-aged child to register for the 2024-2025 school year, please share this message with them. Families interested in registering can contact our Registrar, Heather Cobb at hcobb@lwsd.org or register online using the link provided below. Thank you for your help!

- [Registration Link](#)

Parents who wish to have their child be considered for a variance to McAuliffe can do so by applying via the links included below. Variances will be considered on a case by case basis, depending on space available within each individual grade level. In-District variances are approved for the entirety of their child's elementary experience. Out-of-district variances are approved for a single year, with parents needing to reapply the following year.

- [In-District Variance Process and Application](#)
- [Out-of-District Variance Process and Choice Transfer Application](#)

No School Lunch on the Last Day (6/21)

Please note that we will not be serving hot and/or bagged school lunch on the last day of school. If your child attends an after school program please send them with a lunch from home on this day. Thank you!

June Events and Celebrations

Included below are the many events and activities taking place over the course of the next 2 weeks. Please take a moment to read through and update your calendar accordingly.

- PTSA BOD Meeting: June 10 (2:15pm – 3:45pm)
- Field Day: June 12 (10:00am – 11:30am)
- McAuliffe Mariners Night (with Choir Singing): June 12
- Kindergarten Graduation: June 18 (9:40am – 11:15am)
- No School – Juneteenth: June 19
- Fifth Grade Promotion: June 20 (2:20pm – 3:50pm)
- End of Year Assembly: June 21 (9:40am)
- Half-Day with Early Release: June 21 (12:20pm release)

August/September Calendar Items

Please note the following August/September calendar items as you plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

Teacher "Meet and Greet": Thursday, August 29th

We will hold our annual "meet and greet" in-person on August 29th at McAuliffe from 11:15am – 12:00pm. We hope you and your child will be able to drop by for a few minutes to say hello.

PTSA "Back to Business Day": Thursday, August 29th

Families are invited to attend our PTSA's annual "Back to Business Day" on August 29th. This event provides students with an opportunity to have their picture taken, submit Fun Run t-shirt sizes, and for families to learn about how to become involved in our PTSA. Back to Business is open from 9:30am-11:00am (last name beginning with M-Z) and 12:15pm-1:00pm (last name beginning with A-L).

PTSA K/1 Play Date: Thursday, August 29th

Families with students in Kindergarten and First Grade are invited to connect with each other on the McAuliffe playground from 4:45pm-5:30pm on August 29th. This is a great opportunity for your child to make friends and become familiar with our school.

New Family Dinner: Thursday, August 29th

Families new to McAuliffe are invited to join us for dinner on August 29th at 5:30pm. You will be able to hear about our school, meet our Principal (Mr. Howden), meet PTSA Leadership, and learn how to become involved in our PTSA and school.

Family Connection Meetings: First week of September

McAuliffe Elementary will be hosting Family Connection Meetings the first week of September. This is an opportunity for teachers and parents to meet during the first week of school and discuss how to best support our students this year. Students are welcome to attend this meeting. Please read below regarding important details about this event.

- Kindergarten: No school September 3, 4, and 5. Staggered start on September 6th and 9th.
- Grades 1 – 5 and FT Quest: Half-day school September 3, 4, and 5 (12:20pm dismissal)
- Family Connection Meeting Invites: Teachers will send parents a meeting invite by Tuesday, August 27th. Meetings will be held in-person, unless parents request otherwise (ex: Teams Meeting).
- Kindergarten Staggered Start: The first day of Kindergarten will be either September 6th or 9th, with half the class attending on one of these days. Your Kindergarten teacher will communicate which day your child has been assigned. All Kindergarten students will come to school on September 10th.

Curriculum Night: Thursday, September 19th

An important date for parents is Curriculum Night. Curriculum Night for 2/3 Quest and Grades 1-2 will be from 6:00pm-7:10pm. Curriculum Night for 4/5 Quest and Grades 3-5 will be from 6:45pm-8:00pm. We will begin in the gym/commons for each session, then transition to the classroom.

School Supplies:

If you haven't purchased your school supplies yet, you can find our supply list on the front page of the McAuliffe website under "News & Announcements" (at the bottom of the page).

September 2024 School and PTSA Events (Overview):

- 9/3-9/5: Parent Connection Meetings (No School for Kindergarten, 12:20pm Dismissal for Grades 1 -5)
- 9/6: Staggered Start for Kindergarten (Group A), Full Day for Grades K-5
- 9/6 (9:30am): PTSA Welcome Back Coffee, Commons
- 9/6 (2:50pm): Welcome Back Assembly (Grades 1 – 5), Commons/Gym
- 9/9: Staggered Start for Kindergarten (Group B)
- 9/10: All Kindergarten Students Attend School
- 9/11 – 9/13: Fifth Grade Outdoor Education Camp, YMCA Camp Seymour
- 9/16 (9:30am): Special Education Coffee, Commons
- 9/19: Curriculum Night (Grades 1 – 5), Commons and Classrooms
- 9/20: Fun Run Envelopes Sent Home
- 9/20: Make-up Pictures
- 9/23 (6:00pm): PTSA General Membership Meeting, Library
- 9/26 (5:30pm): PTSA Bingo Night, Commons or Blacktop