



D. A. Grout Elementary School

THURSDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

503.916.6209 www.pps.net/grout Facebook: facebook.com/GroutSchool Twitter: @Grout_School
March 12, 2020

Calendar

Mar. 16 – Mar. 20 No School

Mar. 23 – March 27 No School – Spring Break

Mar. 30 – 31 No School

April 1 Return to School

Important Information:

Most of you have already heard that Governor Brown has directed all public schools to be closed next week and Spring Break. Please see the following dates to guide you:

No School: March 16th – March 31st

Students return to school: Wednesday, April 1st.

As April 1st gets closer on your calendar, please watch for news from PPS to hear if there are any changes to schools opening or school closures.

From PPS:

Information and Resources Regarding Extended Spring Break

Dear PPS Families,

As we shared Thursday night, Portland Public Schools will extend spring break, beginning Monday, March 16 with a plan for students to return to schools on Wednesday, April 1 (staff will be expected to return on Monday, March 30, two days earlier). During this time, all school activities, including athletic events and practices, are canceled.

We know that many families depend on schools not only for their students' education, but also for meals, child care, access to health services and other supports. We are working quickly to identify ways to provide services to students and families during the extended break:

Meals

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to children in the community ages 1-18. Tuesday, March 17 through Friday, March 20, and Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31. Meals will be available for pickup outside the school from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the following locations:

- Boise-Eliot/Humboldt Elementary - 620 N Fremont Ave
- César Chávez Elementary - 5103 N Willis Blvd
- George Middle School - 10000 N Burr Ave
- Harrison Park School - 2225 SE 87th Ave
- Lent School - 5105 SE 97th Ave

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary - *4906 NE 6th Ave*
- Rigler Elementary - *5401 NE Prescott St*
- Rosa Parks Elementary - *8960 N Woolsey Ave*
- Scott Elementary - *6700 NE Prescott St*
- Sitton Elementary - *9930 N Smith St*
- Woodmere Elementary - *7900 SE Duke St*
- Markham Elementary - *10531 SW Capitol Hwy*
- Madison at Marshall - *3905 SE 91st Ave*
- Franklin High School - *5405 SE Woodward St*

For more information about access to food for families, please call 211 or visit oregonfoodfinder.org.

Curriculum and Enrichments

We encourage students and their families to stay engaged academically during this time off. Schools have opened their libraries for students to check out books before leaving school today. We encourage parents to read with their pre-K and elementary school children. Many teachers are also sending workbooks, printed materials, and grade-appropriate readers for their students to use during the break.

Printed instructional resources for language arts and mathematics will be available to students and families at the schools sites where we will be providing meals to children. These printed resources will be distributed on Tuesday, March 17 and Thursday, March 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We encourage students and families to take advantage of these resources.

Digital learning applications and websites are valuable resources to use during this time. We are creating a “Virtual Learning Opportunities” portal that will be made available at pps.net/coronavirus. PPS staff will continue to update the portal throughout our closure.

Child Care

Our licensed child care providers (YMCA, Champions, Camp Fire, etc.) will not be able to offer child care during canceled school days or during spring vacation in our buildings. If your children are registered for a spring break child care program, your provider will be contacting you with further information.

SUN Service System

Our SUN Service System Partners will not be able to offer programming during canceled school days or during spring break in our buildings. We are in communication with our partners and will provide additional information as we have it.

Health Centers

Multnomah County will keep some Student Health Center locations open during the break. You can find more information by visiting this [website](#).

Health services are available for all K-12 students in Multnomah County over spring break (March 23-27) at:

Parkrose Student Health Center

12003 NE Shaver St

503-988-3392

[Spring Break Flyer \(English/ Spanish\)](#)

This is an unprecedented time in our community, and we hope that some of the services and supports described above will be helpful to families over the unexpectedly long break. During the break, we encourage everyone to follow recommended practices by avoiding large gatherings, washing hands frequently and covering mouths when coughing or sneezing. Those experiencing symptoms of a cold or flu should stay at home until symptom-free for 72 hours. If you are concerned about symptoms, please consult with a doctor. You can find much more information and additional resources by clicking pps.net/coronavirus.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy extended break.

Shape our children's future. Start with the 2020 Census.

Young children experience new adventures each day, and little ones need all of the support they can get during these early years. Responding to the 2020 Census is an easy, safe, and important way to help provide resources for children and their communities for the next 10 years.

Everyone living in the United States is asked to complete a simple questionnaire every ten years that asks for basic information about the people who live or sleep in their home. Children under the age of five, however, are often missed. Young children who are missed in the census tend to live with large, extended families or with multiple families living under one roof. When newborn babies and children are not counted, support for programs such as health insurance, hospitals, childcare, food assistance, schools, and early childhood development is impacted. Responding to the census is easier than ever.

