



Montlake Family Handbook

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While Seattle Public Schools endeavors to only post documents optimized for accessibility, due to the nature and complexity of some documents, an accessible version of the document may not be available. In these limited circumstances, the District will provide equally effective alternate access.

For questions and more information about this document, please contact the following:

Contact Daisy Lukas
Administrative Secretary, Montlake Elementary
adgrantlukas@seattleschools.org

This handbook is a reference for families on the day to day operations of Montlake Elementary.



Montlake Family Handbook Revised August 2021

ABOUT US

The Montlake Way

Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Fair, Take Responsibility

PAWS Pact

Montlake Wolves are Prepared, Advocates, Welcoming and Safe

School Vision

To educate the change-makers of tomorrow

School Mission (updated June 2021)

Montlake Elementary is an inclusive community of students, families and educators dedicated to creating a welcoming and equitable learning space for independent thinking, creative expression and advocating for a better world.

Office Staff

Julia Pearson, Principal: (206) 252-3300 jepearson@seattleschools.org

Daisy Lukas, Administrative Secretary: (206) 252-3300 adgrantlukas@seattleschools.org

Meg Watson, School Nurse: (206) 252-3307 mawatson@seattleschools.org (Tuesdays Only)

The school office is open between 7:00 am - 3:00pm.

Websites

Montlake Elementary: montlakees.seattleschools.org

Seattle Public Schools: seattleschools.org

Montlake Elementary PTA: montlakepta.org

Helpful District Contact Information

Transportation Office: (206) 252-0900 or transdept@seattleschools.org

Admissions & Enrollment: (206) 252-0760 or admissions@seattleschools.org

Special Education: (206) 252-0058 or special@seattleschools.org

English Language Learners (ELL) Services: (206) 252-0072 or mota@seattleschools.org

Nutrition Services: (206) 252-0675 or nutritionservices@seattleschools.org

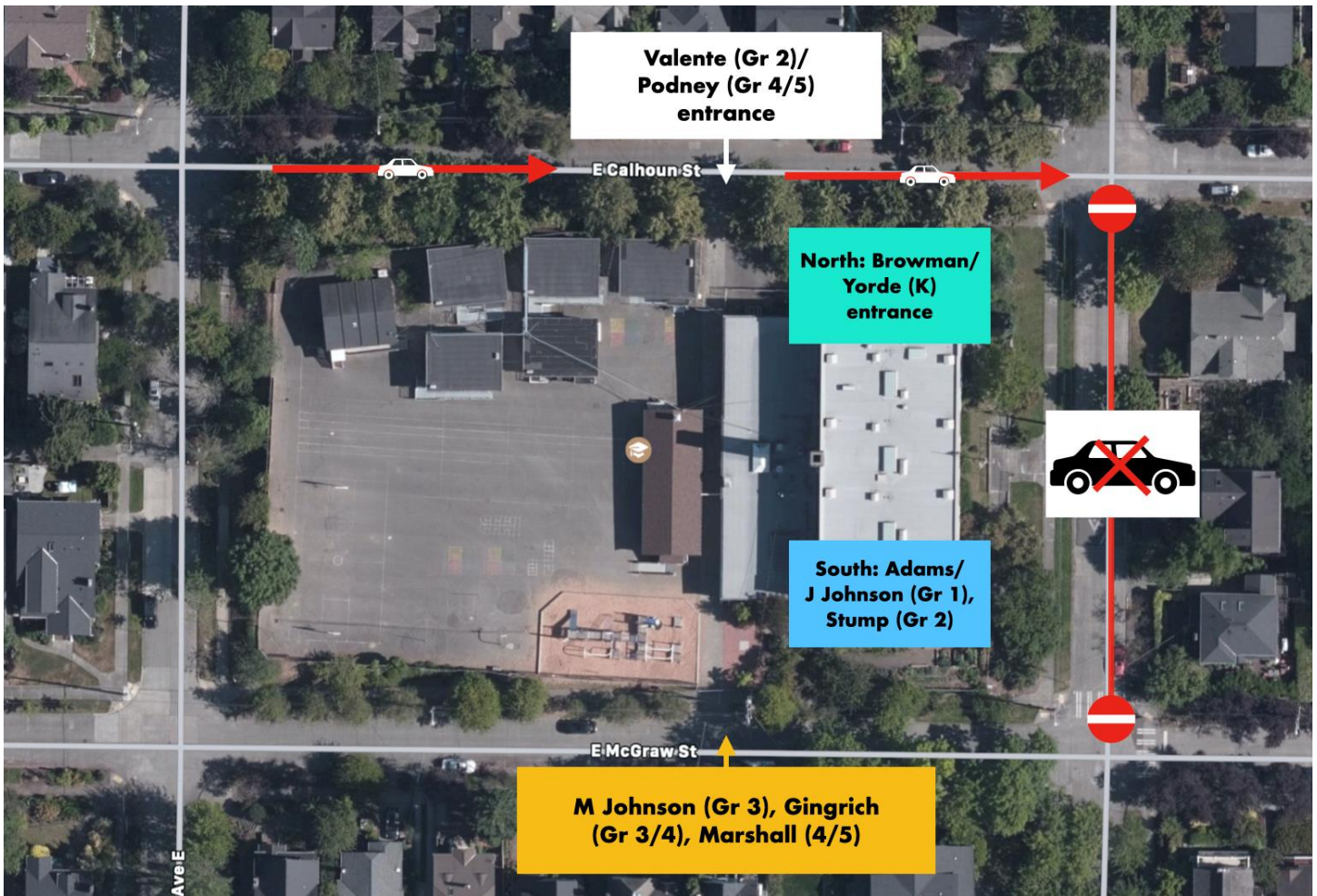
Advanced Learning: (206) 252-0130 or advlearn@seattleschools.org

YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL DAY at Montlake

(1) Getting to and from school

Car drop off and pick up. The residential streets around our school are narrow. For safety and efficiency, please:

- Do not use E. McGraw St. for drop-off or pick-up (this is a bus load/unload zone).
- Drive only eastbound on E. Calhoun St. next to the school.
- 22nd Ave in front of the school is closed to through traffic (local access only) during school hours.
- There is a 3-minute load/unload space on Calhoun that can be used for pickup/drop-off.
- Please respect our neighbors. Do not park in front of or block residential driveways.
- Note the times we have playground coverage and do not leave your child unsupervised.



School bus service. For information about transportation, please [visit the Transportation page on the school district website](#).

- **Bus problems?** For bus issues, contact the district transportation office at (206) 252-0900 or transdept@seattleschools.org (be prepared with your route number and student ID number).
- **Late or missed bus?** When a bus is late, the bus or replacement bus should complete the run as soon as possible. If a student misses the bus, the parent/guardian is responsible for getting him/her to or

from school. Please make sure you have a back-up plan for missed buses and that your child knows the plan!

- **Going home on the bus with a friend?** To send your child home on a bus with a friend, submit a request via e-mail to our Attendance Secretary at montlake.attendance@seattleschools.org to get a temporary bus card.

Snow days and other school closures. When there is snow or another unforeseen weather event, there may be school closures. Decisions are made no sooner than 5:00 am each day. Note that door to door bus services for Special Education students are cancelled on 2 hour delayed days.

School closure or delay information (typically two hours late) is widely available from most major radio and television stations. The District will use SchoolMessenger, the automated telephone and email system, to alert you of schedule changes. You may also:

- visit Seattle Public School's main website at www.seattleschools.org;
- call the 24-hour SPS News and Information Line at (206) 252-0207;
- follow Seattle Public Schools on Twitter at "seapubschools".

