

MARKHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Family Handbook

2016 - 2017

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Shawn Garnett: Principal

Principal: Shawn Garnett

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WELCOME TO MARKHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Markham Elementary School, established in 1990, is a place of discovery, learning, and high achievement. Markham has a rich heritage of educational service and community spirit. Located on a spacious 10-acre campus, the school, originally built in 1951, enjoys a history as an elementary, middle school and community gathering place. Markham serves students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Students typically go on to attend Jackson Middle School, Wilson High School and/or special focus magnet programs located throughout the district.

The Markham Community is a delightful blend of generational families and cultures from around the world. You don't have to look far to find parents and grandparents of Markham students, who attended or taught at Markham through the years. This blend of long-time families in the neighborhood with families who have newly arrived in the area, share a common bond of commitment to educational excellence and service at Markham. Our students' educational experience is greatly enhanced by the blend of families within our culturally rich learning community.

Markham is named after the renowned American poet, Edwin Markham. Born in Oregon in 1852, Markham is best known for his spirited poetry highlighting the plight of the working poor and child laborers in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Among his poetry is a poem entitled 'Outwitted' which continues today to embody the spirit of the Markham Learning Community.

OUTWITTED

He drew a circle that shut me out-
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.
-Edwin Markham

Learning Today ~ Building Tomorrow

MISSION

Markham Elementary School is a caring community dedicated to excellence in education, empowering students to reach their potential as life-long learners and responsible contributors to society.

We believe:

- All students can learn
- Children should become independent and self-reliant
- A child's education will best occur in a safe, secure, and orderly environment
- Higher academic achievement occurs with positive social, emotional and physical development
- Children will have greater success when there are goals with high expectations
- Cultural and educational diversity enables students' comprehensive education
- Education is a partnership of the student, home, school and community
- Education is a continuous process for all members of the learning community

MOTTO

Learning Today ~ Building Tomorrow

GENERAL INFORMATION

DAILY SCHEDULE

Student supervision begins at 8:20 a.m. in the cafeteria. Supervision begins at 8:25 in the large gym. Students who are not eating breakfast go to the large gym between 8:25 and 8:40a.m. For childcare needs prior to 8:20 a.m., you may contact the Markham Child Care Association (see pg.13) or make other arrangements. Thank you for respecting the teacher's time to prepare for your child's instructional day.

8:20-8:40 a.m. Breakfast is served. Students may enter the building through the cafeteria doors or front entrance to eat breakfast. Breakfast is eaten in the cafeteria only. Students may put money in their lunch account. Students not eating breakfast will go to the big gym and wait with their class for the bell to ring.

8:45 a.m. Opening activities and instructional program begins. Students are in class.

3:00 p.m. Dismissal

OFFICE SERVICES

The school office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If there are questions and/or concerns of a non-emergency matter, the best times to contact office personnel by phone or to drop in are between the hours of 9:30-11:00 a.m. or 12:30-2:30 p.m. We are always available to serve parents but find there is a high demand from students and staff between 8:45-9:15 a.m., 11:00-12:30 p.m., and 2:30-3:30 p.m.



ATTENDANCE & DISMISSAL

Regular attendance is necessary for students to be successful in school. If your student will be absent please contact the school office at 503-916-5681. If your child arrives late to school they need to report directly to the office before going to the classroom.

Classroom teachers monitor attendance. If a child has a chronic attendance or tardy problem, Markham staff will contact parents to determine the cause and help find solutions so that the child may attend school punctually and on a daily basis.

Should your child require early dismissal or a change to their regular dismissal routine, please call the school and relay the message to office staff, prior to 2:30pm so that they can contact your child's teacher in a timely manner. This is the only way to ensure that your message is communicated to your child's teacher. **PLEASE DO NOT RELY ON EMAIL TO MAKE THIS COMMUNICATION.**

MARKHAM SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

The Markham High-Five

- ❖ Be responsible
- ❖ Be respectful
- ❖ Be safe
- ❖ Be your best
- ❖ Every day in every way!



