



Sunnyside Environmental School

**Fostering responsibility, excitement for learning
and respect for all living things.**

A Focus Option Program of Portland Public Schools

3421 SE Salmon St, Portland, Oregon, 97214

SES 2025-2026 STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Parents and Guardians,

This is our Statement of Understanding for Sunnyside Environmental School families. Please read it completely - we ask that all families, regardless of if this is your first year in our community or you've been here for many, take the time to review the various elements of Sunnyside's program and the importance of family involvement at our school.

Sunnyside Environmental School (SES) is a group of students, educators, parents, and community partners working together to create a rich learning environment for all students through pedagogy and beliefs that are rooted in environmental education, environmental justice, culturally responsive teaching, place-based education and service learning.

The K-8 curriculum allows children to make meaning of the world around them by incorporating place-based learning experiences into the conventional school week. Place-based education differs from traditional classroom-based education in that it is founded on the belief that students' local community is one of the most important resources for learning.

Place-based education at SES means that part of the student learning experience is spent beyond the walls of the actual school building. Natural spaces, local neighborhoods, museums, our own school yard and university campuses are just a few places where our students learn in place. These locations provide a canvas upon which elements of history, environmental education, scientific and biological relationships, culture, mathematics, economy, literature, and art are used to help children authentically make meaning of the world around them.

The city's wild and urban areas become sites for inquiry, exploration and understanding as children are pushed to develop the academic and social-emotional skills that lead them to be critically conscious, curious members of the larger community. In pursuit of this goal, students are involved in service learning efforts throughout their years at the school. In late winter, 8th graders participate in an overnight retreat; in the spring, all middle school students participate in overnight marine biology trips. At some point in the year, 6th graders participate in Oregon's Outdoor School program. Transportation is usually provided for SES students when on field study. (The exception is when guardians drive students.)

Family involvement is an essential component of SES. Your signature indicates your understanding of our expectations for financial and time commitment. All families will be asked to volunteer time for field studies, overnights, and special activities outside normal school hours. Families will also be asked to help fundraise and contribute financially, as they are able. All program activities are paid for by the SES community, but will be open to all students regardless of families' ability to contribute time and or money.



K-5 Classroom Supplies Request 2025-2026 School Year

Hello Sunnyside Families,

Once again, this year we will purchase classroom supplies in a way that saves you time and money *and* maintains equity for all students. In lieu of purchasing supplies, please provide a contribution of \$30-\$75, based on what you feel able to contribute.

Our intention is to reduce the cost to our families by purchasing school supplies in bulk from Portland Public Schools contracted vendors and to reduce waste by allowing teachers to purchase only the supplies they need.

SchoolPay, as you may know, is an online web tool that allows families to pay for items such as registration fees, event tickets and donations using the convenience of paying by Visa or MasterCard online.



To kick off the year, please contribute to our K-5 Supplies Fund at bit.ly/SES-K5-SUPPLIES or scan the QR code.

If you prefer to mail a check or money order to Sunnyside, please remember to include your student's name and make payable to:

Sunnyside Environmental School
3421 SE Salmon Street
Portland, OR 97214

*The amount requested here is **separate** from the PTSA's Back-to-School Ask for field study, music, and garden program support. Please give to both as you are able! The link to the PTSA ask is: bit.ly/SESPTSA-ASK25*

We are excited to welcome your student to a new and exciting school year.

Thank you on behalf of our K-5 team: Allye, Logan, Wayne, Frances, Michelle, Tyler, Lisa, Heather T., Asa, Jeremy, Heather C., and Mary

Walking Field Trip Permission Form

It is customary for teachers to take their classes on walking field trips in the school community at different times during the school year. The purpose of such walks is varied. Students may observe neighborhood architecture and urban plants and animals or visit interesting places in the community such as the public library, local businesses and parks.

In order to allow flexibility for these valuable activities, this permission will extend for the entire 2025 - 2026 school year. The trip destination along with a list of students on the trip will be posted in the main office. If a parent or guardian is expecting to take his/her student out of school for any reason during the school day, it is important to **notify the school in advance** what time check out will occur. Plans can then be made to be certain the student is in the building at that time.