(2) Attendance and supervision

Seattle Public Schools believes that maximizing instructional time is critical to the success of our students. Washington State law requires all students to attend school daily unless they are unable to do so (see ***Absent from school?*** below).

School Hours. School starts at 7:55 am daily (welcome bell is at 7:50 am and tardy bell is 7:55 am). The playground is supervised from 7:40am. Children arriving earlier will not be supervised.

School ends at 2:25 pm, except on Wednesdays, when school ends at 1:10 pm. Playground supervision ends at 2:35 (1:20 on Wednesdays). Children leaving later and who are not enrolled in after-school care will not be supervised.

- **Late to school?** If your child arrives at school after 7:55 am, they must first come to the office to sign in and receive a pink late pass before going to class.
- **Leaving early?** If your child needs to leave school early, please check in at the office at the time you need to collect your child, and they will be called from class to meet you. When you arrive, please sign your child out in the Early Dismissal file folder on the front desk and take a Temporary Dismissal slip to give to their teacher.
- **Absent from school?** If the absence is *planned*, provide written or verbal notice to the school at least three (3) days in advance. Where possible, please report all absences to the office by 7:30am at (206) 252-3304 or montlake.attendance@seattleschools.org. If the absence is *unplanned*, let the school know as soon as you are able.

Excused vs unexcused absences: Whether planned or unplanned, absences may be considered *excused* or *unexcused*. Excused absences include student illness or injury; illness, injury or death of family members; health and therapy appointments and religious observances. The [full list of excused absences](#) is available

on the Seattle Public Schools website. It is also included in the Appendix at the end of this handbook. All absences that are not on the list of excused absences are considered *unexcused*.

If your student has more than 5 excused absences in a month (without prior notice to the school or provision of a doctor's note afterwards), or more than 3 unexcused absences in a month, the school is required to schedule a conference with you and your student to identify any barriers to attendance and supports that may be needed. After 7 unexcused absences in a month or 10 during the school year, the school is required to file a court petition to help resolve the student's attendance concerns.

After-school and holiday care. After school care is available at LAUNCH located on the Montlake campus, Monday through Friday. [Please visit the Launch website](#) for more information about the program. For more information, call (206) 636-9220 or e-mail montlake@launchlearning.org.

(3) Health and Safety

If your child has a life-threatening health condition. Washington State law requires that when there is a student with a known life-threatening health condition, schools must be prepared for a life-threatening event on the day the student starts school. Please [complete the appropriate forms](#) and take needed medication(s) to the school before your child's first day of attendance. These documents need to provide current information and should be prepared after July 1 for the following school year.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact our school nurse, Meg Watson, at (206) 252-3307 or via email mawatson@seattleschools.org. You can find more information about management of student health conditions at school by visiting the district's [Students with Health Conditions](#) page.

If your child needs medication at school. State Law forbids school personnel to administer medication or treatment (other than first aid) to any child without written permission from the parent/caregiver and child's physician on a school form. Medication must be in the original bottle with clear instructions from your doctor.

If your child is ill. Do not send your child to school if they are ill. Some danger signs include temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above, sore throat, pain, rash, diarrhea or vomiting. It is safer for your child and other children if you respond to symptoms before they leave for school. Do not send your child to school until 24 hours after the last symptom (vomiting, diarrhea, fever) has disappeared.

Covid-19 protocols. If your child displays symptoms consistent with a possible Covid-19 infection (fatigue; headache; muscle pain/body ache; sore throat; congestion/runny nose; nausea or vomiting; or diarrhea), please follow the recommendations for return to school set out in the [King County Public Health COVID-19 Symptom Flow Chart](#) in the Appendix to this Handbook.

If your child falls ill or is injured at school. Our school nurse is on-site one day per week (this year on Tuesdays), and on days when she is not present, our administrative secretary responds to student illnesses and injuries. Neither may diagnose or give treatment other than first aid. If a student cannot continue their normal school day because of illness or injury that is not life-threatening, our administrative secretary will call the contact listed on the student's record. Injured or ill students will stay in the main office or Protected Health Care Room until they are picked up by a parent or caregiver.

Protected Health Care Room. If any student begins exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day (see Appendix E to this Handbook), they will be isolated in a room outside of the main office and away from others that has been designated as the [Protected Health Care Room](#) as per DOH requirements. If any student or staff reports COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, they will immediately isolate from others and be sent home as soon as possible. Staff who monitor the room will be provided with enhanced PPE. When a parent or guardian is called to pick up their student, they will be asked if they would like to have their student administer a [COVID test](#).

If your child has head lice. Infection control experts have determined that head lice are not a health hazard and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. [The CDC no longer recommends that students be excluded from school](#). If the school finds lice or nits on your students, you will receive a phone call informing you. You will have the option of picking your child up immediately or having them stay in school until they are able to be transported home. Please treat your student to prevent the spread of lice as soon as possible.

If there is a disaster during school hours. Our staff are trained to be able to handle any given situation until help arrives. We have staff members who are CPR/First Aid certified; we conduct regular disaster-preparedness training including earthquake and active shooter drills; and we have assigned roles in the event of an emergency (command control, communications, first aid, or search and rescue).

If an emergency does occur, coordination with police, fire, and rescue is the top priority. Classroom teachers will stay with their students until another capable adult relieves them. There will be a checkpoint in the school office for pick-up and formal release procedures to assure the safety of every student. **Please remember:**

- Parent/caregiver or emergency contact ID will be required to pick up children. If you work outside of the neighborhood, it is a good idea to include as an emergency contact a neighbor or someone who lives close by. Please be sure to keep your child's emergency information up to date.
- Do not go directly to get your child, as this creates confusion.
- Do not call the school to inquire about your child. Telephone lines need to be open so that school personnel can communicate with district and emergency services.

You can find [a copy of our Student-Family Reunification Plan](#) on our school website. Please take some time to become familiar with it.

Safety drills. We conduct whole school drills every month. Drills include fire, earthquake, and shelter-in-place/lockdown. Shelter-in-place is for when there is a potential threat in the neighborhood, but learning happens as usual while we keep everyone inside and continue classes. A lockdown implies a direct threat to the building, and all classroom doors are locked, lights are turned off, and students are kept away from windows.

Teachers describe these drills to students in developmentally appropriate ways, balancing the need for students to take them seriously with a desire also not to frighten them unnecessarily. Families are informed by School Messenger any time we have a Lockdown Drill. Interested families may participate in some emergency preparations via our internal School Safety Committee (see [Family Partnership & Leadership Opportunities](#) below).

(4) School climate

What are the school's expectations of scholars? Elementary school is an important time for learning how to be in community with others. As far as they are able to at their particular stage of development, students are expected to strive to embody the Montlake Way - *to be safe, be kind, be fair and take responsibility*. We have developed guidance to help students remember how to follow the Montlake Way in common areas of the school: in assemblies, in the lunchroom, in bathrooms and hallways, and in the playground. You can find this guidance in the Appendix at the end of this Handbook.

At the beginning of each year, students work together with their teacher to establish expectations for themselves and each other through the process of designing a Classroom Charter. The three components of this charter are:

1. How do we want to feel?
2. What will we do to have these feelings consistently?
3. What will we do to prevent and manage conflict? (What do we do when the charter isn't followed?)

These charters are posted prominently in classrooms and provide year-long guidance for classroom climate management.