MARKHAM SCHOOL STUDENT MANAGEMENT/DISCIPLINE PLAN

Philosophy

Positive school and classroom climate contribute to positive behavior. Markham's discipline philosophy consists of five basic components: high expectations for student behavior, clear and understandable rules, fair and equitable enforcement of these rules, reasonable consequences for infractions of rules, and consistent acknowledgement of positive behavior and improvement on the part of students.

All staff should assume that students need explicit instruction about behavior norms in class, in the halls, and on school grounds. Staff should be able to articulate what they have done to teach students about acceptable and unacceptable behavior. Students must be aware that ALL staff members are expected to supervise

students and correct misbehavior when needed. In support of this philosophy, teachers will facilitate class meetings or discussions in order to maximize a positive classroom climate and increase the sense of safety for children.

All discipline procedures will adhere to guidelines identified in the Handbook on Student Responsibilities, Rights and Discipline published by Portland Public Schools. This document will be sent home during the first two weeks of school, after teachers have taught and reviewed Markham's Rules and Behavioral Expectations. These rules and expectations will be re-taught throughout the year.

Discipline Procedures

Teaching of rules and expectations will occur throughout the year, especially after the winter and spring breaks. Consistent re-teaching will support students in their learning and understanding of these expectations. Behavioral interventions have been developed by the staff that are consistent, progressive and follow the guidelines in the 'Responsibilities, Rights and Discipline Handbook'. Students who do not follow the rules will be supported in a fair manner. The focus of the interventions listed below, is to help the student learn safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors. It is our intention for students to learn from their mistakes.

Stage 2 Behaviors/Incidents

(These are some concrete examples)

- Abusive/Profane Language
- Class Cutting/Leaving Without Permission
- Deliberate Misuse of Property
- Display of Offensive Materials
- Disruptive Conduct
- Forgery
- Gambling
- Harassment/Bullying
- Inappropriate Dress
- Inappropriate Use of Technology
- Indecent/Obscene Gestures
- Interference with School Personnel
- Loitering
- Plagiarism/Cheating
- Possession of Prohibited Items
- Possession/Use of Stolen Property
- Defiance
- Vandalism
- Truancy
- Threat of Violence

Stage 2

Student Referral Protocol

After incident:

- Teacher calls the office for principal assistance
- Teacher explains incident to the principal and principal will determine if the student needs to come directly to the office
- Teacher fills out Stage 2/3 Referral Form (at earliest convenience)
- Teacher submits referral to the secretary
- The principal will follow up with the classroom teacher on the incident
- The principal or designee will contact the parents

Intervention Menu

- Stage I Interventions
- Identify a safe place to cool off
- Check-in/Check-out (CICO)
- Targeted Social Skills Group
 - Friendship
 - Cooperation
 - Assertiveness
 - Empathy
 - Self-regulation
 - School/classroom skills
- Staff Mentor
- Social Story
- Behavior Contract
 - CICO Progress Report
- Meaningful Work
- Structured Recess
 - Assign students to supervised playgroup
 - Teach general playground behavior
 - Teach rules and etiquette for games
 - Teach social interaction
- Structured Lunch

STAGE 3

Immediate Administrative Assistance

PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Students are given the opportunity to learn and practice problem-solving strategies for small problems involving other students and/or their own behavior. Students are to tell an adult when they have a problem they cannot solve. Students sometimes will use the Problem-Solving Wheel pictured to help them find two or more possible solutions they can use to solve problems.

