

Welcome to Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten at Washington!

You will receive more information about Washington in the first week of school through the PTA Welcome Packet. However, we know that incoming families have many questions about the first three days of school and the Balanced Beginnings process. We hope this helps answer those questions.

- [Please fill out this form to tell us your plans for your child at dismissal](#)

Q. How do I know who my TK/Kindergarten child's teacher is?

- All TK and Kindergarten *Balanced Beginnings* placements will be posted in the office window that looks onto the playground at 4 pm on Tuesday, August 13. They will also be posted at the entry gate on Wednesday morning, August 14, the first day of school.

Q. What is "Balanced Beginnings" for TK and Kindergarten?

- TK and Kindergarten *students* will remain with the same group of children and in the same classroom for the first three days of school while the *teachers* rotate through each classroom, each day. Each teacher will have an opportunity to meet all of our new kindergartners. In the evenings, the teachers will meet and create the permanent kindergarten classes for the year. They work hard to create classes that will work and learn well together. The permanent teacher assignments will be emailed to you individually by Sunday evening 8/18 and posted at the orange gate on Monday 8/19. On Monday, teachers and support staff will help your child find their new and permanent TK or Kindergarten class and teacher. Please note that we do not accept requests for a particular teacher.

Q. What will arrival and dismissal look like?

School Arrival @ 8:00 - 8:10 a.m:

- All TK and Kindergarten students should enter school through the **orange gates** on McKinley Avenue. Support staff will be there to greet students and walk them to their classrooms if parents need to leave, or parent/guardians are welcome to walk them to their classroom. The official arrival time is 8:10 a.m. and the gates open at 8:00 a.m. Please don't stress if you are running a little late; we won't be marking tardies the first week of school, as long as the student is present in the classroom by 8:30 am.
- Please be prepared to say goodbye to your child as they settle into their classroom. Practice this at home with your child ("I'm going to give you a hug and 3 kisses and then you will go sit down in your classroom.") Support staff will be available to help out if your child seems apprehensive. Please do leave the classroom by 8:30 am so that your child may begin to settle into their new environment.

Please join us for a PTA hosted coffee reception 8 - 9 am on the first day of school in the courtyard. We've all been tk/kinder parents on the first day of school, and we'll be here for you with caffeine, sugar and tissues!

School Dismissal @ 1:30 p.m.

- Room 100, 104, and 108 students will be dismissed from the doors on McKinley Avenue (near Bancroft). These are north of the main orange gates where students arrive.
- Room 106 and 112 will be dismissed at the **orange gates**.
- If your child is going on the bus or to an after school program, your child's teacher will walk them to the designated spot and hand them off to the responsible adult.

- [Please fill out this form to tell us your plans for your child at dismissal](#) (1:30 pm).

Q. What should my child bring on the first day of school?

- Your child needs a backpack and a refillable water bottle with their name on it. It's a good idea to also pack a change of clothes. We eat outside in all kinds of weather, so it's a good idea to bring a lightweight jacket, also with your child's name written on it.
- Please put **Back To School Night, August 29th 6 to 8 pm** on your calendar. This is an adults-only meeting when you will learn important information about the school year. We ask that an adult from each family attends, **and childcare will be provided, supported by the PTA.**

Q. What do meals look like in TK/Kindergarten?

- Students are welcome to enjoy a healthy breakfast and lunch provided by the school for free! We ask all families to please fill out a lunch application at ezmealapp.com Students are also welcome to bring a lunch from home. Support staff will help students during breakfast and lunch, making sure everyone has washed/sanitized hands, is at a safe distance from each other, and has the food that they'd like.