In addition, our English Language Arts curriculum includes an explicit “collaborative literacy” component. This strand helps students develop supportive listening and respectful critical feedback skills and supports a welcoming and inclusive classroom.

Bringing items from home.

Please be aware that the school will not be responsible for loss or theft of personal items. Students bring items from home is at their own risk.

Cell phones. Cell phones are discouraged at school as they may be lost or stolen (for which the school is not responsible) and present a distraction. If they are brought to school, they must remain turned off and out of sight during school hours, including lunch and recess. During state testing any cell phones must be left with the teacher or the office during school hours – no exceptions. If a student’s phone is found to be powered on during the school day, the teacher will confiscate the phone and return it to the student at the end of the school day. If a student is found a second time with their phone out, the phone will be confiscated again, and a parent will have to come to school to pick up the cell phone from an administrator.

Other items. Electronic readers (e.g. Kindles, Sony Readers, Nooks, etc.) are not allowed at school. Students should not bring toys from home or game cards such as Pokemon or sports cards to school.

Sensory items. Sensory tools are not considered toys. They are tools. A sensory tool must be agreed upon by the teacher, parent, and student, and used appropriately. Teachers may ask students to put a sensory tool away if it is becoming a distraction from learning rather than a tool that supports a student’s focus on learning. If an item causes distraction, disruption or lack of safety at school, it will be sent home. Items sent home should not return to school.

Consequences. If a student does bring any of these items to school and a staff member sees it, he or she will give the student a warning to return the item to his or her backpack. If the student brings out the item a second time, the student will need to give the item to a staff member and it will be returned at the end of the

school day or at an appropriate time. If there is a third instance, the item will be labeled with the student's name and kept by the staff member until a parent or guardian come to pick up the item, or until the last day of school.

What opportunities exist for students to provide feedback and be involved in decision-making? Currently, students in Grades 3-5 fill out an annual Student Survey that is collected by SPS; previous results can be found on the district's [School Climate Surveys webpage](#).

What opportunities exist for organized student leadership? As part of our commitment to personal success and public stewardship, Montlake offers multiple opportunities for students to participate in leadership and assistance roles throughout the building:

Green Team. Students and staff work together to lead efforts to integrate sustainability into all aspects of our school. As part of the Washington Green School movement we are certified as a Washington Green School in composting, recycling and energy. For more information about Washington Green Schools visit: www.wasgreenschools.org

Student Council. Begun in 2009 with the goals of building community within our school and increasing school spirit, Student Council is a student-run leadership group made up of students from all grade levels. Some of the roles of Student Council include planning spirit days and activities, promoting positive behaviors within our school community, and other activities decided upon by the members. Working on service projects in the larger community is a long-term goal of the Council. Members of Student Council are expected to be role models and leaders in the school and will be responsible for communicating plans with the greater school community. Meetings are overseen by Ms. Pearson and Ms. Auty.

Library Aides. Students volunteer each year to work during recess in the library to assist our Librarian.

Patrol. Teams of students arrive early and/or stay late after school to patrol our crosswalks and assist walkers in safely crossing the neighboring streets. Patrol Students must be at least 10 years old, demonstrate responsibility and leadership, and be willing to follow directions. This important leadership opportunity is coordinated by Ms. Gingrich. Interested students are selected each year.

(5) Academics

Curriculum.

English Language Arts (ELA).

Montlake Elementary uses the Seattle Public Schools' standard Center for the Collaborative Classroom (CCC) [Collaborative Literacy curriculum](#) for K-5 ELA instruction. This curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and also integrates social-emotional learning at every grade level. The CCC curriculum has three modules:

Being A Reader (K-2) teaches foundational skills such as phonological awareness, decoding and comprehension and at the same time works to foster a love of reading. It includes whole-class and small-group instruction, independent work rotations and authentic reading experiences.

Being A Writer (K-5) teaches the writing process while developing intrinsic motivation for the craft of writing via read-alouds, independent practice and student-teacher conferencing, and instruction in language skills and conventions. Students are immersed in a variety of genres, including narrative, informational, and opinion/persuasive writing.

Making Meaning (K-5) delivers whole-class reading and vocabulary instruction through read-aloud experiences, guided and independent strategy practice, and student-teaching conferencing to scaffold word-learning and fluency in reading.

Math.

Montlake Elementary uses the Savvas [enVision 2020 mathematics curriculum](#) for K-5 math instruction. This Common Core State Standards-aligned curriculum emphasizes the development of all students as mathematicians through the development of Math Practices - the habits of mind, processes and dispositions that enable a learner to understand mathematics and to use or do mathematics with understanding.

The curriculum allows educators to easily deliver differentiated instruction to all learners as they progress toward becoming fully proficient mathematicians. It is engaging and emphasizes a variety of problem-solving strategies, and also includes optional home-based digital learning modules for students who wish to practice their skills further.

Science.

Starting in 2020-21, Montlake Elementary will use the Seattle Public Schools standard [Amplify Science](#) curriculum. Amplify Science's instructional model is aligned with the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) and allows students to access their prior knowledge and to connect past learning experiences to the present. Students have the opportunity to ask questions and define problems about the natural and designed world, design investigations in which they collect and analyze trends and patterns in their data, engage in argument from evidence in both writing and through discourse with their peers, develop conceptual scientific models of physical phenomena, and to communicate their findings from their investigations.

Social justice/antiracist education. Each year, Montlake Elementary observes Black Lives Matter at School week with tailored instruction to all grades using the [joint SEA and SPS BLM materials and resources](#). In 2020-21, our staff Racial Equity Committee began working to create a schoolwide curriculum of social justice lessons at every grade level using materials from [Learning For Justice](#) (formerly Teaching for Tolerance).

Social and emotional learning (SEL).

R.U.L.E.R. is a social/emotional curriculum approach created for students (and adults) to teach them how to Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, and Regulate emotions. It has been met with success and lasting positive results for students and teachers who have implemented it in their schools and is now in use at over 50 Seattle Public Schools elementary and middle schools. Montlake Elementary has used the R.U.L.E.R.

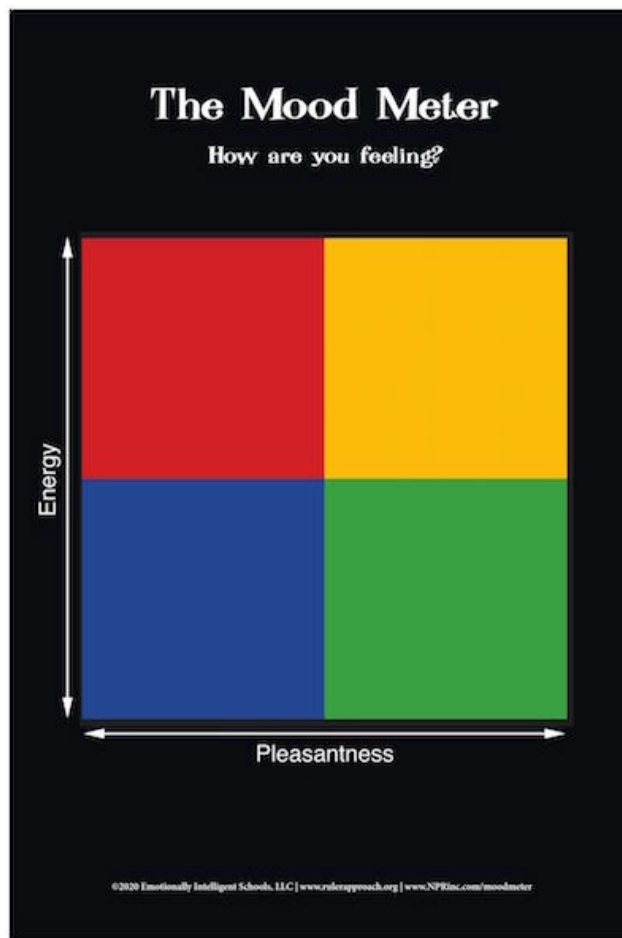
curriculum since 2015.