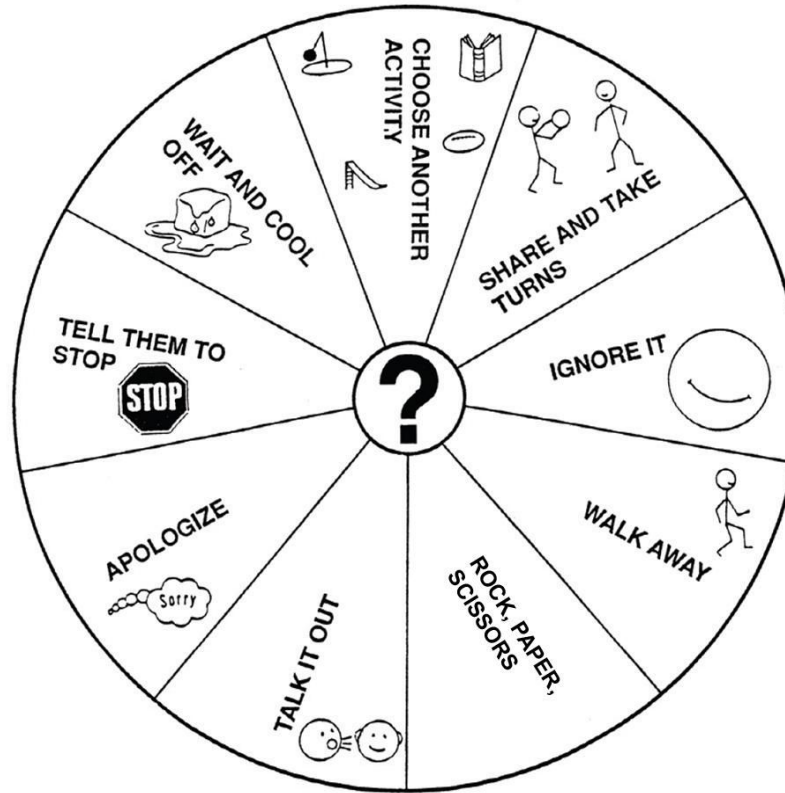
Additional information regarding discipline policies can be found in the district Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

AREA	
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H • S or • K • M
Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K • S • E
Hallways (Includes ramps and breezeways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W fo • K • P
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G • F • W • L
Playground/ Recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U pt • S • K • R • C • R da ac

PROBLEM SOLVING WHEEL

Try at least 2 of these ideas
when you have a conflict:



FOR INTIMIDATION,
INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE,
OR FIGHTING, TELL THE
TEACHER IMMEDIATELY

BEHAVIORAL

	BE RESPECTFUL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use inside voice • Follow adult directions • Use kind words and actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show appreciation appropriately • Keep eyes on performers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk quietly • Honor hallway teaching
s	
d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give people privacy • Use quiet voices
ins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words and actions • Take turns and share equipment • Play safe, play fair, play on!

Be Your Best,

Every Day in Every Way!

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The following behavior expectations apply to all students, in any school, at any school sponsored activity, and traveling to and from school.

Summary of Behavior Expectations

Attendance/Punctuality: Students are expected to attend school and classes regularly and on time.

Drug-Related Activity (Alcohol/Drugs): Students will not use, possess, or sell/transfer alcohol and illegal drugs in the schools, on school grounds, at school activities, or during school hours.

Tobacco: The use of tobacco products is prohibited in School District buildings or on District grounds, at all times.

Protection of Property: Students are expected to recognize the property rights of staff members, other students, and the public by:

1. Using property (equipment) only for its intended purposes without damage to property
2. Obtaining permission to use property belonging to others, and
3. Reporting to school officials situations which may result in damage to, loss of, or misuse of property

Protection of Physical Safety and Mental Well-Being: Students are expected to respect the educational climate and the physical safety and emotional well-being of other students and staff. Students are expected to resolve conflicts by discussion, problem-solving techniques, and with assistance by staff members.

Appropriate Learning Environment: Students are expected to act in a manner permitting teachers to teach, and students to learn, without interference or disruption.

SCHOOL SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES

The safety of your children is of the utmost importance to us. If unsafe practices or events are observed by parents, please contact the school office immediately so the concern can be addressed in a timely manner. There are fire, earthquake, and lock-down drills throughout the year.