Separate permission forms will always be used when any form of transportation is involved or a trip involves an overnight stay or wilderness activity.

I hereby give permission for my child to participate in supervised neighborhood walks during the 2025 - 2026 school year.

Student's Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Portland Public Schools STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION

Student Name _____ Circle one: Male Female Non-binary
Address _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Birth Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____
Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____
(Cell Phone) _____
Address _____ Zip _____

Other Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Zip _____

Doctor _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Zip _____
Hospital Preference _____ Phone _____

Insurance coverage Yes No
Name of Insurance Company _____

- Does this student have any medical issues? Yes No
If yes, please explain _____

- If any, attach a letter to the school from his/her doctor containing instructions for medications and medical protocol.
- Is this student taking any medication? (Medication includes nonprescription drugs: i.e. aspirin, etc.)
 Yes No
If yes, please specify _____
- Is this student allergic to any drugs? Yes No
If yes, please specify _____
- Is this student allergic to insect bites or stings? Yes No
If yes, does this student have an insect bite kit for emergencies? Yes No
- What date did this student receive his/her last tetanus shot? _____

- **It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the student's school of any change of information contained on this form during the course of the school year. IN ADDITION, ParentVue must be updated online.**

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
5/12/06 Department of School Support

Sunnyside Environmental School Cell Phone & Chromebook Contract

Technology provides our students with wonderful opportunities to research, explore content, and collaborate with teachers and peers. With these benefits come challenges that we hope to help students navigate. **Our school day will begin with students turning in their powered-off cell phone (or any other device capable of camera or internet usage, such as an Apple watch) to a locked container in their core teacher's classroom, and the day will end with the return of the device at dismissal.**

The opportunity to be present and connect with our school community increases when these devices are not a distraction. Our school provides access to computers during the school day as needed. Furthermore, students who need to call their adults will do so using the phone in the main office, and families will go through the main office with any necessary communication during the school day from 8:45 to 3:30 for middle school, and 3:15 for students K-5. Please note that office calls can be directly forwarded to classrooms when needed. The use of cell phones in our school building is not an option.

Cell phone policies apply regardless of a signed contract. Failure to sign this contract means that you will NOT have a cell phone/internet-based device at Sunnyside Environmental School.

Though at times, Chromebooks can be a helpful learning tool, the majority of learning at Sunnyside occurs without the use of screens. Please note that Chromebooks will not be allowed at lunch nor for use as a "break."

Middle school students should return and plug in their Chromebooks to their core class at the end of each day. It will not be common for students to bring their Chromebooks home unless it is curriculum-related and approved by their core teacher. Lost or broken Chromebooks may result in a fine from the Portland Public Schools district office.

Your support is essential. Please read the above together with your student then fill out the sections below:

(student name) _____ has an internet device: *yes* *no*
(Please circle & inform us of any changes)

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the conditions of this Cell Phone & Chromebook Contract.

Student Signature

date

Adult Signature

date



PPS1:1 Parent/Student Agreement

STUDENTS: I have read and will follow the district’s Responsible User Agreement (back side). I understand that improper or inappropriate use of technology equipment and district systems may result in removal of technology privileges and/or additional consequences.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: I have read and agree to assist my child in understanding and following the Portland Public Schools Responsible Use Agreement (back side).

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Following all federal and state policies, PPS works to ensure that student devices and student data is protected. Working with schools and teachers, we help students understand the requirements for positive technology use and experiences and we strive to create the smallest digital footprint while emphasizing the importance of digital civic responsibility. To that end, we recognize some materials on the Internet may be controversial and/or objectionable. PPS makes every attempt to ensure a student’s digital experience is appropriate through network filters, firewalls, and additional security measures.

Parents: Please complete the following, returning it to your school to allow your student to be assigned a PPS 1:1 Chromebook. This Chromebook is for their exclusive use. Students are responsible for bringing their device home each day to charge it for school use the next.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



Portland Public Schools Student Pledge for Device Use

- I will charge my device daily.
- I will keep food and beverages away from my device.
- I will not leave the device unattended or loan out my device to others.
- I will notify teachers/staff if my device is broken or needs repair.
- I will inform my teacher/staff if my device is lost or stolen.
- I will use my device appropriately and honor Portland Public School expectations.
- I will not deface my device, the serial number or device label.
- I understand that my device is the property of Portland Public Schools.
- I will return the device in good working condition.

