



8-25-19

Dear Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Families:

September is around the corner. It's time to launch another school year at Louisa Boren STEM K-8! We are excited to see your children! Staff are gathering to plan an amazing school year. The efforts of our remarkable community of staff, families, and students make STEM K-8 a special place.

Important Dates to Start the Year

- **August 28, 5:00-6:00: New Elementary Student Orientation**
 - Since we welcomed Kindergartners with a Jump Start week and Family conferences, we no longer host a Kindergarten orientation. If you're a new 1st-5th grade family and want to view the school and ask questions, join us on August 28, from 5:00-6:00.
- **August 29, 5:00-6:00: Middle School Orientation**
 - This is aimed at rising 6th graders and new middle school students.
- **September 4:** First day of school for 1st-8th grade students.
 - **First day of school decompression coffee hour!** 8:50-9:50 am meet with other parents to celebrate/decompress.
- **September 4, 5, and 6:** Family Conferences with Kindergarten and Seattle Preschool Program families
- **September 6, 5:30-8:00 pm: 8th ANNUAL STEM BACK TO SCHOOL BASH! B2SB8** Lincoln Park NORTH END Shelter 5& picnic tables 60-84. Stay tuned to [school/PTA Facebook page](#) for updates **Be there or be !**
- **September 9:** First day of school for SPP and Kindergarten
 - **First day of school decompression coffee hour!** 8:50-9:50 am meet with other parents to celebrate/decompress.
- **September 12, 6:30-8:00 pm PTA meeting.** Come to the first PTA meeting of the year to discuss plans and what's happening!

Vital communication channels

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- **Bookmark the [STEM K-8 PTA website](#):** School and PTA news overlaps here and the site contains a wealth of useful information.
- **Make sure your email address is accurate and updated in the school information system:** Check the online the data verification forms you receive at the beginning of the school year. You will receive the PTA/School newsletter (*Owl Post*) weekly and other updates via School Messenger that use that email address.
- **Sign up for PTA & school TEXT alerts & updates:**
<https://www.remind.com/join/stemk8>
- **Follow my school blog at principalostrom.wordpress.com or [@PrincipalOstrom](#) on Twitter.** Both are also linked to the PTA website and [PTA Facebook page](#) and used intermittently to share important news, ideas, and developments.

Important information to start the year

- **Start and End Time:** 8:50 am transition bell and 3:25 pm ending bell
 - The posted SPS start time of 8:55 marks the tardy bell.
 - Supervision and breakfast start at **8:35 am. Please do not bring your child to school before 8:35 am as there is no supervision.**
- **Pick up/Drop off/Parking**
 - *For Morning Drop off and Dismissal:* Students may be dropped off or picked up in the designated zone on the west end of the playground. Parents may pull into the drop off/pick up zone and supervisors will direct children accordingly. ***When in the pick up line please remain in your car. We will bring your child to you.*** Parents wanting to walk and pick up children may park in the visitor parking section of the parking lot, or the park and walk section designated “School Load and Unload only” along Delridge. **Students may not be dropped off on Delridge to walk to the playground.** To respect instructional time and traffic flow in a building serving more than 560 students, we ask parents to pick up and drop off outside (or in the office for late arrivals) rather than at classroom doors. If you need to talk with the teacher, you are welcome to come into the building. ***However, on the first day of school students and parents may go directly to classrooms.***
 - A crosswalk and flashing lights make it permissible to park on the west side of Delridge *and walk your child to the playground/ school.* **For safety reasons students may not be dropped off on either side of Delridge to walk to the playground. Parents must walk from those parking spots to drop off/pick up their children on the playground.** FYI—During school hours/flashing lights driving faster than the posted speed limit will incur a hefty camera-recorded ticket!
 - **For safety reasons we are encouraging families to walk around the parking lot and use the exit crosswalk rather than cut across the parking lot for pick up.**

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- **Classroom Assignments**

- Due to changes in Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines, classroom assignments are no longer posted publicly. Classroom assignments will be shared by Friday, August 30. We are exploring different ways to communicate assignments, including via the Source or School Messenger. On the first day of school staff will be available to share assignments and families may walk students to their classrooms. Class lists are carefully constructed by teachers to support equity, a balance of skill levels and educational needs, student relationships, and classroom environment. We are rarely able to make adjustments to class assignments. **On the first day of school middle school students will report to the gym for Pathway class assignments.**

