



COMMON KINDERGARTEN QUESTIONS

(Answered for the current 2023-24 school year)

- **What time does school start and school end?**

School times for the 2023-24 school year are as follows: Teachers meet students on the playground and escort them into the building at 8:55am. School ends at 3:25 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Wednesday is an early dismissal at 2:10 p.m.

- **Can I drop my child off early to school?**

Children may be dropped off at the playground starting at 8:40am when supervision begins. Prior to 8:40, there is no supervision of students. Children do not enter the building until the 8:55am bell. However, they may come in for breakfast at 8:40. When the bell rings, all students go to their classrooms.

- **Will my child be escorted to the bus?**

An adult staff member will escort Kindergarten students to the bus at the end of the school day.

- **Where do I pick up my child if they don't ride the bus?**

At the end of the school day Kindergarten students are walked to the playground entrance on the 1st Ave NE cul-du-sac. Teachers only release students through the gate when they see the adult who should be picking them up. Parents are also welcome to walk onto the playground and retrieve their student(s).

- **Where do I park to pick up my child?**

Parking is prohibited directly in front of school (N 65th) and on Sunnyside Ave in the areas labeled Bus Zone. Off-street parking is usually available within a short walk of the front entrance on 65th street (west of the school) and on 64th street. Do not park/leave your car in the 1st Avenue cul-de-sac.

- **How do I pick up my child early for doctor or dentist appointments?**

Notify your child's teacher and the office with the time your child will be picked up. Go to the office and sign out your child.

- **Does Green Lake have a nurse?**

We have a full-time nurse, one of the few in the district. Please contact the nurse at (206) 252-5327 if you have special health issues you wish to discuss.

- **What happens to my child if they become ill at school?**

The teacher will send an ill child to the nurse's office. There is one cot for resting and if the child has a fever or is unable to return to class due to symptoms, parents will be called to come and pick up their child. Please call or email Greenlake.attendance@seattleschools.org if your child will be absent for any reason.

- **What happens if my child complains about being homesick or belly-aches at school?**

Always check with the teacher, recess supervisors, and office staff who see your child throughout the school day. Sometimes your child will get homesick or feel stressed and this shows up as a "tummy ache."

- **Why is my kindergartner so cranky when I pick them up after school?**

It's a long day for most kids, even if they have been in a preschool setting, and the first time in an environment with 334 children. It may be that your child hasn't been eating his or her lunch to hurry outside to recess. Students in Kindergarten always get extra time to eat the rest of their lunch, however, you may try to bring a snack with you when you pick them up. Don't expect them to want to tell you all about their day at 3:25pm. Chances are they need some down time. Bedtime is often the place children seem to relax and tell you all the details.

- **How do the teachers and school communicate with the parents?**

- **Kid Mail in Backpacks:** Calendars, notes from the teachers and office, corrected homework, announcements and activity flyers are sent home in your child's backpack. Please be sure to **check their backpacks daily.**
- **Principal Email Newsletter:** Our Principal Klainer sends an email every Friday with the subject 'Dragon Update' to keep you informed on what is happening in the school community. Please be sure to indicate your preferred email address when school information packets come home in August.
- **PTA Bi-Monthly Newsletter:** Our PTA puts together a newsletter highlighting all the events and activities and happenings in our Green Lake Elementary community. We send home paper copies with students, and also provide digital versions on their website: www.greenlakedragons.org
- **Reader Boards:** PTA reader boards are located near both playground entrances (1st Ave NE and Sunnyside Ave N), with information on current or upcoming events. Please stop by to see what is happening.
- **Email and Voicemail:** All staff have email and voicemail, but it is always good to check with your child's teacher for the best avenue of communication. Staff emails can be found on the school website at www.greenlakees.seattleschools.org. The office can also reach teachers directly in the classroom. Teachers are not available during the school day for phone conversations.
- **TalkingPoints:** This app enables the school to text families directly, or via the app. Often school-wide announcements that are time sensitive will be sent out via this method. You are also able to message specific teachers and staff via this application.
- **Conferences:** Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in November prior to Thanksgiving, but always feel free to talk to your child's teacher at any time. Sign-ups for conference times are organized by teachers in late October/early November.

- **How do parents communicate with each other?**

We have a family directory via our PTA website www.greenlakedragons.org. You will need to set up a user profile on the website before you can access the directory. Since this is voluntary, it will not contain all students. The PTA sends out email messages to remind parents of upcoming volunteer needs and events for the school via their "Room Parents." All classrooms and teachers have a parent or group of parents that are the "Room Parent." This person/s helps organize class activities(both in and out of school) and emails communications to parents.