Students and families are responsible for understanding and following the PPS Responsible Use Policy (full version at <https://pps.net/rup>):

Do Not...

- Share private information about yourself or others.
- Cause harm to others or damage to their property.
- Damage computer equipment, data or files.
- Pursue hacking.
- Copy or download copyrighted materials.
- Look at, send, copy or create material that is rude, inappropriate or meant to hurt someone's feelings.
- Steal information or music.
- Buy, sell or advertise merchandise unless it's part of a project.
- Install software on computers unless approved by teacher or District staff.

Be Aware...

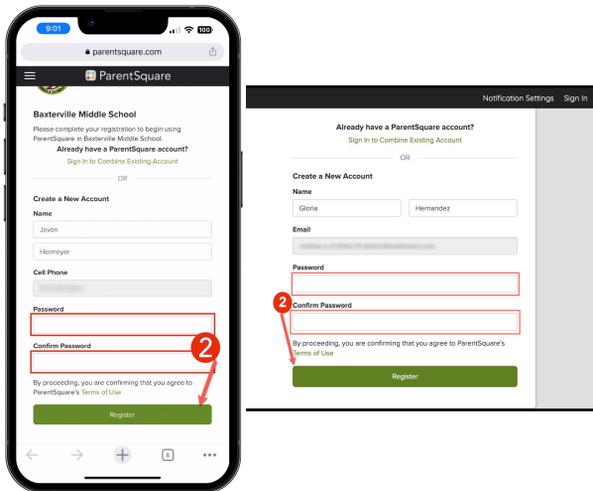
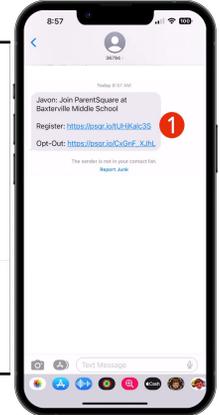
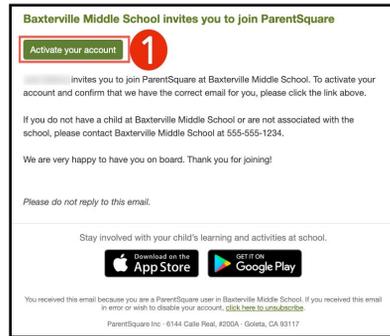
- Only current students can use the District network. Your privilege of using technology can be taken away by staff or parents if you are engaging in inappropriate behavior.
- Understand the choices you make while on a computer or the internet. Tell an adult if you see something threatening or inappropriate happening.
- What you do online is not private or anonymous.

Do...

- Acknowledge that the District is providing a safe online experience as long as rules are followed.
- Access and use collaborative tools, safe sites, games and searches.
- Be respectful, responsible and safe while using devices.
- Communicate online in ways that are kind and respectful.
- Use only your account and not anyone else's and keep your account and password information private.

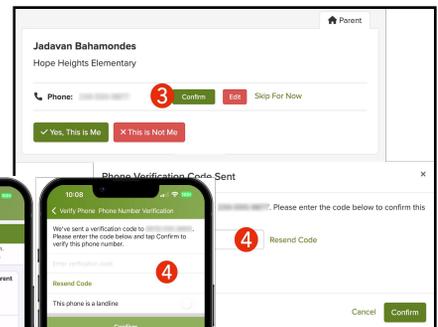
Parents & Guardians Getting Started Guide

