



The Astor Connection

Issue 1 | July 1, 2020

In this issue:

- From the Principal
- Communication
- Astor PTSO
- Fall update
- Welcome New Staff!
- Family Resources
- Enrolling at Astor
- Device Return

Summer Literacy K-8 Challenge

The PPS Summer Literacy Challenge starts July 6th!

Get more info here:

pps.net/summerfun2020

From the Principal

Dear Astor Families and University Park Community,

I am greatly honored and excited to take on the role of Astor Principal. I want to thank Sarah Zabel for her leadership over the past three years and also for all of her support throughout the transition process.

I'm a school leader focused on racial equity, and I'm committed to creating welcoming spaces for students and families. I strongly believe that all children deserve an exceptional education that is personalized to their individual needs while preparing them to graduate from college. For many of our students, Astor is the first step in this journey.

I have worked for the last 14 years in Portland Public Schools, first as a paraeducator, then as a teacher, and now as a school leader. I've taught throughout the district, including at SEI, Beverly Cleary, Astor, and Ockley Green. For the last four years, I was the Assistant Principal at Jason Lee. Prior to moving to Portland, I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Fiji Islands with my wife, Miranda. I'm also an Astor parent and have two daughters who attend our school and have loved their experiences so far. I am so happy to be back in North Portland and to be joining the incredible teachers, staff, Dr. K, and all of you for the 2020-2021 school year.



Finally, I have an open door policy; please bring concerns to me at any time. Know that I will approach every situation striving to do what is best for students and putting students first. This has been a difficult and uncertain time for our students, community and world at large. There will be challenges that face us in the coming months, but I'm confident that with your partnership and support we can provide our students with an excellent education.

Warmly,
Principal Robertson (brobertson@pps.net)

Communication

The Astor Connection will be sent home monthly as one form of communication between the school and our families. You can also expect social media and school emails/remind app, as well.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/astork8
Instagram: [Astorschoolk8](https://www.instagram.com/Astorschoolk8)

Twitter: @AstorK8
Online: www.pps.net/astor

Astor PTSO:

The Parent Teacher and Student Organization has several board positions open. Navigate to the 'volunteer' tab at www.astorptso.org to learn more!



Device Return

Students who currently have a PPS issued computer and/or hotspot may keep them over the summer. Graduating seniors and students who know they will not be returning to PPS in the fall are asked to return their PPS computer and/or wireless hotspot.

When: Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where: PPS district office (501 N. Dixon St). Please go to the lower level parking lot,.

Please bring: The PPS computer and/or wireless hotspot, along with any charging cables, that you are returning. **Please be aware:** We are asking everyone to use recommended physical distancing practices.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.pps.net/devices>.

Fall Update

The Portland Public School Board is scheduled in mid-July to hear plans for the fall reopening of our schools. Additionally, more regular communication is slated to go to parents this month. Our first day of school is September, 2, 2020 for grades 1-8, kinder starts September 8.

You may have seen a survey from PPS Comms that went out to parents late last month. Please take a moment to check your email and complete this feedback if you have the time. This information will help guide our district's decision.

We will keep you in communication about what this will all look like at Astor once we've received district guidance and planned with our teams. At that time, we'll hold any necessary (virtual) meetings with parents to share our plan, as well. As a parent, I understand the need for information and details about what the fall will look like. Thanks so much for your patience.

Family Resources



Portland Public Schools has set up a website to help families locate resources that they may need at this time. Go to—www.pps.net/coronavirus—to find resources for meals/food, childcare, mental health/safety, and health care. We'll continue to list available resources in future Astor Connection issues.

Enrolling at Astor

Do you or someone you know need to enroll their child at Astor for the fall? If so, then navigate to www.pps.net/kinderenroll and you'll be able to register your student (any grade K through 8) online.

If you're new to Astor, then click to our school page at www.pps.net/astor to learn more about us.

See you in the fall!

Welcome New Staff!

- Ms. Phyllis Harris—Media Specialist
- Mr. Stuart Fessant—Music Teacher
- Ms. Keira Havner—Art Teacher

Bios coming this fall!