You can complete the census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. Start shaping their future by going to 2020census.gov.

And remember, just as you protect the children in your care, the U.S. Census Bureau protects your information. The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information collected and keep it strictly confidential. All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information and any violation of this oath comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

Community members invited to apply for Southeast School Boundary Committee

[Español](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [中文](#) | [Русский](#) | [Soomaali](#)

With work about to start in Portland Public Schools' effort to balance our boundaries and programs, we are seeking community members to serve on a committee to help guide the project in Southeast Portland – the first phase of the district-wide effort.

Family and community members with ties to our Southeast Portland schools are invited to apply for the Guiding Coalition that will review draft proposals, consider community input and make recommendations for new boundaries, school feeder patterns and special program locations. Selected members will be asked to be available for meetings, open houses and other gatherings on Thursdays, from 6 to 8 p.m., through November 2020. The coalition will meet from April to June, then September to November, at locations in Southeast Portland. Childcare and interpreters will be available. The application window will close March 17. Applicants will be notified if they are selected by March 20. The first Guiding Coalition meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2. [Click here to apply](#)

Enrollment and program balancing work will begin in Southeast Portland with a focus on setting attendance boundaries for the newly modernized Kellogg Middle School, which will open the fall of 2021. The final decision on boundaries and feeder patterns for Southeast schools will be made by the Board of Education in winter 2021, with changes taking effect in the 2021-22 school year. Balancing work on the rest of the district will follow. More information and archived materials on enrollment and program balancing can be found at www.pps.net/enrollmentbalancing.

Grout SUN Community School's Robotics Program seeks additional coaches

We're looking for two volunteers to add to our coaching team for First Lego League. This year's first ever team for Grout, Robotic Penguins, had a great time last fall working together on the challenges for competition and nearly made the State Tournament after a long day competing with hundreds of other students at Regionals. To expand this opportunity to more kids, we would like to create a second team. Last year we could only accept 10 out of 16 applicants. For the next year, we envision two teams of 6 to a maximum of 8 students.

No qualifications are necessary. Each team usually has a technical mentor and a team manager. You can decide where you fit. New coaches are required to attend a workshop through Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program some time in the summer to the early fall, oversee team meetings and practices and be available to go with the team to the day long tournament in December. Fall practices can be scheduled to your availability. As a bonus your child can join the current team this spring as they take on a fun robot challenge. If you're interested or have further questions, email Natasia at natasia.chan@gmail.com.

Grout PTA News:

Due to the new PPS gathering guidelines and in order to minimize potential opportunities for the virus to spread, we are proactively postponing fundraising events and in-person committee meetings. The following is in effect immediately, Thursday, March 12, and will remain in effect for 30 days.

- **The Native Plant Sale this weekend is cancelled.** This is one of our key fundraisers for the Learning Garden, and if possible, we will reschedule the sale for later in the Spring. Please know that either way, we will be able to fund the Learning Garden for this year through two generous grants we received from Whole Kids Foundation and Gardening Know How.
- **The Auction on April 4th will be postponed.**
 - Our position has been to follow PPS protocol regarding the Coronavirus.
 - We had previously developed a contingency plan with our vendors confirming if there is a need to cancel, we could reschedule without penalty.
 - Since hearing PPS gathering guidelines, we immediately discussed next steps with Principal Annie who is in support of postponement—later in the Spring was discussed.
 - Remaining in-person auction committee meetings are cancelled.
 - We are in uncharted territory and it may change the complexion of our event which will be announced shortly. We will move forward with postponement recognizing that over the coming weeks we will know more about health consequences and risks associated and things may shift. We will continue to align our decisions w/ PPS guidelines.
 - If you have tickets, we will automatically transfer them to the new date. If you cannot attend that evening, you will be able to request a refund or donation.
 - This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We thank you for your continued support.
- The Grout PTA Board meeting on April 8th will either be postponed or conducted virtually.

Are you interested in ways you can help raise much needed funds to support our school?

1. **Grout Elementary School:** You can set-up a one-time or monthly donations to our school community through the website <https://fundforpps.org/donate> (by selected Grout Elementary in form). If you need assistance, please reach out to Nailah Roque at nroque@fundforpps.org.
2. **Grout Elementary PTA:** You can donate to the *Grout Grounds Improvement Project* by clicking donate now on our auction website at www.auctria.com/auction/grout2020 or to the Grout PTA to support general funds by dropping off or mailing a check to 3119 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland, OR 97202 or using Venmo @**Grout-PTA**.