1. Open the invitation email or text. Click **Activate your account** or tap the link to activate your account.

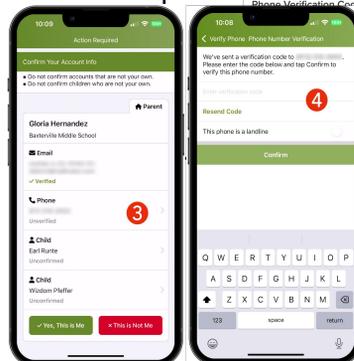


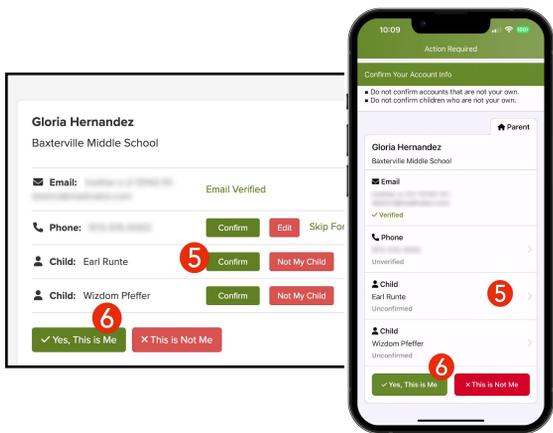
2. Create a Password for your ParentSquare account and click **Register**.

3. Click **Confirm** for your phone number and/or email. A verification code will be sent to the email or phone number.



4. Enter the verification code to confirm.





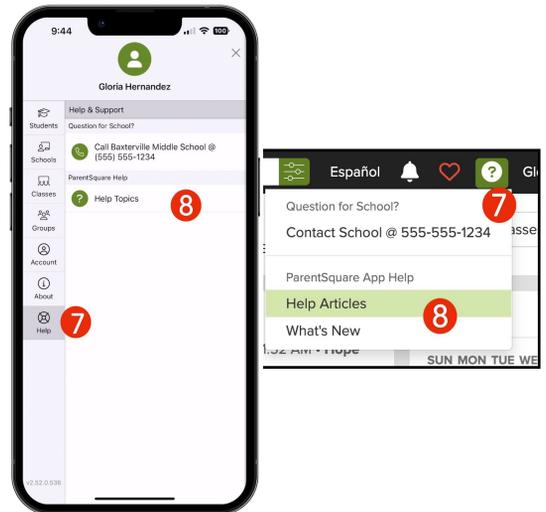
5. Confirm your child(ren) by clicking **Confirm**. Use **Not My Child** if a child listed is not associated with your account.
6. Select **Yes, This is Me** when you have confirmed your contact information and child(ren) associated with your account.

*Name misspelled?
Wrong email or phone number?
Missing a child on your account?*

Contact your child's school to get this information updated.

Once you are logged in to ParentSquare, you will be able to access self-paced training modules, video resources and help articles to assist you with using ParentSquare.

7. Click **?** (Help) for help or your school contact information.
8. Select **Help Articles** to learn how to use ParentSquare.



The ParentSquare apps are free and available in both the Apple iOS and Android stores.



The Easiest and Safest Way to Pay for School-Related Fees

REGISTRATION

IS FREE & EASY!

-  1 Go to schoolpay.com or download the SchoolPay Payment Center app.
-  2 Find or Create your account.
-  3 Login or open your app and pay electronically with your credit/debit card or electronic check.



View every payment item relevant to all of your children



Monitor meal purchases and replenish account balances



Make payments anywhere, at anytime, and on any device



View every payment with detailed reporting tools



833-731-2600



support@schoolpay.com



Sunnyside Environmental School PTSA
3421 SE Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97214
www.sesptsa.org
501c3 Tax ID: 93-1208359

August 26, 2025

Dear Sunnyside Community:

We are thrilled to welcome you back to another great year at SES. We are your 2025-2026 PTSA Co-Presidents, Maia Hixon (Luka, 2nd) and Valerie Kahn (Isaac, 4th, and Colin, 2nd). We hardly do this alone: a stellar board, along with dozens of parents who fulfill special roles & coordinate events, 5th and 8th grade student reps, and teacher reps make up the SES Parent Teacher Student Association. **Our main purpose is to build community and raise funds in support of SES' mission.**

Our society is set up to leave public education woefully underfunded. One of the things that makes our school unparalleled is the way we engage ALL of our students in the world around them. Sometimes that happens with their hands in the dirt around the garden grounds. Sometimes that happens through field studies off campus, near and far. Without our **Back to School Ask** (see pg. 2), plus money raised at PTSA events throughout the year like Read-A-Thon and our Spring Gala, we simply could not maintain our unique and beloved **field study, music, and garden programs**.

