**FAQ**

**Return to School and remote learning in September 2020!**

**Last Updated: 8/20/2020**

***General Questions:***

**Q**: **Class/Teacher Assignment** - When will my child be assigned to a teacher/class?   
**A:** As a staff, we recognize that students are eager to find out who their teacher will be and are committed to getting this information out to families as soon as possible ☺. Last winter, we were giving serious consideration to implementing a multi-age instructional model for our 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th grade students this fall. Last week, our teacher leaders and Building Leadership Team (BLT) reviewed these plans and decided that the benefits of this model would not transfer to remote learning, and would in fact create additional challenges for teachers, students and families. Thus, we will be finalizing our class lists next week in single-grade level configurations. As soon as this work is complete, teachers will be reaching out to families. We anticipate this will be done on or before August 27th.

**Q:** **Class Consistency (kids) -** **Will the kids in online class = the kids in the classroom when my child goes back to school (hopefully) later in the year?  
A:** We anticipate that they will be, but also need to remain flexible as we move through this uncertain school year. All in-person learning will need to comply with current CDC health guidelines, which may change over time. We will prioritize assigning siblings to the same cohort if we move to an A day/B day hybrid schedule.

**Q:** **Class Consistency (teachers)** - **Will the teacher(s) remain the same if/when we transition to in-person school?  
A:** We hope that assignments can be for the school year, but also need to remain flexible as adults as we move through this uncertain school year. All in-person learning will need to comply with current CDC health guidelines, which may change over time. For example, if King County COVID numbers allowed us to move to an in-person hybrid learning model, the current CDC guidelines require smaller class sizes than we use for 100% in person and remote learning. How we would meet these requirements has not yet been determined and may impact teacher assignments.

**Q:** **Will there be any in-person lessons at MES for e.g. ELL, special needs, etc.?**

**A:** TBD. This will be a district level decision, not a school-based decision, and will need to be bargained by SEA.

**Q: Nurse** - can we get access to the nurse at certain times (e.g. for COVID tests)?  
**A:** TBD. This will be a district level decision, not a school-based decision, and will need to be bargained by SEA.

***Technology***

**Q: Devices** - When/how will my child receive the device from school? What do I need to do to hook up/prep/get ready?  
**A:** All students will receive an SPS device to use this year. K-2 students will receive an iPad and 3-5 students will receive a laptop or have the opportunity to use their own device. SPS technology support staff have been preparing our iPads and laptops for student use. The additional devices we need for 1:1 have been ordered by the district and will be delivered to school when ready for distribution. When available for pickup, we will share our building distribution plan with families. This will be done with schedules that allow for socially distanced outside pickup. This school plan will prioritize getting devices to students who need an SPS device to access their first day of live instruction. If your student does not have access to a device that they can use prior to receiving their SPS device, please send their information to ktcryan@seattleschools.org.

District tech support will be available for all students and families. In addition, there will be opportunities offered for families to learn how to use the platforms that all schools will be using to access remote learning: MS Teams, Schoology and SeeSaw.

**Q: BYOD - My kid already has his/her own device. Can we continue to use it? What are the requirements and Apps we need for this fall?  
A:** ***All Grades:*** *Students may use personal devices to do schoolwork. This includes the Chromebooks that Amazon donated last spring; these are personal devices. SPS support will be limited on personal devices and SPS devices will be recommended when technology issues cannot be resolved on personal devices. Students may contact the Student Helpline at 206-252-0100* [*laptops@seattleschools.org*](mailto:laptops@seattleschools.org)*.*

**Q: Headsets** - Will my kids receive headsets (with microphones) for their devices so they do not disturb each other during sessions?  
**A:** Headsets are not included in the district technology distribution plan.

**Q: Technology Dry Run** **-** Will there be a “technology dry run” to make sure everything works, so we don’t unearth issues once school is really supposed to start (e.g. Nashville had significant issues with access at the start of school)? **A:** It is our hope that teachers will have the time to connect with each student/family virtually prior to the first day of school. In addition, we are working with our PTA to connect families with district training and support so that they are ready to engage on the first day of instruction. We are also exploring offering school-wide opportunities that will allow us to test connection prior to the start of instruction.

**Q: Tech support for kids?**  
**A:** Tech support will be provided by the district for students and families. Teachers and MES staff can assist as they can, but we will not be given additional staffing for this at a building level.

**Q: Tech support for parents?**  
**A:** Tech support will be provided by the district for students and families. Teachers and MES staff can assist as they can, but we will not be given additional staffing for this at a building level. Our PTA team may be able to connect families to additional resources.

***Care Giver Involvement/KidsCo etc.,***

**Q: Recess** - How does “recess” work in the proposed schedule and what will be my role as a parent/caregiver?

**A:** TBD

**Q: Meals** - How does lunch work at home? Will there still be free/reduced lunch for those that qualify? Pick up at school?  
**A:** Meal distribution continues at Catherine Blaine and will be available to be available to all SPS families.

**Q: Working parents in search of childcare -** I have to work from 9 -5pm. Where/how can I get childcare so my child can attend class remotely? KidsCo? Who pays how much (price)? How safe will it be (meaning: how is it safe for KidsCo to operate at a school, but SPS cannot safely operate school)? Who gets the seat if there is more demand than supply?

**A:** In support of our community and in partnership with our community partners, childcare providers have been given the option to open in the SPS building sites where they typically operate. At this time, KidsCo is planning to operate a full day childcare program at MES. As an organization, KidsCo is working hard to figure out how to navigate this situation, just as SPS is. They are currently faced with a much larger demand for spots at MES than they can accommodate because of COVID safety requirements and difficulties finding staff. Once they determine how many students, they can serve they will be using their company's priority for enrollment guidelines to offer spots to families. I do not know the order of the enrollment priorities or have access to their fee structure, but do know they will be prioritizing families who are first responders, health care workers, experience home or food insecurities, other families who are furthest from educational justice, and essential workers.

You can connect with KidsCo directly at <https://www.kidscompany.org/magnolia/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIibXfvoeq6wIVXB6tBh0N0Qx3EAAYASAAEgIBZ_D_BwE>

In addition, Seattle Parks and Recreation is offering childcare in their facilities. You can find more information about this service here: [**Daycare Flyer**](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/bd2240f7-585b-44c6-8de8-3c4cd0dae1c3/downloads/8.18-2020%20COVID%20Childcare%20Flyer-Seattle%20Parks%20.pdf?ver=1597969715260)