

# Concord

Name:	<b>Concord Elementary School</b>	Enrollment:	334
Address:	722 S Concord Street	Nickname:	none
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	none
Note:	This information for year 2000-01		



Concord, 2000 ©Mary Randlett SPSA 215-31

The first school in the South Park neighborhood was called South Park School. It was opened in 1902 or earlier and became part of the Seattle School District in 1907.

South Park School sat at the bottom of a hill. A slough immediately adjacent to the school proved to be an irresistible temptation to adventurous boys on their way to school. Many explored it on tipsy rafts and had to explain why they were tardy and dripping wet.

In 1909, the school board purchased another site in the South Park neighborhood, on Concord Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues S. Three years later, they voted to build a new fireproof brick school there to relieve the overcrowding at South Park School. The new school was named Concord School because it faced Concord Street. This school sat atop a hill. The Concord building was in the Colonial Revival style, identical to McGilvra and McDonald.

On January 25, 1914, some 200-300 of the students at South Park cleared out their desks and, with books and supplies in hand, began the long march to their new school. As they neared their destination, they heard the first streetcar crossing the new bridge across the Duwamish River on Eighth Avenue S.

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Name: **South Park**  
Location: 12th S between Sullivan  
& Thistle  
Building: 8-room, 2-story wood  
Architect: n.a.  
Site: 0.85 acres

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ca 1902: Opened  
1907: Annexed into Seattle  
School District  
1914–32: Operated as an annex  
of Concord  
1932: Closed  
1938: Building demolished  
n.a.: Site sold, given or traded to  
parks board  
Present: Site of South Park  
Community Center  
(8319 8th Avenue S)

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The first recess at the new school was a disaster, for the school ground was a morass of sticky mud. Pupils who played in it soon were unrecognizable and sent home to clean up. Those who ventured off the grounds found they were easily lost in the unfamiliar surroundings of ferns and hazelnut bushes that covered the hillside. The principal, F.C. Jackson, who had been at South Park School, quickly established new rules and regulations.

Concord was transformed from a grade 1–8 school to a K–6 school in 1927–28 with the opening of the combined junior and senior high school at Cleveland. The seventh grade returned for just the 1931–32 year. In September 1932, students from the annex were placed at Concord and South Park was closed. Enrollment peaked in 1958–59 with 516 students.

By 1960, six portables stood on the Concord grounds. A gymnasium and multipurpose room were added in 1971, and the number of portables was reduced to three.

In 1990, a surprise discovery was made when a chalkboard was being removed to install bulletin boards. Beneath the chalkboard was an older blackboard that had been decorated by a sixth grade class in June 1938. Three colored-chalk drawings depicted scenes from Norway, Portugal, and Italy. The six artists signed under the pictures, while the other 20 members of the graduating class signed in lists between the paintings. The discovery led to a reunion event with teachers and some of the students from the 1938 class.

As part of their world cultures program, students built a model Mayan village, learning math, agriculture, government, and fine arts in the process. In fall 1997, Concord became a model school for the Different Ways of Knowing Program that combines social studies and the arts. Its Attic Theater Program brings all students into integrated drama, dance, and cultural studies.

The present-day South Park neighborhood is a multiethnic community by the Duwamish River in an industrial zone. The South Park



South Park, MOHAI 15438



Concord, 1965 SPSA 215-3

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Name: **Concord School**  
 Location: 723 S Concord Street  
 Building: 9-room, 3-story brick  
 Architect: Edgar Blair  
 Site: 1.43 acres

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1913: Named on February 24  
 1915: Opened on January 25  
 1928: Site expanded to 1.93 acres  
 1945: Site expanded to 3.44 acres  
 1971: Addition (Shavey & Schmidt)  
 1998: 1913 exterior and first floor entrance stairwell designated City of Seattle landmark on February 18  
 1999: Closed for construction

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Concord, ca. 1974 SPSA 215-17

Community Center is located on the site of the former South Park School. Concord became an ESL/Bilingual Center in 1996–97, and today over 17 percent of the students are in the ESL program. A high percentage of students at Concord are Hispanic. The school is one of the district’s world culture centers and focuses on Latin America.

During the 1999–2000 school year, a major construction project was underway at Concord. The existing facility was partially demolished and renovated, along with construction of an addition (designed by Tsang Partnership) containing a gym/multipurpose room and several classrooms. Students will return to their improved building on the enlarged 4.21-acre site in September 2000 after spending a year at Hughes.