If you are able to give **financially** to support this work, there are many opportunities to do so throughout the year - to start, you are going to get additional asks for contributions from the SES office and your child's teacher soon, if you haven't already. If you are able to give **time**, we need that just as much as money. Whether you chaperone one middle school field study, serve as a Class Family Rep, or volunteer at lunch or a special event, it takes many, many hands to make Sunnyside what it is. And, really, it is these joyful happenings that make us the vibrant community we are. **Parent involvement is critical in keeping SES traditions going strong.**

Please join Konstella, our digital communication, event calendar, and volunteer sign-up app. We encourage you to **join us on the playground Friday, September 5, at the PTSA Community Social**, where you can learn about all the events, groups, and committees you or your child can participate in. Or **come to our first PTSA morning meeting of the year on Friday, September 12 at 8:45 am** (in person or online). Not sure how to get involved or have a new idea? Please reach out! You can contact us at: board@sesptsa.org.

Please, take action RIGHT NOW to support our school and make 2025-26 the best SES year yet:

1. Contribute to the **Back To School Ask: [BIT.LY/SESPTSA-ASK25](https://bit.ly/sesptsa-ask25)**
2. Log in or sign up to stay connected to SES PTSA on **Konstella: [BIT.LY/SES-KONSTELLA](https://bit.ly/ses-konstella)**

With true gratitude,

Maia Hixon
SES PTSA Co-President
caspimaia@hotmail.com

Valerie Kahn
SES PTSA Co-President
vdutton@gmail.com



PTSA BACK TO SCHOOL ASK: 2025-2026

Each year, the PTSA asks parents to contribute what they can to support Sunnyside's unique programs that are not funded by PPS, but are a big part of what makes Sunnyside special: Field Study, Music, and Garden & Sustainability programs. **Funds raised through this Ask make up a critical piece of our overall budget.** (Note: The amount requested here is separate from the school's grade-specific request for school supplies and expenses like bus rentals for field trips. Give to all as you are able!)

How Much Should I Give?

We ask that each family give **\$250 per student**. We understand that this is not possible for all and offer payment levels to fit every budget:

- **\$350 PLUS Level:** Fully supports these programs for all SES students, plus a little extra to cover others that cannot afford to donate.
- **\$250 Standard Level:** Fully supports these programs for all SES students.
- **\$150 Reduced Level:** For those that would like to support the programs, but cannot pay the standard amount.
- You may also give *any* amount. Visit **BIT.LY/SESPTSA-ASK25** or scan the QR code below.

Does giving now cover all my student's costs for the year?

Unfortunately, no. Funds donated to the Back To School Ask help support the programming outlined below. The SES office, teachers, and Class Family Reps will provide information throughout the year about grade-specific needs, especially including marine biology trips for middle schoolers.

Is this a tax deductible donation?

YES! SES PTSA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Where does this money go?

1. **SES Field Study Program**

Not all learning happens in a classroom. Field studies get students out into the neighborhood and the broader community, and get middle schoolers on overnight trips where they all engage in in-depth hands-on learning experiences. Money you contribute to the Back to School Ask will help ensure that **all** students are able to attend all field studies offered for their grade, regardless of their family's ability to pay.

2. **SES Arts & Music Program**

Back to School Ask money will pay for visiting musicians & performing arts instructors, so that our students can experience an education rich in the arts.

3. **SES Garden & Sustainability Program**

Every SES student receives hands-on instruction in gardening, sustainability, and the natural world from our wonderful garden teacher, who is paid in part by funds donated through the Back to School Ask.



< SCAN QR CODE OR GIVE AT :