All adults are required to check-in at the office upon entering the building, wear a Volunteer or Visitor badge, and check-out when leaving. This practice identifies you as a "safe person" for children in our building, and allows us to account for who is in the building, at all times. This procedure is not used for parents who enter the building at the end of the day to wait in designated areas to pick-up children, or for evening events. For this reason, it is very important that teachers deliver children to the bus and walk them to designated waiting areas or to the main door at the end of the day.

Due to the high level of traffic in the area, families are encouraged to have children ride the school bus whenever possible. Bus routes and schedules are available in the school office. Students receive bus safety training in the fall.

Parents can access bus route information at: <https://apps.pps.net/Transportation/BusSchedule>

Bus Riders

K – 2 bus riders are escorted through the cafeteria to the appropriate bus that matches each student's bus tag kept on their backpack.

Walkers

In the morning, walkers may enter the school at 8:20 a.m. through the front doors, cafeteria doors, or large parking lot doors. In the afternoon, all walkers exit through the front doors. Kindergarteners being picked up wait on the benches in the front entry way with direct teacher supervision until parent/guardian-teacher exchange.

Families are asked to review the following safety rules with their children:

- Do not walk on the driveway of the turn-around area.
- Walk only in the cross-walks when crossing the street. Stay on the sidewalks. Do not walk against the lights.
- Walk straight to school and straight home after school.
- Show respect for the property of others.
- Talk only to people you know by name and tell a teacher or your parent if anyone tries to talk to you or makes you feel unsafe.

MCCA (Markham Child Care Association)

Teachers release kindergarteners to MCCA staff at the Kindergarten plateau. Teachers release grades 1-5 students to MCCA staff at the large gym doors.

Bicycles and Skateboards

We will have bike racks available by the flagpole. We cannot guarantee the bike's safety, so be sure to use a lock.

Families Transporting Students-Delivery, Pick-Up & Parking

Parking around Markham School is limited. It is necessary for all of us to observe safe practices and procedures for the safety of our children. The north parking lot is locked during the school day, with admittance by buzzing the office. The outer lane in front of the cafeteria is available to cars on a limited basis in the morning, and is not available in the afternoons. Families are cautioned that the area is congested in the morning and are asked to use this option sparingly. Please do not block the entrance from the street to the driveway or leave your car unattended in this area. Do NOT park in the "No Parking" areas. In the morning, instruct your child to follow the directions of the adult supervising the turnaround lanes.

The speed limit is 5 MPH on Markham school grounds. Thank you for exercising caution and patience while on or near the school.

End of Day Pick-Up for Children Transported by Families

Please allow your child to come to you rather than coming to the classroom door or standing in the hallway. When it is necessary to enter your child's classroom after school, meet your child in the designated area and then accompany your child to the classroom once the teacher has returned.

Check-Out

Once students arrive on the school grounds, they must have parental permission and be checked-out of school through the office when leaving any time prior to the 3:00 p.m. dismissal. Inform teachers by written note when it will be necessary for you to check-out your children. Report to the office and your child will meet you there. Please do not disrupt instruction by going to the classroom. The last half hour of school is an important time of continuity and closure for your child. Whenever possible, please arrange your schedule so your child will not miss school. Written parental permission is required whenever families would like someone who is not listed on the registration form to check-out their child.

Written Parent Permission Required

Written parent permission is required for a student to leave or ride with someone other than persons listed on the registration form, or ride the bus to someone else's home after school. School telephone may not be used by students to make after school arrangements.

BUS EXPECTATIONS

Safety is the highest priority on school buses. Students must follow the instructions of the driver regarding where to sit and entrance/exit procedures. Students are to stay seated when the bus is moving, refrain from putting hands, arms, and heads out the window, and avoid any horseplay. Parents will be contacted immediately if students exhibit unsafe behavior on school buses. Riding school buses is a privilege.

ABSENCES/TARDIES, MEDICAL/DENTAL EXCUSES

The tone of the day is set during the first half-hour of school when directions are given and opening activities are held. It is most important that each child be at school on time. Please help your child establish a habit of being on time to school each morning.