- **Do children get any outside playtime on rainy days?**

Outside recess is a priority so it must be a very heavy rain for kids not to go outside. Please make sure to dress your children appropriately for wet or chilly weather. We hate to see shivering children trying to hang out in the hallways or shoes inappropriate for outside play. If it is determined to be TOO RAINY, the office will make a 'Rainy Day' announcement and students will stay in supervised classrooms for games and choice

time.

- **When does my child eat lunch?**

Currently Kindergartners have lunch followed by recess from 11:45 to 12:15. Lunch times may vary from year to year as schedules change. The 2023-24 lunch price is \$3.25 and breakfast is \$2.25. Applications for free or reduced fee lunch are available online.

- **Can my child buy lunch or just milk?**

All SPS students have a lunch code (4 digit #) used at the pay station in the lunchroom. Lunchroom staff provide teachers with all their students codes. Parents may deposit money into their child's account via paypams.com (found on the Source) or by sending cash or a check.

You may purchase only milk when wanted for \$0.50

- **What happens when my child forgets his backpack, lunch box, or coat? What can I do to help keep track of his/her stuff?**

If your child's name or initials are on their things, we can easily get them back to them. Unlabeled items collect in our Lost and Found located in the lunchroom. Things that have been in there for 2 months or more get donated to charity.

- **Are there any standardized tests that are given to kindergartners?**

Kindergartners participate in the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) once a year. All students, K-5, are part of this program.

- **How will I find out how my child is performing?**

Parent-Teacher Conferences occur in November. All elementary children have the three days before Thanksgiving off for teachers to have scheduled conferences. Report cards are sent home three times a year. You can always call, write, or email your child's teacher with concerns and thoughts.

- **Is testing for the gifted program offered at the Kindergarten level?**

All students are screened for Advanced Learning Services annually. Students that qualify for these programs after testing are notified by letter.

Please go to 'Advanced Learning' page on the district website at www.seattleschools.org or call the district for further questions regarding this testing.

- **Does my child have homework in Kindergarten?**

This depends on your teacher, but most kids are only asked to read (or be read to) 30 minutes a day. After a full day of learning, we want students to be able to play and relax.

- **Can parents check out books from the library?**

Yes, parents can stop by the library to set up your account. You will have a library card on file to check out anything.

- **Are there any limits to how many items your child can check out?**

Yes, there are some limits initially for children, depending on their age—check with the librarian for this information. Kindergarten students begin by checking out one book a week, and increasing to two books.

- **I wish to volunteer in my child's classroom. How do I do that?**

All volunteers are required to complete the district ONLINE Volunteer application yearly. Applications can be found at <https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/volunteer/volunteer-application-process/>.

At the beginning of the year, watch for sign-up sheets in your child's room for volunteer opportunities. Be a room parent, chaperone field trips, volunteer in the classroom, etc. Just stay in touch with your child's teacher regarding their volunteer needs.

- **Do kindergarten students have a supply list?**

No. We ask everyone for a donation to cover the cost of supplies that our office purchases in bulk. This can be paid by cash, check or via schoolpay.com on the source (the online portal used by SPS). All supplies are provided for all students. We also ask K and 1st grade families to send a spare change of clothes to be kept here at school in case of accidents. Please go to www.greenlakedragons.org → 'For New Families' for more information.

- **Can my child attend before or after school enrichment programs?**

Yes, our PTA offers many choices: Language class, Chess, Art, Drama, and more. Look for details in the newsletter and Room Parent emails for how to sign up or go to the PTA website at www.greenlakedragons.org.

- **How do I get involved in the school community?**

- Our Ice Cream Social for new students in August will showcase volunteer and activity information. You can pick from many activities and the chairs will contact you soon. Feel free to reach out to them.
- Join the PTA and attend monthly meetings. The first one is in September in the Cafetorium. The PTA sponsors many family events and fundraising efforts.

Don't wait, say hello early, and introduce yourself. There are lots of great people out there that care about their child's education just like you.

- **How can I help raise funds for the school?**

There are many fundraisers throughout the year sponsored by the PTA. The GLES Walk and Roll-a-thon is held in the fall, where all the students participate and get pledges to turn in afterwards. Our annual PTA Holiday Tree Sale starts after Thanksgiving and runs until winter break. In early spring, the PTA holds a fundraiser which has historically been an auction. Finally, we have the Dragon Hunt, which is a community-wide event where pledges are based on the number of dragons found. Please check out the PTA website, www.greenlakedragons.org for more details.

IMPORTANT DATES for 2024-25: note: the 2024-25 school calendar has been approved

September 4-6, 2024 – WA Kids Parent Conference days – Family conferences with Kindergarten teacher

September 9, 2024 – First day of school for Kindergarten (they start several days after grades 1-5)