- **SPS and STEM K-8 have a new district dress code**

- STEM K-8 discontinued its uniform policy. After the STEM equity team and middle school students raised important questions about its affect on students, time was invested in dialoguing about school uniforms and making a complex decision. You can read more about the background and issues on [my school blog](#). Students are welcome to wear former uniform attire; staff will not communicate or enforce uniform expectations. Our school identity is based on exploring shared values, building rigorous STEM skills, and constructing Project Based Learning experiences. STEM K-8's diverse community will continue to find ways to create shared identity, belonging, and school spirit without the conformity of uniforms.
- The Seattle School Board adopted [Policy No. 3224](#) on July 10 creating a universal student dress policy for all students attending Seattle Public Schools. The policy is intended to provide a student dress policy that does not unfairly target female students for unnecessary violations and removes historical notions of what is “appropriate” to wear to school. The policy will focus attention on our responsibility to ensure that student attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items do not interfere with the health or safety of any student, and do not contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment for any student. This student dress policy applies to all district students.

- **School Supplies**

- We will not be distributing a school supplies list. **In lieu of an expensive list of supplies we ask K–5 students bring a backpack and a check made to STEM K-8 for \$50 and middle school students a backpack and check for \$90.** The optional fee is per student, not per family, and multiple students can be paid for on a single check. The check can be delivered to the office or teachers the first week of school and payment can be spread out over multiple months if necessary. You are welcome to add more for a donation! Water bottles are optional. All students will receive the same supplies in each classroom regardless of ability to pay. Middle school fees help cover additional technology and science supplies used at the middle school

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level.

• **H. Back to School packets and Health information**

- Back to school packets will go home on September 4. Please fill out the necessary forms and return them as promptly as possible. Pay particular attention to any health-related documents. STEM K-8 is not a nut-free school, and will work with families to develop an individual health plan for students with significant health concerns. Please call the office at 252-8450 if you are a new family to STEM and have a child with a significant health concern.

Welcome to New and Returning Staff:

- STEM K-8 welcomes new staff members, and some staff changed assignments. We said goodbye to several staff members who transitioned to new places and jobs: Krissy Soltman and Wendy Morgan are on year-long Travel leaves; Alisha Krom, Amanda Burke, Daniel Castelli, and Drew Kincl left Seattle for other cities in search of affordable housing; Julie Schmick retired; and Christa Howsmon accepted a promotion to Administrative Secretary at John Stanford International School. Our ½ day Developmental Preschool program closed.
- We continue to adjust around a rising bubble of students that created an extra classroom of middle schoolers for the second year and shrunk a 5th grade classroom. We restructured and increased staffing for Access and Resources programs, and added another Distinct program plus other new positions. We have assembled a staff of amazing educators committed to STEM learning!

Grade	Teacher
Seattle Preschool Program	Kristina Catt
K	Abby Reid
K	Mary Wasser
K	Emily Alexander
1st	Jessica Worotikan (formerly Brodland)
1st	Heather Sorrentino
1st	Amy Donnelly
2nd	Hannah Lortz
2nd	Kristin Colby
3rd	Jodi Williamson
3rd	Heidi Trudel
4th	Adrienne Ollerenshaw
4th	Sunny Graves
5th	Matt McGavick
5th	Marie Clevering
6th and 7th SS	Travis DesAutels
6th and 7th ELA	Allison Irvine
6th and 8th Science	Deborah Giza

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6th and 7th Math	To be announced
7th ELA/SS	Heidi Paulson
7th/8th Science	Craig Parsley
7th/8th Math	Ethan Bleeker
8th ELA/SS	To be announced
Elementary MTSS/Intervention	Anhsaly Grant
Middle School Math Intervention	Carmen Gonzales
K-3rd Resource/Access	Nicole Albertson
4th-5th Resource/Access	Karen McKinley
6th and 8th Resource/Access	Katie Griffith
7th Resource/Access	Tyson Trudel
Distinct	Monique Morgan-Uzzle
Distinct	Daniel Perez
Distinct	Shamsah Rahim
PFA	Michael Holland
Computer	Christina Massimino
PE	Matthew Schiavo
PE	Timothy Avery
Library	Mary Bannister
ELL	Lee-Chin Chua
Counselor	Danielle Blechert
Custodial	
Custodial Engineer	Tom Zech
Evening CE's	Steve Lowe, Tzarina DeLeon
Office	
Administrative Secretary	Cindy Baca
Office Assistant	Genevieve Saarenas
Office Assistant	Jody Hapgood
Nurse	M.C. Nachtigal
Assistant Principal	Kim Noble
Principal	Ben Ostrom

STEM K-8 staff are excited about the new school year! We are working hard to prepare for your children. We will have much to share and celebrate in the weeks to come. Thank you for joining us as partners to create a powerful learning community for your children.

Sincerely,

Ben Ostrom

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Benjamin Ostrom

Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Principal