Students who are absent or tardy must present an excuse to the office when they return to school. The excuse should state the reason for the absence or tardiness, the date, and be signed by the parent or legal guardian. If a child must leave the school for an appointment and/or is sent home due to illness, parents must always check the student out through the office before the child leaves the school grounds.

NUTRITION SERVICES

Breakfast

Breakfast is served everyday **between 8:20 and 8:40 a.m.** The price for breakfast is **\$1.25** and free for those eligible for either free or reduced meals.

Lunch

Hot lunch, which includes milk, is **\$2.60** or free, for reduced-price lunches. The price for milk only is **\$.50**. Please note if a student is on free or reduced lunch and chooses to bring a sack lunch, he/she will need to pay **\$.50** for milk. A calendar of the menus for the school year is included in the first day packet of information.

Family members are always welcome to join us for lunch. Adult lunches are sold for **\$4.10** and may be purchased from cafeteria staff at lunchtime. Please have small bills as we do not keep much cash on hand. Students are not allowed to leave the campus during lunch. A student must be checked out through the office if a parent wishes to take the student out to lunch.

Payment

Meal payment may be made in the cafeteria from 8:35-8:45 a.m. every morning. A computer card lunch ticket program is used. You are encouraged to purchase several lunches at one time. Make checks out to Markham School. You may also create an account for your student on www.MyLunchMoney.com.

Students who do not have money, will bring home a note to parents asking that the cafeteria be reimbursed for the loaned ticket. For students who chronically forget or misplace their money, special arrangements with the cafeteria will need to be made by the parent. Students may not borrow money from other students for any purpose.

Nutrition Services offers an easy, convenient and safe way to pay for your child's meals at school. Mylunchmoney.com is a service that allows you to use a Visa/MasterCard as either credit or debit online. You never have to worry again that your child's account is running low. This tool also allows you to view your child's account history. Check it out at www.mylunchmoney.com. Parents will need to know the student id number to register students. That number is on the registration

form you review in the back to school packet, on your child's report card, or if necessary, you may call the school office or nutrition services. For questions please contact Nikole Williams, Nutrition Services, 503-916-3281.

Free or Reduced Meal Service

Families may qualify for this service based on income. Forms are available in the school office or by e-mail at www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/nutrition. You are not required to eat school provided lunches if you qualify for the program.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

PETS

Pets are not allowed at school except on special, pre-arranged occasions, such as show and tell. An adult family member must remain with the animal. Students must have permission from their teacher prior to bringing pets to the classroom. The most tame and domesticated animal, if allowed on the school grounds, can become excited and inadvertently bite a child. We will contact Multnomah County to assist us when an animal is found on school grounds.

RECESS INFORMATION

Colored flags are posted in the hall to indicate the type of recess for the day. A Green Flag indicates an outside recess with access to both the grass and blacktop area. A Black Flag indicates outdoor recess on the blacktop area only. A Red Flag indicates an indoor recess with students going to the small gym, large gym, library or the auditorium for a variety of activities. Candy is not permitted during recess breaks. Gum is not allowed anywhere.

Play Structure Safety

- Bark-chips stay in the play structure area. Walk near all play structures. Run in the areas that are approved for running.
- Keep balls away from play structures
- Go UP the stairs and ladder chains, go DOWN the slides and fire pole
- Standing on the top of the play structures is not allowed
- Going over the bridge side railing is not allowed
- Chasing games are not allowed

Games

There are organized games and activities throughout the playground area. For most games, up to 5 students per side may play at a time. If more students want to play, a rotation system will be used. There are no exclusive clubs or games at school.

Only school equipment may be used. Students are not allowed to bring equipment or toys from home. Organized football is not allowed.

School Boundaries

For safety reasons, trees, shrubbery, and parking lots are off-limits for unattended students. Markham School does not provide supervision on the playground or in the hallways of the school prior to 8:40 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m. Supervision and student transportation for after School activities such as SUN School or other community sponsored activities are the responsibility of the parents and the sponsoring group. Students are expected to go home immediately or to the families' caregiver location after school.

