

McKinley Important Back to School Info

Emailed on 8/6/21

Welcome Back Video!

Please enjoy this special Back-to-School video with Mac the Lion and original lyrics and vocals by our own teacher Ms. Eden! We hope it brings smiles to our students' faces; we can't wait to see you all soon!

<https://youtu.be/QVGYkPW7Oyc>

Class Placement

Parents will receive an email from the Principal's email abenjamin@smmusd.org the morning of Monday August 16th with their child's teacher and room information. If you do not receive an email by 12:00pm, you may call the front office to provide an updated email address and to receive your child's class placement.

Independent Study Info

All schools are fully reopened. There is no school site "Distance Learning" remote option like there was last spring. Parents choosing not to return to in-person learning may enroll their child in the District "Independent Study" option. This program is separate from McKinley. Please see the Superintendent's [email on 7/28](#), and <https://bit.ly/FAQindStudy21-22> for a FAQ. The deadline to enroll was Friday August 6th at <https://bit.ly/IndStudyForm21-22>. Please email the Independent Study program Administrator Anthony Fuller at afuller@smmusd.org for details about the home option.

In-Person COVID Safety Protocol Info

When we return to school it will look much like it did in the spring. Safety protocols such as masks, screening at gates, and stable grouping will continue in order to keep our students safe during the rise of the Delta variant. The main update from last year is that social distancing is no longer required, so classrooms will be setup in their traditional format for collaboration and interactive learning. During lunchtime, when masks are removed for eating, students will be seated with some physical distance to maximize safety.

We are experienced and confident with the safety protocols and are ready for a smooth transition back to school. We also expect these protocols to be temporary and to relax as covid numbers improve.

An updated [video of the covid safety procedures](#) can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/cTPQvqvnMI4>

This video will be particularly helpful for families new to McKinley or those who did not return to campus last spring.

Next **Thursday, August 12th at 6:00pm** I will be hosting a **Parent Info Session** to review the protocols and to answer any questions.

Zoom link: <https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/86060261985>

The presentation Powerpoint will also be emailed to families after the event, and will be posted on the website.

Info on School Website

Comprehensive information for the year can be found on our school website

<https://www.smmusd.org/mckinley>

- First Day Packet Forms to Complete by August 27th
- School Calendar of Events and Meetings
- School Handbook
- Weekly Mini Messenger eblasts
- COVID safety procedures videos and documents

First Days of School

Thursday August 12th

Office reopens for business 8:00am-4:00pm weekdays

Thursday August 19th

First Day of School!

Minimum Day- Early Dismissal

Friday August 20th

Second Day of School

Minimum Day- Early Dismissal

Monday August 23rd

Regular Dismissal Time

Back to School Night

Tuesday August 24th

Minimum Day- Early Dismissal

6pm for TK-2nd

7pm for 3rd-5th

This year all schools will have Back to School Nights virtually. Your child's teacher will email you a Zoom link prior to the event.

Parents are also welcome to schedule additional in-person or virtual parent/teacher meetings.

Drop Off Times and Procedures

Students coming for breakfast in the Cafeteria may enter via the front office between 8:00am-8:15am.

All gates open from 8:15am-8:30am. 1st-5th students may enter via the Arizona Garden, Arizona, or Parking Lot (CREST) Gates. TK/K walking students may enter via the Chelsea Ave Gate. These gates are student-only access, so adults say farewell to their child at the gate and students enter campus on their own.

Adults may also utilize the Car Drop-Off system through the parking lot from 8:15-8:30am. Students being dropped off via car may enter via the Courtyard Gate (1st-5th) and TK/K Gate (TK/K).

A reminder to do the pre-screening app before coming to school (new website link coming soon), and students will have their temperature screened at the gates before entering.

When students enter campus there is no play on the playground before school. This is to reduce safety issues that could occur with all 1st-5th students playing at the same time on equipment. Students will go directly to their class line up area and may socialize while waiting to be picked up by their teacher.

Click to view the [Map of the Drop off Procedures and Line Up Locations](#) or see the attached document.

Typically on the first day of school parents are permitted on campus during morning drop off. However due to covid protocols students will enter campus on their own. Signs with teachers' names will be posted, and staff will be available to assist students with finding their lineup area.

Pick Up Times and Assigned Gates

McKinley is continuing with a staggered dismissal schedule and assigned gates by grade level. This allows staff to better monitor students' safe release to authorized parents/guardians, to ease foot and car traffic flow, and to maximize student safety.

Click to view the [Map of the Pick-Up Locations](#) or see the attached document.

TK/K Dismissal Times/Locations

<u>Minimum Days (10 a year)</u>	<u>Regular Days- M/T/W/Th/F</u>
12:30 TK/K- Chelsea Ave Gate	1:35pm TK/K- Chelsea Ave Gate

1st-5th Dismissal Times/Locations

<u>Minimum Days (10 a year) and Wednesdays</u>	<u>Regular Days- M/T/Th/F</u>
1:35pm 1 st - Parking Lot Gate	2:45pm 1 st - Parking Lot Gate
1:35pm 2 nd - Arizona Garden Gate	2:45pm 2 nd - Arizona Garden Gate

1:45pm 3 rd - Parking Lot Gate	3:00pm 3 rd - Parking Lot Gate
1:45pm 4 th - Arizona Gate	3:00pm 4 th - Arizona Gate
1:45pm 5 th Arizona Garden Gate	3:00pm 5 th Arizona Garden Gate

Staff Updates

Attached are updates about McKinley teaching staff. Congratulations to Ms. Deborah Talbott who retired this summer after 24 years in the district! And congratulations to Ms. Madelyn Ross our new Instructional Coach.

Welcome back everyone. We look forward to seeing you soon and having a great school year!
Dr. Benjamin, Principal

Additional Info for TK and K **TK and K Meet-and-Greets**

TK

Wednesday August 18th

11:00-11:30 (playground)

11:30-12:00 (classroom)

Kindergarten

Wednesday August 18th

1:00-1:30 (playground)

1:30-2:00 (classroom)

This is an optional event to welcome our new youngest students and families to the McKinley campus.

Parking will be available on playground. Student and parents/guardians only; no siblings, babies, or extra guests permitted. Masks are required on school grounds for all adults and children, regardless of vaccination status, and screening will occur at the gates. Please do not come if traveled out of state within the last 10 days, exposed to covid, or having any illness symptoms.

For the first half of the Meet-and-Greet students may play on the playground and parents may mingle. Spiritwear will be available for purchase, and PTA, Admin, teachers, and staff will be available to answer questions.

For the second half of the Meet-and-Greet students will line up at their daily line up area, and teachers will walk their class to their room. Students and parents will be invited into their classroom to see their learning space. Teachers may have some toys and activities available for students.