- R**ecognizing emotions in self and others
- U**nderstanding the causes and consequences of emotions
- L**abeling emotions accurately
- E**xpressing emotions appropriately
- R**egulating emotions effectively

Using R.U.L.E.R., each year we create classroom charters that will be continually referenced and updated throughout the year. The three components of this charter are:

1. How do we want to feel?
2. What will we do to have these feelings consistently?
3. What will we do to prevent and manage conflict? (What do we do when the charter isn't followed?)

Other strategies we teach include the use of the Mood Meter (below), which gives students a tool to understand and explain how they are feeling on a continuum of pleasantness and energy; the Meta Moment for taking a pause and imagining how they would want to handle something as their “best self”; and the Blueprint, which helps them to build empathy by considering another person’s perspective.

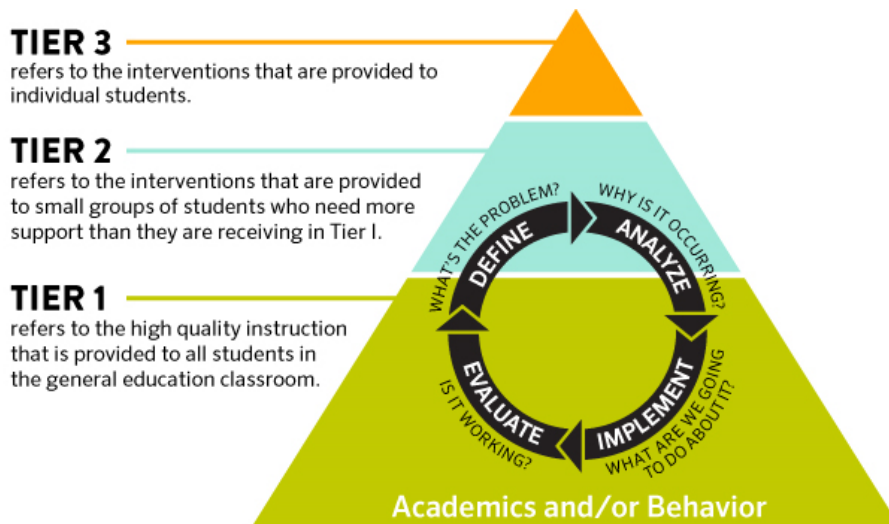


For more information about R.U.L.E.R. in SPS, please visit the [district's R.U.L.E.R. information page online](#).

Second Step.

Starting in the 2021 school year, all elementary-aged students in Seattle Public Schools will have access to the [Second Step Elementary digital program](#), an SEL program which includes four full units of weekly, age-appropriate SEL lessons for each grade. Developmentally appropriate lessons include support for teachers to guide student conversations about four topics: 1) Growth mindset and Goal-setting; 2) Emotion Management; 3) Empathy and Kindness; and 4) Problem-solving. Scripting and downloadable handouts are provided to promote student engagement, and the last lesson of each unit is a performance task in which students demonstrate evidence of their learning. This year, each classroom teacher will be delivering these lessons during their classroom meeting time on "SEL Wednesdays."

Differentiated learning for all students. Seattle Public Schools has made a shift in practice to emphasize integration of both academics and behavior as critical to student success. SPS uses the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) approach to support all learners and ensure equitable access to a robust, high-quality education. MTSS is an evidence-based model of educating students that uses data and problem-solving to integrate academic, behavioral, and social/emotional instruction and intervention to maximize the success of all students. MTSS is not the same as Special Education. The structure of the MTSS model is illustrated below:



Instruction and intervention is provided to students across multiple tiers of intensity based on need. Staff make data-based decisions in order for resources (e.g., time, staff, and evidence-based strategies) to reach the students at the appropriate levels to increase the performance of ALL students, with the goal of achieving and/or exceeding proficiency.

Family involvement is an essential component of the MTSS approach. Research shows that parent and caregiver engagement in a child's education is an important predictor of academic success. We provide multiple opportunities for families to partner with us to support their child's academic and social-emotional development both during the school year and throughout each student's time at Montlake Elementary.

Special education and support services.

Resource Program. The Resource Program serves students in need of mild-to-moderate support with academics, social skills, and organizational/study skills. The majority of each student's day is spent in the general education setting. Services are dependent on the individual needs of the student. Instructional supports may often look like small groups or in-class support. Students generally receive supports from a certified Special Education teacher and an Instructional Assistant, though staffing may vary from year to year due to budget constraints. The program staff ratio is 18 students: 1 certified teacher.

Access Program. The Access Program serves students in need of more moderate-to-intensive supports in academics, social-behavioral and organizational/study skills. Services may vary from small group, to individual 1:1 lessons, to in-class support. Students in the Access Program are served by a certified Special Education teacher and 3 Instructional Assistants throughout the day. The program staff ratio is 10 students: 1 teacher: 3 Instructional Assistants.

Benefits for All Students of Access and Resource Programs at Montlake. Having two Special Education programs has many benefits to the Montlake community. At Montlake we recognize these benefits and they are celebrated throughout our school:

- Special education instructional assistants providing in-class instruction allows **all** students the benefit of more than one teacher and opportunity to collaborate amongst faculty.
- Instructional assistants are often supporting students on the playground, increasing safety in play through monitoring, and conflict resolution skills of **all** students.

- Affords a sense of belonging, ownership, and membership in the Montlake community.
- Provides a diverse and stimulating environment in which to learn.
- Enables friendship development with typical peers.
- Enhances self-esteem, acceptance, and tolerance of others.
- Inclusive practices destigmatize disabilities and reduces negative labeling and stereotyping.
- Provides peer models.
- Natural opportunities to practice social and language skills.
- Access to general education curriculum for **every student**.

Least Restrictive Environment & Placement Determination. Least restrictive environment (LRE) is part of the of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) federal law that requires public schools to guarantee a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students with disabilities in the most inclusive setting possible. The LRE defines **where** and **how** special education services (specially designed instruction) are provided.

A student's least restrictive environment and placement is determined by the student's IEP team following an annual review or an initial evaluation.

Other SPS Special Education Service Pathways. Seattle Public Schools offers other programs at various buildings within the district that provides different services based on student needs:

- Focus: Offers intensive academic and functional needs. Majority of instructional time is in a small-group setting
- Distinct: Intervention and services differ greatly from general education curriculum. Services include academic, functional, communication, and life skills.
- SEL (Social-Emotional Learning): Support of individual development in behavioral, social-emotional, academic, and functional skills. Services are often delivered in a small group setting.
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH): Offers instruction with accommodations and modifications of the general education curriculum for students with hearing impairments.
- Blind/Visually Impaired (Vision): Offers instruction with accommodations and modifications of the general education curriculum for students with visual impairments.
- Medically Fragile: Students with intensive medical needs benefit from a concentration of services or specialized facilities outside their assignment area

For more information, see the [Placement and Primary Service Types page](#) on the SPS website.

Advanced Learning Opportunities (ALO).