STUDENT MONEY/PERSONAL PROPERTY

Please limit the amount of cash that students carry to the amount needed for lunch or specific events. Students become very distressed when they have lost or misplaced money brought to school. Students may not trade, barter, or sell personal items at school. Hats are placed in backpacks or lockers during lunch and the instructional day. Leave toys and/or electronic games at home unless specifically requested by a teacher for sharing in class. Items brought to school may be taken to the school office for a parent to pick up.

CELL PHONES AND STUDENT PROPERTY

Students are not allowed to have cell phones turned on at school. If you need to reach your child during the day, please use the school number (503-916-5681) and we will either get the message to your child or have him/her come to the office if it is urgent you speak with him/her. Communications go from the office to classroom teachers each day at 10:00 a.m. and at 2:00 pm.

As per PPS policy, Markham takes no responsibility should your child's property, including phones, bikes and skateboards, be lost, stolen or damaged at school.

TEXTBOOKS/LIBRARY BOOKS

Textbooks are furnished by the Portland Public School District. Students will be charged for lost or damaged textbooks and/or library books.

DRESS CODE

Dress and grooming are a primary responsibility of students and parents. However, students are expected to wear clean and appropriate clothing to school. Please review the following guidelines with your student:

- Sagging pants are not permitted. The beltline needs to be at the waist.
- All clothing needs to be free of alcohol or drug references (including tobacco) and sexually suggestive or derogatory messages.
- Hat/headwear, coats, and backpacks must be kept in lockers.
- Shorts, skirts and dresses need to be mid thigh length. (This includes any slits in skirts or dresses.)
- Students may not wear sleeveless shirts with wide armholes.
- Tops need to have shoulder straps that are at least 2 inches wide. Bare midriffs are not permitted.
- Pajama wear is not permitted.
- Flip flops and open-toed shoes should not be worn to school due to hazard of tripping while at recess and/or PE. No high heels!

INCLEMENT WEATHER/LATE OPENINGS

Information concerning school closures is broadcast on the radio and television stations at regular intervals beginning at 5:30 a.m. Please tune in for announcements rather than call the school office. In the event we have a late opening, classes will begin two hours late. The late opening start time will be 10:45 a.m. for inclement weather or for planned teacher professional meetings. Snow bus routes will be posted in late October.

CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS

Classrooms may choose to have a few parties during the year.

Sometimes parents like to bring or send treats on the day of their child's birthday. Please be sure to schedule this in advance with the classroom teachers. You are encouraged to provide only healthy treats that can be passed out at the end of the day. Just a reminder that any food items sent to school must be individually wrapped and commercially prepared for student consumption.)

Every effort is made to preserve and protect instructional time. Some classes may elect to recognize birthdays once a month. Your child's teacher will share his/her procedures and preferences in a class newsletter.

While birthday parties and other social events outside of school are not the school's responsibility, a reminder seems appropriate. Usually these special events are talked about at school. Students not included can have hurt feelings. Please be sensitive to this issue when planning parties and encourage children to try to keep these events out of their school discussions. We ask that party invitations not be handed out at school.

LOST AND FOUND

Please label everything your child wears or brings to school with a nametag! The Lost and Found is located in the hallway by the gym door. Please check the Lost and Found on a regular basis. All items left after parents and students have had time to look through the Lost and Found are donated to the PTA Clothes Closet. We will place a reminder notice in the Backpack Bulletin to check the Lost and Found before donating items.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Two-way communication between home and school is a critical component to a successful partnership. To that end we strive to communicate openly, honestly, and in a timely manner with families regarding various aspects of our school program.

