

Welcome to **KINDERGARTEN!**



Hello North Beach Kindergarten Parents and Caregivers!

Below is an overview of what was discussed at the Q&A session.

If you have any further questions or need clarification, please feel free to be in contact with the Kindergarten Ambassador team.

2021 Kindergarten Ambassadors

- **Beth Carman** bb.carman@greentab.net- mom to Sylvia in 3rd grade and Penny in Kindergarten
- **Jennifer Hodges** jhodges_55@hotmail.com- mom to Kai in 2nd grade and Jasper in Kindergarten
- **Catherine Powell** catmpowell@gmail.com- mom to Archer in 3rd grade, Woods in 1st grade, and Peyton in Kindergarten
- **Laura Powell** lms.powell@gmail.com- mom to August in 5th grade and Violet and Dash in Kindergarten

Kinder Q&A Overview and Basic Information

*Please note: some of these answers may change due to COVID and/or school policy changes. These are the best answers we can give with our past experience with students at North Beach.

Jump Start Tuesday and Wednesday, August 17th and 18th 9am - 11am*

***please note the time change**

- Meet out front by the school reader board at 9am each morning.
- You will need to sign an attestation both mornings for your child. You can either print it out and have it ready to go each morning or fill it out when you get to the school. Copies will be available. This is a requirement from the district. [Attestation Form](#)
- Each student will need to have a mask. Extras will be available if one is needed for your child.
- We will be outside the entire 2 hours so please put sunscreen on your child so they will be protected.
- We will have everything your child needs for Jump Start, including water so they do not need to bring anything. There will be no snacks so please have your child eat a healthy breakfast so they will be ready for the day.

How can I volunteer?

- At school: Room Parents, field trip chaperone, also check with teachers to see what in class volunteering is available.
 - All in-person volunteers will need to submit SPS paperwork to volunteer.

- PTA: event committees, board advisor, DEI, attend meetings, communication team, gardening, so many opportunities! The PTA will communicate its needs throughout the year.

Snacks- kindergarteners do have snack time. Send your child to school with a snack for the first bit. Each teacher has their own snack routine and will let you know.

Bus and drop off pick up- students eligible for bus services will be notified via a physical letter that states their bus stop location and pick up/drop off times. Students are dropped off at the south entrance of the school and go to the playground before school starts. Kindergarteners are lined up and taken to the bus at the end of the school day.

When will we be informed of our teacher? Usually this happens as close to school as possible, most likely the Friday before the other grades go to school, late afternoon.

Is there a way to request a specific teacher for our child? The teachers and administration look at many different factors when creating their classrooms like balance of personalities, gender balance, making sure kiddos have a buddy in class, etc. If your child has special considerations, that can be communicated through the [kindergarten questionnaire](#).

Is there a specific school supplies list we should be aware of? School supplies are bought through the PTA and ordered through the district, no need to go shopping! The order form for school supplies and PTA membership will come out in the next couple of weeks. The bulk purchasing power of the district makes the school supplies significantly less expensive. When you purchase school supplies you also have the opportunity to purchase extra school supplies/PTA memberships for families in need or confidentially request scholarships for school supplies and/or a PTA membership.

Will there be an Open House or "Meet your Teacher" event either prior to school starting or shortly thereafter? During the first three days of school for the older kids (Sept 1st - 3rd) there are Kindergarten Connections meetings. These meetings are so your student and family can get to know your child's teacher. More information will be emailed beforehand.

What specialists and enrichment are offered through the school? During school, students will attend art, music, PE, and library/technology classes. These classes are held weekly. After school, there may be opportunities for enrichment activities such as cooking, chess, coding, outdoor skills, etc. Information will be made available through the PTA.

Does North Beach have a buddy system? The teachers and staff at North Beach make sure that students are in a warm and friendly atmosphere to learn. In the past, there have been cross grade level reading buddies, but this may not happen this year because of COVID. On the playground there is a Buddy Bench, where students reach out to one another if they feel lonely or are looking for playmates.

