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KINDERGARTEN 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL IS LATER THIS YEAR

You should have already received a letter from the district if you have a kindergartner starting school for the 2019-20 school year. Although regular classes start for Seattle Public Schools on September 4th for grades 1st-5th. Kindergartners start on September 9th, this delay gives teachers a chance to connect with families and students prior to the first day.

Common Questions Kindergarten Families Have

1. What time does school start and end?

The 2019-20 bell schedule for Maple school:

7:55 am – 2:25 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Wednesdays early release for teacher planning: 7:55am-1:10pm

2. What school supplies does my kindergartener need? Does my child need a backpack?

Maple has a new school supply program this year. You can contribute money online to support the PTSA in purchasing school supplies for the entire school. Your child will have all the supplies they need on the first day of school. Learn more here: <https://www.mapleptsa.com/bulkschoolsupplies>

Your child will also need a backpack to transport school information and classroom work. Each child should come to school with a water bottled labeled with his or her name. If purchasing backpacks is a hardship for your family at this time, please see Ms. Robin Lee at the start of the school year.

3. Will the teacher let me stay in class with my child the first day?

No. If you are worried about the 1st day transition, or if your child has had drop-off issues in the past, it is advisable to discuss with your child's teacher in advance to work out a plan for that morning. Parents are encouraged to help ease the transition by parting from your child. Your child's teacher is fully equipped to help transition nervous children into their first day.

4. Who will my kindergartener have lunch with? Am I allowed to pack foods with peanuts?

Kindergarteners have lunch with the 2nd group, accompanied by 4th and 5th graders. Then, they go to recess. Students can bring foods that contain peanuts. There are nut-free tables for students with allergies and sensitivities. Please make sure your child can easily open containers in which foods are packed.

5. How does my child pay for school lunches?

Most parents will sign up and pay online using the Pay Pam's system (**Pay Pam is the system Seattle Schools use for meal accounts**), but you can also pay cash each meal, or send in a check (written out to Nutrition Services) for the student's account. Your student will hand the cash or check to Kathy Stalker, the Kitchen Manager. As of printing time, lunches cost \$3.00 unless you qualify for free or reduced lunch. You'll need your child's student ID to enroll in the online Pay Pam system: <https://paypams.com/HomePage.aspx>. The child needs to remember a 4-digit code that they enter at lunch checkout (hint: many kids have it written on their hands the first few weeks!)

6. Does anyone help put sunscreen on my child before recess?

No, the school does not supply or administer sunscreen. You will need to remember to do this in the morning prior to sending your child to school.

7. How many recesses do Kindergarteners have at Maple?

We are pleased to share they will receive 2, 15-minute recess periods for plenty of physical activity and play.

8. What do I do if my child will be late to school or is sick?

Call the front office at (206) 252-8310 if your child will be late or ill that day. Plan in advance if you know your child will be missing school for reasons other than illness. You can obtain an unexcused absence form from the front desk.

9. If my child has medical needs (needs medication, etc) to whom do I speak?

Please make sure you speak to the school nurse at Maple to discuss any medical needs your child may have. Our Nurse, Emily Goff, is in the building 3 days a week.

10. If I want to volunteer (in class, field trips or at school events), to whom do I speak?

Maple loves parent volunteers! All parents that want to volunteer during the school day are required to complete a background check and view a brief video online. More details about how to sign up can be found at <http://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=14613>.

Make sure to plan ahead as the application and background check process can take up to two weeks. Discuss with your child's teacher about classroom and field trip chaperone volunteer opportunities as well as recess

monitoring and other school-day needs. You can reach out to Ms. Robin Lee, our Student & Family Advocate, rolee@seattleschools.org for additional information.

11. How will I learn about events and other important information happening at the school?

* **Email:** Parent Teacher and Student Association (PTSA) and school administration send out emails with updates that include general information, volunteer opportunities and reminders about school events. If you use email, please make sure to put your correct email address on the parent packet sent home with your child the first week of school. **If you do not use email, please let your Teacher and the Office know to ensure there is a way of communication.** Sign up to receive PTSA emails at www.mapleptsa.com.

* **PTSA Newsletter:** The newsletter is a PTSA publication printed and sent home with your child in his/her backpack, but is also available on the PTSA website and via email. It is a great resource for issues, events and news affecting Maple Elementary and the school district.

* **Backpack letters (KID MAIL):** Occasionally, your child will have letters sent home from the administration or his/her teacher. Please check your child's backpack daily.

* **School Website & PTSA Website:** There are two websites: the school website which will have some general calendaring, teacher contact, updates from school administration and other general Maple Elementary information. The Maple PTSA website has information regarding PTSA fundraisers, the newsletter, PTSA meeting minutes, school events and PTSA contact information.

Maple PTSA: <http://www.mapleptsa.com>

Maple School Site: <http://maplees.seattleschools.org/>

* **Social Media:** These groups are not a formal information tool of the PTSA, but many relevant topics are posted and discussed. They are also great resources to connect with our parents.

Facebook: The Facebook After you request membership, you will likely get a message asking what grade your child is entering, to ensure only current Maple families are part of the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/905408609611863/>

WhatsApp: Join the group through this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/invite/FSK8p8ZLGL7FZyIS6hKUFO>

WeChat: Since WeChat invitation codes expire, please send an email to mapleptsa@gmail.com for an invitation code. QR codes will also be available to scan at Kindergarten Orientation and other school events.

* **Phone:** You will receive Auto-calls from the district for important reminders, such as early release days. Please make sure the district has your correct phone number to make sure you receive these auto-calls. Transportation services also uses auto-calls to let parents of bus-riders know of school bus delay.

12. When are PTSA meetings?

General PTSA meetings are held once a month at Maple in the staff lounge on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30pm-8pm. Discussions include general PTSA business and topics affecting Maple, the school district, faculty and students. Parents are encouraged to attend and participate. These meetings are

extremely informative and provide a platform for parents/guardians to bring questions and concerns to the school administration as well as a place to build a parent/family support network.

13. Will I have important forms to fill out this month?

You will receive several First Week Information Packets. One is from the school district with required paperwork. The other packet is from the PTSA and has information about upcoming events, PTSA membership, how to get involved. Please include your email address to receive important information and updates from your Maple PTSA. Watch for the packets and make sure to return the paperwork as soon as possible.

14. We do not use email at our home. How can I make sure I am getting notified of all events and activities at Maple?

Please make sure that both the district and Maple office staff have your correct phone number(s). Many times, auto-generated calls are used for communication. Also, reach out to the teacher and let him or her know that you do not use email, and would prefer “backpack” (**KID MAIL**) communication (letters sent home with your child) or phone calls.