Classroom Differentiation. At Montlake Elementary, we have high expectations for all students, and we know that each will be challenged by the rigor and depth of our curriculum. To that end, Montlake follows an inclusion model in which teachers differentiate instruction for all students. [Current research](#) shows that inclusion is generally best educational practice for all learners, including advanced learners, especially in math. An inclusion model is also consistent with the [Seattle Public Schools' Strategic Plan](#) focus on "undoing legacies of racism in public education." The following are various strategies we use to meet the needs of all learners, including those identified as advanced either by their teachers or district testing.

ALO Math Strategies. Montlake is operating under a waiver from Seattle Public Schools to utilize the [enVision Math 2020](#) curriculum, which builds conceptual understanding through a combination of problem-based and visual learning strategies. Teachers implement differentiated instruction in varied groups: whole class, small group, partners, and individual. Listed below are instructional strategies used at Montlake (note that not every strategy will be used in every classroom):

- *Parallel Tasks.* All students work on the same core content with tasks of different complexity.
- *Curriculum Compacting.* Use assessment to determine student skill level in a core content area. Then eliminate or enhance parts of the curriculum based on instructional need.
- *Flexible Groups.* Students are grouped by interest, achievement, activity preference, or specific instructional needs.
- *Math Centers and Games.* Activities in small groups based on student choice or teacher designation.
- *Small Group Instruction.* Teacher works with a small group of students on a targeted learning goal.
- *Tiered Assignments.* Adjusted degrees of difficulty of a question, task or product to match student's current readiness level.
- *Open Questions.* A question framed in such a way that a variety of responses/approaches are possible.
- *Targeted Questioning.* Teacher is intentional about depth of questions asked. All students are asked questions that require critical thinking at a level that is challenging for them, and all students benefit from hearing their peers' thinking.

ALO Reading Strategies. The strategies listed above are also adapted for use in reading instruction. We use a wide variety of reading materials from our classroom and school libraries, *Junior Great Books*, teacher read-alouds, and content area reading. Classroom groupings include:

- *Flexible Leveled Reading Groups (K-3).* Utilizing the [Collaborative Classroom](#) curriculum, students are placed in groups by current reading level to ensure appropriate instruction and reading materials. Groups can change as students' reading skills develop.
- *Literature Groups (3-5).* A group of students read the same book. They ask peer questions, discuss major themes, study vocabulary, and analyze author's purpose and style.
- *Independent Reading.* Each student will have an opportunity for self-selected reading during the school day to develop reading fluency and get in the habit of reading.
- *Support for Students in Selecting Appropriate Books.* Teacher will guide students in choosing just-right books for independent reading. (Criteria include instructional level, high-interest reading, and student choice.)

Teachers may also use the following differentiated approaches to support the ALO Reading Strategies above:

- *Reading Logs.* Students keep a reading record to allow both student & teacher to monitor choices.
- *Independent Book Study Projects.* Opportunities for students to explore a topic of interest to them.
- *Book Reports (2-5).* Depth of student analysis and comprehension is appropriate to student reading level.
- *Response to Literature.* Opportunities for students to demonstrate understanding by using text to make connections and support thinking. Projects could include art, drama, writing, reports or other presentations.

- *Extension Menus.* Developed in conjunction with members of a grade level team, students choose an option from a predetermined “menu” of options (or propose an alternate option) that allows them to demonstrate and extend their learning.
- *Genius Hour.* Students choose a topic of their choice, research it, and create an innovative project and presentation using the Genius Hour model. Past topics have included video games, learning sign-language, designing buildings, starting businesses, and changing the world.

For more information about Advanced Learning Opportunities, please visit the [Seattle Public Schools Department of Advanced Learning](#).

Homework policy. We believe that all children K-5 benefit from a rich reading life at home. We encourage at least 20 minutes of daily reading, which can be a combination of looking at picture books, reading with an adult, reading independently, or other reading activities.

Brain research also shows that repeated exposure to math concepts is beneficial. As a result, we want students to do some math work at home as well. That can be something the teacher sends home that matches the day's lesson, or it can be something that a family chooses--playing go fish, counting coins, working on math facts, playing chess, talking about time, etc. You can find additional ideas for supporting your mathematician at home by visiting SPS's [elementary math family support page](#) online. Rich resources especially designed for elementary mathematicians and their families are also available [online at the SPS website](#).

Special Projects--Sometimes a teacher will assign special projects at school that require a little prep work at home. Examples include interviewing a family member, thinking of ideas for a science project, practicing lines for a play, etc.

How long should homework take? Homework will only be given for Monday through Thursday, but it can be done anytime. We know children today have many activities, and some nights are busier than others.

Here are rough time guidelines:

- 20 minutes of reading plus 10 minutes of math for K-1
- 20 minutes of reading plus 15 minutes of math for 2-3
- 20 minutes of reading plus 20 minutes or math for 4-5

What is the process if I have questions about my child's homework? Homework is encouraged at Montlake but not required. Students will not lose recess or class points or have other consequences for incomplete homework; however, it is a missed learning opportunity. For example, students will certainly read and do math at school, but the extra time reading at home, either alone or with a family member, is lost time if it isn't done. Homework can also be informative and can help families understand how their child is doing at school.

Teachers at Montlake want to work with families so that children and parents are enjoying learning at home and we are open to alternate assignments. Please talk to your child's teacher if you have questions.

Standardized testing. The Seattle School District has developed specific and detailed academic standards for all grades. Student academic achievement is reported three times a year, using a standards-based student progress report (which can be found online at [The Source](#)). Parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall.

Teachers and specialists are also available for individual conferences throughout the school year in order to promote academic success for each child.

The following standardized tests are used by the school and district to evaluate student performance:

- Grades K: MAP ([Measure of Academic Progress](#)) ELA and Math – Winter
- Grades 1-2: MAP ([Measure of Academic Progress](#)) ELA and Math – Fall and Spring
- Grades 3-5: [Smarter Balanced Assessment](#) (SBAC) / ELA and Math – Spring (and Fall in 2021-22)
- Grades 5: [Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science](#) (WCAS) – Spring

Parents of students in Grades 3 - 5: Please make every effort to avoid appointments and travel plans during the SBA and MSP testing period. Scheduling make-up sessions is difficult as we need to rearrange many different schedules to accommodate the make-ups.

(6) Outside the classroom

Lunch and recess.

How long is the lunch period and how does it work? Each grade has a 20-minute lunch period rotation as follows: K/1st grade eat at 10:50am, followed by Grades 2/3 at 11:20am, and then Grades 4/5 at 11:40am.

Lunch plan, September through mid-October 2021: All students will eat outdoors and the lunchroom will not be in use. Individual classes will be assigned to either outside on the playground or in the covered play court for lunch period. In both locations:

- Students will be required to sit a minimum of 3 feet apart at lunch tables and/or on yoga mats;
- Tables/places have been clearly marked with distancing guides and hand sanitizer will be available as requested;
- Students will be organized so they are facing the same direction while eating/drinking;
- Pre-packaged school lunches will be delivered directly to students in their assigned seating spot;
- Students will sit in assigned seats or spots during their monthly rotation and will clean their own area prior to dismissal.

Teachers and other staff members will help students build a common understanding of good habits while eating lunch:

- Students will be reminded to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after lunch. Time has been included in the schedule for handwashing and/or sanitizing before and after lunch.
- Students will be asked to remove their masks while they are eating or drinking. When they are finished eating they will be asked to put their mask back on and wait to be dismissed.
- Students will be encouraged to use quiet indoor voices while at lunch. Talking will be limited to when student masks are on.