How do lunches work at school? Breakfast and lunch are free for all students this year. Students are also welcome to bring meals and snacks from home. We are unsure where and how lunches will happen this year due to COVID protocols.

If my student is attending Boys and Girls Club or other after school care program, do I need to make sure they get there? Students will be taken to the appropriate location for their after school programs. Transportation is usually provided to off-school locations. Boys and Girls Club is in the school cafeteria.

What is a good way to know what is happening at North Beach Elementary and the district? Sign up for the [Beachcomber Newsletter](#) and [Konstella](#) for North Beach news. Sign up for [School Beat](#) emails for district news.

What are North Beach class sizes? Class sizes vary dependant on number of teachers and students enrolled. They can vary between the high teens and low twenties.

What does the school do for students that are nervous to start school? The teachers at North Beach care so deeply for students. We recommend that all kindergarten children, but especially children that may feel nervous, to attend Jump Start. This gives students and teachers opportunities to get to know each other and go over the ins and outs of what the school day will look like. Also, during Family Connections meetings the first week of school (when the kinders are still not in school) families have some one-on-one time with their assigned teacher. Finally, during the first week or so of school teachers focus a lot on social emotional skills to ease this big transition.

Does North Beach have a nurse? North Beach does have a wonderful part-time nurse. Her information will be made available at the beginning of the school year and she will send messages throughout the year.

Do kindergarteners go on field trips? In the past, there have been some wonderful field trips that students can attend. This year may be COVID and policy dependent.

Does North Beach have a dress code? We could not think of anything that is a dress code for North Beach that we have encountered with the exception of flip flops; they aren't the best choice to wear for the playground and PE. We did find the SPS dress code [here](#).

Do kindergarteners have homework? Generally not. Reading for 20 minutes a day is strongly encouraged. Any specific classroom policy will come from individual teachers.

What are communication channels like with teachers? The teachers, staff, and administration have a very strong and open communication policy. Teachers will share their favorite modes of communication and specific policies at the beginning of the year.

Are teachers required to be vaccinated? [Here](#) is the latest information on vaccine requirements for schools in the state.

Do the kindergarten ambassadors feel safe sending our students to school in person? We do! As parents, we are so very fortunate to have the staff and teachers we have at North Beach. Their love and caring of our students cannot be beat. SPS and North Beach have instituted rigorous safety measures that we have had the opportunity to experience first-hand as our students attended school last year. Additionally, the district is creating even more comprehensive COVID protocols. Information may be found [here](#).

Communication Information

KONSTELLA: <https://www.konstella.com>

Konstella is the North Beach PTA's main form of communication. It is the place to catch the latest school news, learn about volunteer opportunities, and connect with others at North Beach. Join today! (At konstella.com, click the top right "find your school" and enter in North Beach Elementary)

BEACHCOMBER weekly email:

<http://www.northbeachelementary.org/newsletter-archive.html>

This weekly newsletter highlights the happenings in the school and in the community. Sign up today! (On the PTA homepage the sign up link is on the left side of the screen.)

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/northbeachpta>

All additional information about kindergarten playdates, info sessions, and school information will be posted via Facebook.

PTA WEBSITE: www.northbeachelementary.org

Find PTA resources, connect with the PTA, and learn about events, fundraising, and volunteer opportunities available throughout the year.

TWITTER: [@sealsnorthbeach](https://twitter.com/sealsnorthbeach)

SCHOOL WEBSITE: <https://northbeaches.seattleschools.org>

DISTRICT WEBSITE: <https://www.seattleschools.org>

IMPORTANT DATES:

Playdates subject to change; information about events will be available via Facebook and the PTA website.

All playdates are outdoors and masked.

August 17th - 18th: Jump Start, 9am - 11am. North Beach Elementary

Wednesday, August 18th: Popsicle playdate 1pm, Soundview Playfield 1590 NW 90th St

September 9th: Kindergarten first day of school