Written Communication

We have developed a variety of written formats to help keep families informed. They include:

- A periodic principal's note entitled **Backpack Bulletin** - Principal's Edition, provides information to families from the principal, various committees and programs at Markham, as well as general information on topics of interest
- The **Backpack Bulletin** - PTA Edition is prepared by the PTA. **Backpack Bulletin** - PTA Editions are filled with information regarding before and after school enrichment activities, calendar updates of upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities.
- As needed, the principal also sends home letters, special bulletins, and school district publications to families on individual topics requiring detailed information
- Periodic classroom newsletters
- Markham website: www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/Markham

- Please see the white board outside the office for daily announcements, and Markham's outdoor reader board for upcoming events.

In conjunction with the PTA, the school sends home the **Backpack Bulletin** on the first Friday of each month. Whenever possible, only one will be sent home with the youngest child. This system helps us reduce our paper use. Please check your child's backpack on Thursdays, to stay informed.

Family/Teacher Communication

We encourage family members to contact teachers through phone message, e-mail and/or a note requesting a call back, whenever a question or concern arises. Your child's teacher knows each child as an individual and as a group member. If there is a problem or unresolved question, the teacher is the first person to contact for information.

Teachers will sometimes involve the principal, counselor, and/or other support staff in situations, such as serious peer conflict problems, counseling needs, chronic behavior problems or special academic concerns. Parents may contact the principal if they have questions or concerns that have not been resolved after consulting with the child's teacher, or if there is a serious issue needing the principal's attention.

Parent conferences with the teacher are held in November. Information about scheduling conferences will be available during our Back-to-School Night, Principal Newsletter and in the **Backpack Bulletin**, prior to conferences.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Markham School is committed to providing students with opportunities that ensure academic excellence and foster student responsibility and independent work habits. One of these opportunities is homework.

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

The guidelines below are given as helpful parameters for parents, teachers, and students. There is great variability in work habits, skill, and the ability to attend to a task among children. A task that may take one child a matter of minutes to complete, may engage another child for over an hour. In some instances, assignments may be given over the weekend or be of greater or shorter length, depending on the purpose and intended outcome of the assignment.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Parents are encouraged to spend time each day reading with their children or engaged in other learning activities related to the child's school experience. The school should encourage parents to engage in this developmental activity.

Grades 1-2

Students at this level should ordinarily complete all basic assignments within the school day. Parents need to spend time each day on reading and writing activities with their children. When homework is appropriate, 20-30 minutes of effort daily, Monday through Thursday, is considered manageable.

Grade 3

Students at this level are expected to benefit from homework. Twenty to thirty minutes of effort daily, Monday through Thursday, is considered appropriate.

Grades 4-5

Students at this level are expected to benefit from homework. Thirty to fifty minutes of effort daily, Monday through Thursday, is considered appropriate.

WINTER AND SPRING BREAKS

Teachers do not assign homework over winter and spring break. The Site Council and/or PTA traditionally sponsor a school-wide activity to promote reading and/or math during the breaks. Parents and students are encouraged to participate in these school-wide activities to reinforce current skill development, lifelong learning habits and promote community involvement.

STUDENT ABSENCES

When students are absent, it is difficult to make up all aspects of classroom instruction. Written make-up work is only a small part of the overall instruction that students miss. Students are given opportunities to make up assignments as appropriate.

Brief Absences

Students have the responsibility to request make-up work upon their return.

Extended Absence Due To Illness

In the event of an excused absence for a prolonged illness lasting two or more weeks, the parent may contact the teacher and arrange to pick up a packet of "make-up" assignments following the first week of absence and arrange a regular pick-up schedule for work thereafter, until the child is able to return to school.

Absences Due To Family Trips and Vacations

The student has the responsibility to request and make up important assignments upon returning to school. Work will not be given to students prior to their trip.

FAMILY SERVICES

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Markham Children's Care Association is a non-profit certified child care center for children who attend Markham School. The program is governed by a parent association made up of parents of children currently attending the center. For information regarding this program, please contact Robin Lloyd at 503-245-1094.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR PROGRAM

A part-time School Counselor provides guidance to all students at Markham. The counselor is involved in classroom, individual and small group activities which help students in social, emotional and academic areas. Our counselor is available to consult with families about child development/child rearing issues and provide community resources when needed.