Please help us prepare by talking with your student about these habits and expectations prior to the first day of school.

Lunch plan, October 2021 onward: After the first six weeks of school, Montlake staff and the Building Leadership Team and Building Safety Teams will revisit the indoor lunch policy outlined above.

Snacks during the school day: Students will not be eating or removing their masks in their classrooms; however, there will be a designated area of the playground where students can sit on yoga mats to eat a snack or take a mask break during their morning recess.

Please be sure to have your child dress for the weather (extra warm coats and hats are best). If you need assistance with any of these items, you are welcome to reach out to our school counselor Sarah Waymouth at sswaymouth@seattleschools.org.

How many recesses are there during the day and how long are they? For Kindergarten and First Grade, there are three (3) recesses per day: mid-morning, after lunch, and mid-afternoon. All other grades have a mid-morning recess and a recess after lunch. Each recess is 20 minutes in length. We are aware that best practice is to have recess before lunch; however, due to handwashing requirements and the location of our bathrooms, time constraints require that lunch be scheduled before outdoor recess.

School meals.

What meals are available for my child? Breakfast and lunch are available for students at Montlake. School menus are planned to meet and often exceed USDA menu planning regulations for school meals and SPS Nutrition Services proactively works to incorporate the Institute of Medicine's recommendations for school meal programs. The district has new initiatives partnering with local farmers and local chefs to create recipes that appeal to students and utilize fresh seasonal (local) ingredients.

SPS Nutrition Services welcomes your feedback, menu and recipe suggestions. You can contact Nutrition Services via email at nutritionservices@seattleschools.org.

How do I apply for free or reduced-price meals for my child? School meals are free for all students this year (2021-22); **however, eligible families are still encouraged to submit a new application for free and reduced-price meals.** Enrollment in the program is important for funding and staffing at our school, and students who are registered will be exempt from school fees (e.g. for device use) and may be eligible for other programming or assistance. You can find **translated copies of the application** and a link to the online application on the district's [Free and Reduced Price Meal webpage](#). The process of applying for free or reduced-price meal status is safe, secure and private.

What if my child has a food allergy? Information about [potential allergens in school meals](#) is available from the SPS [Nutrition Services](#) department. Our lunchroom provides a separate table for students with food allergies. Information about student food allergies must be provided to our school nurse prior to the start of the school year (see [If your child has a life-threatening health condition](#), above).

Snacks and classroom food. There is no set schedule for morning or afternoon snacks, and provision of a snack break is at the discretion of each teacher. Kindergarten and first grade teachers may invite families to contribute bulk snacks for their class where possible.

In-class parties. Due to a growing number of students with severe, life-threatening food allergies, and a desire to be fair to all students, Montlake will no longer celebrate birthdays with food. Each classroom will decide

how they want to celebrate birthdays without food. It could be a special game or other event, but we know that it is fun for kids to be special on "their" day and it doesn't need to be about the food. You can find out how your child's classroom celebrates students' birthdays from your child's teacher. If you have any questions about this policy, please call our school office at (206) 252-3300. Thank you for your cooperation.

Field trips. Field trips provide a fun way to enrich and enhance classroom learning. Parents must sign a release form before a child can attend any field trip. Where field trips involve a cost, scholarships will be made available for students. Please discuss any transportation issues with your child's teacher in advance. See below for more information about becoming an authorized field trip chaperone.

Playground rules and procedures.

- Always wear a mask unless you're taking a break in a "Mask-Break Zone."
- Down-only on the slides, feet first, one person at a time.
- Jumping from the play structure should not happen from any place higher than half your height.
- Jump-ropes stay on the ground and are used next to the lunchroom wall.
- Large balls from home are fine as long as anyone can play with you – small balls are not allowed
- Never leave the playground without permission.
- If you need help, find an adult.
- Remember Montlake's "Hands-Off Policy" (hands, feet, and mouth to ourselves).
- Balls and other items should be returned to the ball box next to the lunchroom at the end of recess.

Lost & found. Lost & Found is located by the front doors of the school in the closet, as well as in the cafeteria. Please mark all clothing and personal belongings with your child's name. Our valued volunteers do their best to match items with owners, but this is a difficult task without names in clothing. All unmarked and unclaimed items will be donated before winter break, after spring break, and at the end of the school year.

(7) Family-school communication and partnerships

Weekly PTA newsletter. The Montlake PTA and the Montlake school send a join weekly newsletter on Tuesdays of each week. You can [subscribe to the newsletter](#) at the PTA's website (www.montlakepta.org). If you have information to include in the newsletter, please email communications@montlakepta.org.

Communicating effectively with your child's teacher. Parents can expect all staff to read their emails daily and to respond to emails from parents within 48 business hours unless a staff member is on vacation or on leave. Please schedule appointments for discussions with teachers. As you can imagine, in the mornings, teachers are trying very hard to get ready for the day. They won't mind a brief conversation every once in a while, but it would be best to schedule a time if you need to have a conversation, instead of "dropping in" before the bell.

We want to give parents and caregivers the time and attention your discussions/conversations deserve. Please email the teacher with some dates and times that are convenient for the two of you to meet. We ask that should a parent have a concern regarding their child's teacher that it is most respectful to share a concern/issue with their child's teacher first and work towards a resolution before going to the principal. An exception of course is that the principal should be contacted about any issue that is a safety or security concern.

Contacting staff. To contact a specific staff member, please refer to the contact list in the Appendix to this handbook.

Office telephone use. Students must have permission to use the office phone. Students are not to use the office telephone at school except in emergencies. Please plan ahead when scheduling and communicating with your child. Make sure that your child is aware before school each day of any after school classes, after school routing changes, and especially on early release days, make sure they know that you are aware of the early release. Send notes to their teacher of any changes (e-mail works best, and please copy the office), as written permission is required. Try not to call the school to make last minute changes to their routing unless it is an emergency.

The Source.

What is the Source? [The Source](#) provides student data like attendance, assessment scores, library info, classes, etc. to parents and guardians.

Who can get a Source account? Parents and guardians of students actively enrolled in SPS may setup an account. Students actively enrolled in SPS will receive an account at school and will log onto the Source with their student account.

What do parents and guardians need to setup a Source account? You must be the parent or guardian of a student actively enrolled in SPS. You must have the same valid email address on record at each student's school. Your email address on file with SPS will be your Source username.

For more information, please visit the SPS website's [Source information page](#). This will give you appropriate links and more information on how to sign up for and access the Source.

Family support.

Montlake Families in Need program. The Montlake PTA provides financial support for a fund for the use of Montlake families who are in need of assistance. To find out more about available assistance, please contact Principal Pearson at jepearson@seattleschools.org. All requests are kept strictly confidential. To donate to the Montlake PTA Families in Need Fund, please contact the PTA at president@montlakepta.org.

Visiting and volunteering.

Volunteering. Note: During COVID, essential volunteers may be able to volunteer in person at the discretion of the principal. Volunteers will be required to complete a video training and follow health and safety protocols. In order to reduce risk to students, **all volunteers will be required to be vaccinated and must provide proof of vaccination.** [More information is available on the SPS 2021-22 School Year Resources page.](#)

SPS Volunteer Requirements. Montlake volunteers who have direct contact with students such as classroom volunteers, field trip chaperones, volunteers providing support on the playground, in the lunchroom, and volunteers providing support as room parents, in the library, for Girls on the Run, Field Day and other activities need to complete the 4-step [application process for volunteering](#) in Seattle Public Schools. If you encounter any issues with completing the process, or would like hard copies of the application form, please contact Vivian van Gelder at vavangelder@seattleschools.org.