BIT.LY/SESPTSA-ASK25

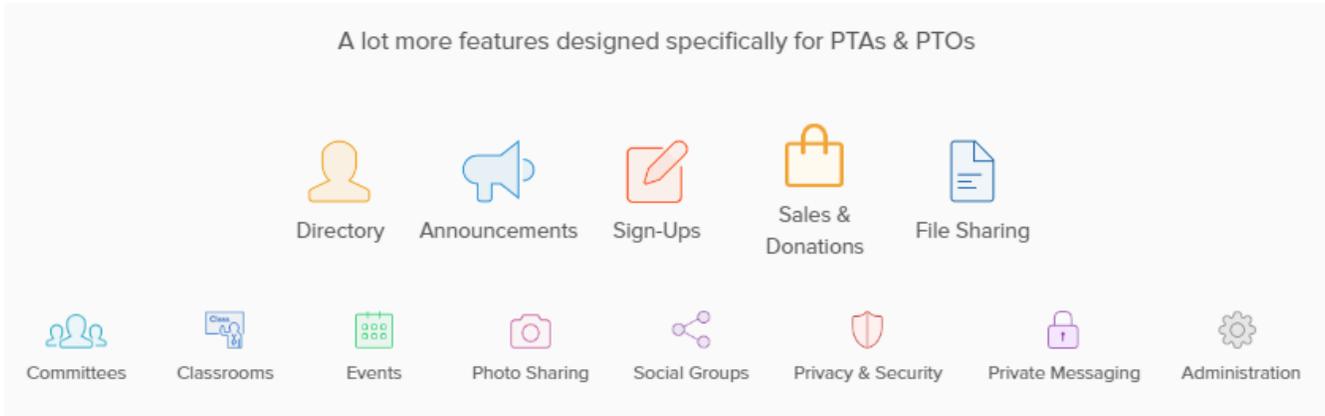
Pay by Check: "SES PTSA" Mail to: 3412 SE Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97214 or drop off in the SES Office.



KONSTELLA: ONE PLACE. ALL THE INFO.

Gone are the days of confusion about where to go for Sunnyside information. The answer: **KONSTELLA**. This tool is the one-stop-shop for event information, parent directory, interest groups, volunteer sign ups, fundraising links, and more.

What is Konstella?



It's a website and app for all of these important things:

1. Messaging Other Parents
2. Event Information & Calendar
3. School Directory
4. Parent Social Groups
5. Volunteer Sign Ups
6. Fundraising Links

Existing Interest Groups include:

- Advocacy
- Families New To Sunnyside
- Outdoors & Hiking
- Parents & Caregivers of Neuro-Divergent Students
- Family Biking & Bike Bus
- Carpool Connection

Can I make a new sign up or start a new parent group?

We ask that all sign ups and parent groups are first approved by PTSA, but we welcome your ideas! Please email: board@sesptsa.org to start the conversation.



< SCAN QR CODE OR SIGN UP AT :

BIT.LY/SES-KONSTELLA

Use this link on DESKTOP to access via webpage. Use this link on MOBILE to access via app.



YOUR GUIDE TO SES COMMUNICATIONS.

We know - there are a lot of places to visit for SES information. This happens because the information comes from many different sources - the PTSA, PPS, and the SES front office. Explore the options to find what works best for you and don't hesitate to reach out if you need help with any of these tools.

Sunnyside's PPS Site: pps.net/sunnyside

Sunnyside staff members keep this site up to date with official PPS and SES announcements. There is also a link to the school calendar there: pps.net/Page/416. This calendar has both PPS and SES-specific dates, so please check it out!

Sunnyside's Weekly Newsletter, "The Messenger"

You will receive a weekly communication directly from Sunnyside's admin team via the ParentSquare app. This will be sent each Friday, and will contain dates to know about and important school news. ParentSquare will also occasionally send you critical announcements and day-of reminders. For questions about ParentSquare, email Sunnyside's front office (jethomas@pps.net or mschaeffe@pps.net).

Classroom Family Representatives ("CFRs")

You'll learn who your classroom family representative is early in the year. CFRs work closely with teachers to help keep you informed about classroom-specific activities and needs. CFRs typically communicate via Konstella. To volunteer for this position (it's easy, fun, and can often be done remotely outside of school hours!), contact Ashley Ashworth (raethel@gmail.com).

Konstella: bit.ly/SES-KONSTELLA

Your one-stop-shop for all PTSA info, classroom and school parent directory, and private messaging! Please read more about Konstella on page 2 of this packet!

Sunnyside's PTSA Website: sesptsa.org

The PTSA manages this page, which lists upcoming fundraisers and provides other public-facing information about the SES PTSA, which is a 501c3 nonprofit.

@SES_PTSA on Instagram: [instagram.com/ses_ptsa](https://www.instagram.com/ses_ptsa)

Event reminders plus beautiful images of what's going on around school. Maintained by the PTSA. Give them a follow and tag @ses_ptsa in your own posts!