COVID-19 update: Volunteers are only allowed in Seattle Public Schools if they are vaccinated and have been pre-approved by the principal. Until the Delta variant subsides it is unlikely that volunteers will be approved to work in our classrooms. After volunteer forms are received and approved, including completion of the on-line Adult Sexual Misconduct Prevention course, volunteers will be notified via email. Volunteers will be added to a list of approved volunteers for each classroom teacher.

Volunteer sign-in at Montlake main office. Volunteers are asked to sign in the white volunteer binder in the Montlake main office every time they come in to volunteer and to remember to sign out when they leave. Please wear a volunteer badge.

Visitors. Montlake parents, family members and community members who are visiting Montlake on a one-time or non-regular basis who have no unsupervised contact with students, are considered “Visitors.” Visitors should sign in at the office and wear a Visitor badge. Visitors include guest speakers, classroom party attendees, lunchroom visitors and family classroom observers.

Family leadership and partnership opportunities.

Building Leadership Team. The Building Leadership Team (BLT) is a contractually mandated committee whose function is “to promote and facilitate the collaborative decision-making process which affects academic achievement and to identify how to support the needs of students and staff in buildings.” At the elementary level, the BLT includes the following: the school principal, one teacher representative for primary grades (K-2); one teacher representative for intermediate grades (3-5); one teacher representative for the specialist programs (Art, P.E., Library); one teacher representative for the Special Education program; one representative for classified staff; and family representation.

The BLT is the sole authority for developing the school budget, and its decisions become final following a confirmatory vote by union-represented building staff. The BLT is also responsible for developing and updating the [Continuous School Improvement Plan](#) (CSIP), the school-wide professional development plan to support implementation of the CSIP, and for creating and reviewing the school’s internal Decision Making Matrix. The BLT meets once each month during the school year immediately after the close of the school day.

For more information or to express interest in serving on the BLT, please e-mail Principal Pearson at jepearson@seattleschools.org.

Building Safety Team. This committee meets at least once a month to ensure that proper safety procedures are followed. Members include the principal, administrative secretary, custodian, nurse, teachers and parents/caregivers. If you are interested in serving on the Safety Committee, please e-mail Principal Pearson at jepearson@seattleschools.org.

Montlake PTA. The Montlake PTA is an organization for parents, caregivers and staff of Montlake Elementary School. Our PTA is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment for all families and to serving students furthest from educational justice. Our PTA provides opportunities for families to connect with each other through social gatherings and parent education events throughout the school year. Our PTA informs families about issues that impact our school, Seattle Public Schools, and all students in Washington state. Most of all, the Montlake PTA is part of the Washington State PTA and the National PTA which together form the largest advocacy organization for children. Our PTA advocates for our students and all children in Seattle and beyond.

The Montlake PTA supports students and teachers through our annual grant to the school, which helps to fund some of the amazing programs that our students enjoy, and scholarships to make sure all students can participate. Our PTA is always looking for volunteers, so let us know if you have skills in any area that you can share! We look forward to getting to know you!

For more information, please contact Montlake PTA Co-presidents Jennie Trzyna (jennifer.trzyna@outlook.com) or Mary Beth Hribar (marybeth_hribar@yahoo.com).

The Montlake PTA Board Members



LUNCHROOM

2

VOICE LEVEL

SAFE	KIND	FAIR	RESPONSIBLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come with clean hands. • Eat your own food. • Use walking feet only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make room for others. • Be helpful to others. • Listen and follow directions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay seated while you eat. • Raise your hand if you need something. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on eating. • Clean up your area. • Sort your garbage, compost, and recycling.



HALLWAY

1

VOICE LEVEL

SAFE	KIND	FAIR	RESPONSIBLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move your body carefully. • Watch where you are going. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your body in control. • Leave space for others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in line. • Remain quiet for other learners. • Walk on the right. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect others' work and belongings. • Make sure an adult knows where you are. • Go directly to your destination.



PLAYGROUND

4

VOICE LEVEL





SAFE	KIND	FAIR	RESPONSIBLE
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use play equipment as intended. • Keep a safe body while following the rules of the game. • Play safely where an adult can see you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow all who want to play to join in. • Be helpful to others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take turns. • Be a good sport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return equipment to where it belongs. • Line up with your class when the bell rings. • Take your belongings with you.



BATHROOM

0





VOICE LEVEL

SAFE	KIND	FAIR	RESPONSIBLE
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use walking feet only. • Wash your hands after using the toilet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flush after you go. • Respect others' privacy. • Take turns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your voice off. • Keep the bathroom clean and tidy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report problems to an adult. • Return to your destination promptly.



ASSEMBLIES



SAFE	KIND	FAIR	RESPONSIBLE
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow directions.• Keep a safe body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep your eyes on the speaker.• Listen with your whole body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leave space for others.• Show respect for the speaker.• Applaud calmly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen.• Respond respectfully.• Leave the space around you clean and tidy.

Appendix B

Excused Absences

1. Participation in a district or school approved activity or instructional program;
2. Illness, health condition or medical appointment (including, but not limited to, medical, counseling, dental, optometry, pregnancy, and in- patient or out-patient treatment for chemical dependency or mental health) for the student or person for whom the student is legally responsible;
3. Family emergency, including, but not limited to, a death or illness in the family;
4. Religious or cultural purpose including observance of a religious or cultural holiday or participation in religious or cultural instruction;
5. Court, judicial proceeding, court-ordered activity, or jury service;
6. Post-secondary, technical school or apprenticeship program visitation, or scholarship interview;
7. State-recognized search and rescue activities consistent with RCW 28A.225.055;
8. Absence directly related to the student's homeless or out of home care status;
9. Absences related to deployment activities of a parent or legal guardian who is an active duty member consistent with RCW 28A.705.010;
10. Absence resulting from a disciplinary/corrective action (e.g., short-term or long-term suspension, emergency expulsion);
11. Absences due to student safety concerns, including absences related to threats, assaults, or bullying;
12. Absences due to a student's migrant status; and
13. An approved activity that is consistent with district policy and is mutually agreed upon by the principal or designee and a parent, guardian, or an adult, emancipated or appropriately aged student.

Superintendent Procedure 3121SP: Attendance

https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/School%20Board/Procedures/Series%203000/3121SP.pdf

Master Daily Schedule 2021-22

Time	Function
7:40	Buses Arrive/Students line up outside fences and front door – please keep socially distanced
7:50	Welcome Bell
7:55	Class Begins
9:15-9:30	K-1 Recess
9:30-9:45	2-3 Recess
9:45-10:00	4-5 Recess (w/ Gingrich)
10:45-11:30	K-1 Recess and Lunch
11:20-12:00	2-3 Recess and Lunch
11:40-12:20	4-5 Recess and Lunch (w/ Gingrich)
2:25	Student Dismissal
2:35	Buses Depart

Wednesdays

Time	Function
7:40	Buses Arrive/Students line up outside fences and front door – please keep socially distanced
7:50	Welcome Bell
7:55	Class Begins
9:15-9:30	K-1 Recess
9:30-9:45	2-3 Recess
9:45-10:00	4-5 Recess (w/ Gingrich)
10:45-11:30	K-1 Recess and Lunch
11:20-12:00	2-3 Recess and Lunch
11:40-12:20	4-5 Recess and Lunch
1:10	Student Dismissal
1:20	Buses Depart

Seattle Public Schools

BECAUSE WE CARE. . .

We coordinate with the local health district in protecting children from certain symptoms of communicable diseases.

If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep him/her home, or make appropriate child care arrangements.

- ◆ APPEARANCE, BEHAVIOR - unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child from school.
- ◆ EYES - thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or pink eye (conjunctivitis).
- ◆ FEVER - temperature of 100 degrees fahrenheit or higher.
- ◆ GREENISH NOSE DISCHARGE, AND/OR CHRONIC COUGH - should be seen by a health care provider. These conditions may be contagious and require treatment.
- ◆ SORE THROAT - especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck.
- ◆ DIARRHEA - 3 or more watery stools in a 24 hour period especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- ◆ VOMITING - vomiting 2 or more times within the past 24 hours.
- ◆ RASH - body rash, especially with fever or itching. Diaper rashes, heat rashes and allergic reactions are not contagious.
- ◆ EAR INFECTIONS WITHOUT FEVER - do not need to be excluded, but the child needs to get medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.
- ◆ LICE, SCABIES - children may not return to school until they have been properly treated.

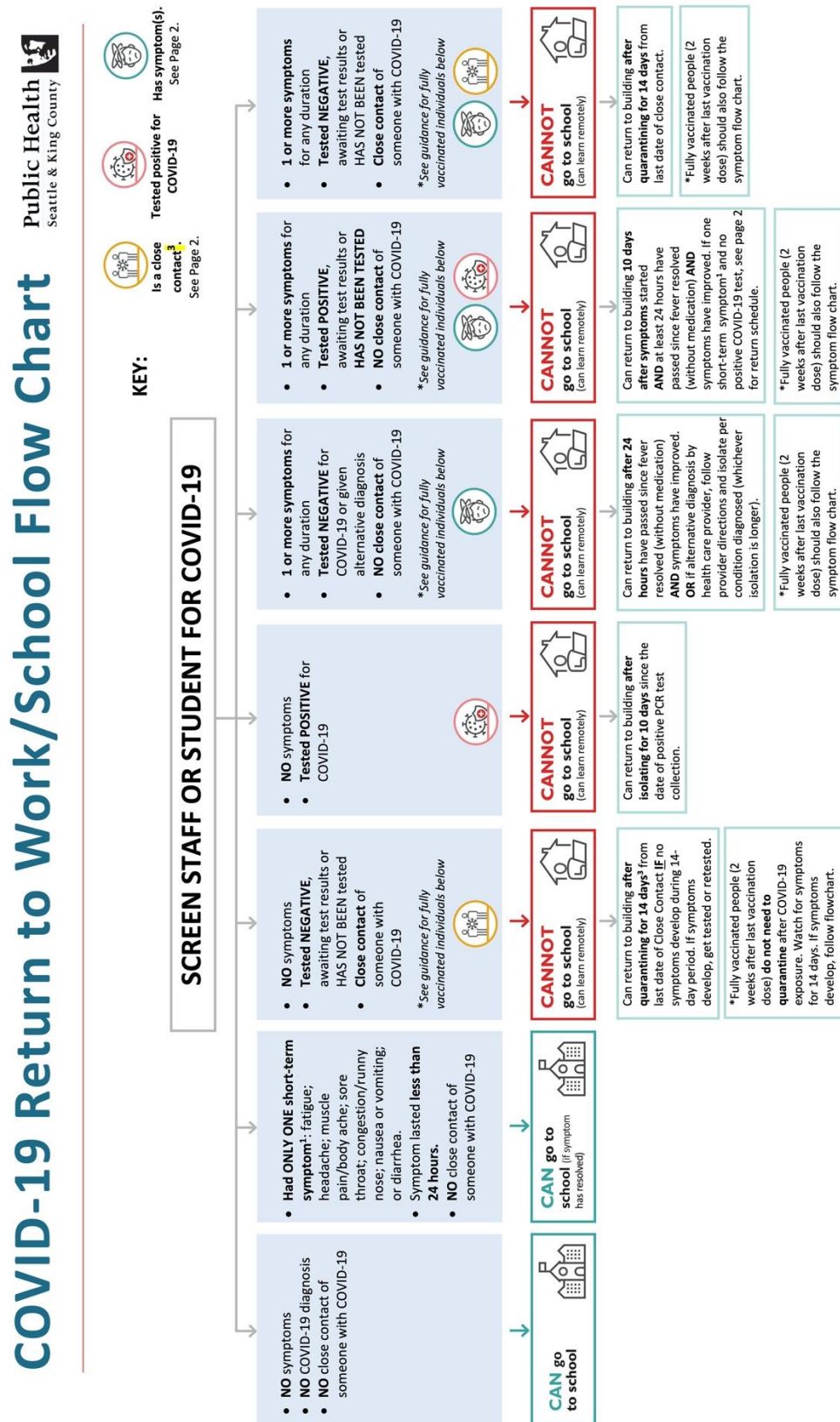
IF YOUR CHILD SHOWS ANY OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO PICK HIM/HER UP FROM SCHOOL.

- ❖ *Bringing a child to school with any of the above symptoms puts other children and staff at risk of getting sick.*
- ❖ *If all parents keep their sick children at home, we will have stronger, healthier, and happier children.*
- ❖ *While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, in the long run this means fewer lost work days and less illness for parents too.*

Thank You,

Seattle Public Schools

Health Staff



Updated May 16, 2021. Adapted from document of Health Officers in Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties.

Appendix F

Montlake staff email list (all emails end in @seattleschools.org)

Julia Pearson, Principal, jepearson
Daisy Lukas, Administrative Secretary, adgrantlukas
Beau Browman, Kindergarten Teacher, bcbrowman
Lori Yorde, Kindergarten Teacher, lhyorde
Laura Adams, First Grade Teacher, ljadams
Jasmine Johnson, First Grade Teacher, jajohnson3
Courtney Stump, Second Grade Teacher, ccstump
Rose Valente, Second Grade Teacher, revalente
Margaret Gingrich, Third/Fourth Grade Teacher, magingrich
Margaret Johnson, Third Grade Teacher, mmjohnson1
Jack Marshall, 4/5 Grade Teacher, jcmarshall
Carol Podney, 4/5 Grade Teacher (long-term substitute), crpodneywart
Isabelle Auty, PE Specialist, ivauty
Jennifer Lundgren, Art Specialist, jllundgren
Timothy Moore, General Music Specialist (Mon/Wed/Th), tpmoore
Jodie Purcell, Teacher Librarian (Tu/Wed/Fri), jkpurcell
Katie Croff, SpEd Resource Teacher (Mon/Tu/Th 8:30-1:45 pm), kecroff
Cathy Patnoe, SpEd Access Teacher, cjpatnoe
Michelle Hallwachs, SpEd Instructional Assistant, mchallwachs
Jeff Paul, SpEd Instructional Assistant (PM only), jepaul
Johnny Walker, SpEd Instructional Assistant (AM only), jowalker
Jason Walsh, SpEd Instructional Assistant, jpwalsh
James Cordell, School Psychologist (Fri), jbcordell
Ana Gregovich, Speech Language Pathologist (Wed/Fri), akgregovich
Maria Gmuca, Occupational Therapist (Fri), msgmuca
Cheryl Kerfeld, Physical Therapist, cikerfeld
Anna Faraday, Tutor, amfaraday