Sunnyside PTSA Facebook page: facebook.com/SESPTSA

Anyone can see SES PTSA announcements here and Facebook users can follow the page.

Sunnyside Community Forum: facebook.com/groups/164022456969227

Facebook users can discuss events related to the school and our community.



REDUCE WASTE AT SES.

Help us waste less this year at Sunnyside! From small changes to your daily commute to school, to special initiatives and projects, we are re-focusing our efforts to reduce, re-use, and recycle. Here are just a few of the ways SES is curbing overconsumption and waste! If you have more ideas about environmental sustainability at SES, please contact us: board@sesptsa.org.

Classroom Snacks

Avoid waste from individually wrapped snacks! **Some great snack ideas with less wrapping include:** Fruit (cuties, apples); large party-sized bags of pretzels or veggie stix; homemade items sent in containers from home; package-free pre-cut cheese, giant boxes of goldfish, etc.

Blue Bottle Bags for SES

Did you know you can earn money for SES by cashing in your cans and bottles? Pick up a blue bag and special SES tags from the office for at-home can collection. Deliver your bagged cans to any Oregon Bottle Drop location and that's it! \$0.10/can for our school!

Lost & Found

Help us keep our Lost & Found manageable by LABELING all of your child's items and checking the Lost & Found regularly. When items are left behind, we upcycle and donate everything to the PPS Clothing Center.

No Idling at Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Please help keep our air clean on campus! Turn OFF your engine when stopping for Drop Off / Pick Up around school grounds. Another great way to curb emissions is to go to one of our Bike Bus meet up spots every Wednesday and get to school the people-powered way!

Welcome!



Hi there! I'm your friendly school librarian Gillian! I'm so excited to help all the kids find great fit books. My Library Therapy Dog Winnie is so happy the kids are back! We missed everyone!

About Library



Students K-5 come to the library each week for checkout and a lesson related to library, literacy and/or technology skills. It's WAY more than the Dewey Decimal System! We learn how to search for books, how to spot fake news, how to evaluate illustrations, how to use technology safely and much much more! I can't wait to dive in with all the classes!

Middle School Students can check out daily between 10:55-11:05 and at lunch, there is also a sign up for eating lunch in the library daily!

Contact



Feel free to email me anytime at ggrimm@pps.net. You can (and should!) visit our library website for information about book suggestions, research resources, audiobooks, library fun and more! (OBOB sign ups coming soon!) tiny.cc/SESLibrary

How many books?

Each grade has different book limits. For all grades we keep to a one-in-a-series policy

Kindergarten: One Book

1st-2nd graders: Two Books

3rd graders: Three Books

4th graders: Four Books

5th graders: Five Books

Middle School: No limit, just be responsible

Come Say Hi!



Welcome to Physical Education with Coach John 2025-2026

The gymnasium will be a place of teamwork, encouragement, and practice with movements—a place to try it out. “Nice Try!” is a phrase that will guide our time in the gymnasium this year. We will *try* skills, games, and movements that will be new and different. You will always be met with a chorus of encouragement when you walk through the door.

A few PE nuts and bolts:

Athletic shoes are **required**:

- Students are **required** to wear athletic shoes that lace or velcro securely. These shoes must be dry, clean and supportive of athletic movements. This requirement is a *safety* concern meant to lessen the likelihood of injuries and enhance the ability for students to participate fully.
- Please practice tying shoelaces with younger students!
- Consider sending an extra pair of athletic shoes that are kept in student’s lockers.

Schedule:

- Students K-5th grade have PE twice a week all school year.
- Middle school students have PE 5 days per week for one quarter per school year.

Guidelines and Grades:

- Each Physical Education lesson aligns with [the State of Oregon physical education standards](#). Students will be learning a variety of physical and social skills.
- The primary standard students will be graded on is: *“The student participates in physical activity while demonstrating personal and social responsibility.”*
- Active participation is extremely important in order to achieve positive health outcomes. Please let me know if your learner is unable to participate due to health or medical reasons.
- The PE guidelines and expectations for student behavior and participation are:
“Safety + Honesty + Respect = Trust” During PE class students will practice building this trust over and over again.

Can’t wait to see you all soon!
John Mayer