BUILDING SCREENING COMMITTEE (BSC)

The Building Screening Committee (BSC) is comprised of teachers, support specialists, the principal, and parents. Meetings typically last 15-30 minutes, and are scheduled on a bi-weekly basis. Teachers may request a meeting to discuss and receive input on teaching strategies, interventions, and resources. The BSC uses a systematic, holistic process to clarify concerns and develop a plan of action.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The ELL Program serves students whose native language is not English. ELL teachers and bilingual assistants work closely with students, teachers and other specialists, to ensure the success of each child. The cultures of all students are embraced, celebrated, and enrich the entire school.

TITLE I

The purpose of the federally-funded Title I program is to help students who need additional academic assistance to meet the same high standards expected of all children in Oregon. Students are selected for service based on objective criteria such as standardized test scores, literacy and math assessments, and work samples. Title I grants to public schools are based on the school's percentage of families who qualify for free and reduced lunch, as well as other state assisted programs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our Learning Center teacher provides direct support to students with special learning needs, as well as consultative services to classroom teachers. Markham is also supported, by a full-time Speech and Language Pathologist and on a limited basis by a school psychologist, who provides evaluation and diagnostic services for students needing additional learning supports.

Markham has two Intensive Skills Classrooms. There is a K-2 and a 3-5. Students are mainstreamed into general education classrooms based on learning needs.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

The PE Program emphasizes physical fitness, developmental skills, and various sport activities. Self-confidence is enhanced by goal-setting and the progress made toward reaching these goals.

TALENTED AND GIFTED (TAG)

Students are observed for traits, attributes, and behaviors that display giftedness. Using the results of these observations, teachers and/or parents nominate students for further testing. Our goal is to recognize and provide services to a broad range children identified as gifted. Classroom teachers work with children and families to address unique learning characteristics and extend lessons. Look for the TAG bulletin board in the main hall.

TECHNOLOGY

Markham has a school-wide computer lab and has a minimum of four desktops per classroom. We continue to develop our technology plan and resources as a vital part of our school program.

LIBRARY (MEDIA CENTER)

The Markham library is an integral part of our community. Students are encouraged to become active daily readers. They are taught library skills which will be valuable throughout their lives. Access to research via the Internet is a component of the library program at Markham.

ARTS

Art is integrated into the classroom curricula. Students experience art through a visual artist on staff. Markham is also a Right Brain Initiative School. The Right Brain Initiative was launched in 2008, The Right Brain Initiative promotes whole brain learning. The goal is to give every student in access to the arts regardless of neighborhood, language, or income. Through an effort that engages the entire community, Right Brain creates long-term, lasting change within schools. Right Brain doesn't replace existing arts education. Instead, the arts are woven into core curriculum, giving teachers new tools to engage students in a creative process that connects back to other subjects.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Volunteerism is an integral part of our home/school partnership at Markham. Family and community members extend and enhance classroom learning. Parent committees, such as the Site Council, also provide support and input to the principal and faculty outside the classroom. Parent volunteers organize major school-wide events which enrich our children's educational experience, and build a strong learning community at Markham.

Fund-raising by the PTA supports educational programs such as field trips, classroom purchases by teachers, art instruction, and more. Volunteers are recruited by the PTA for activities throughout the year, including field trips and school-wide events. Markham parents are active volunteers who give generously of their time, effort, and expertise. Many parents volunteer in the school during the day, at evening or weekend events, and/or work on projects at home. Volunteer opportunities are announced regularly in the Backpack Bulletin throughout the year. Below you will find contact names and numbers to call and find out more ways you can lend a hand. The following groups meet regularly and invite your participation.

SITE COUNCIL

The membership of the Site Council has been mandated by the Oregon Educational Improvement Act for the 21st Century, and by Portland Public Schools Board of Education. Membership consists of the school principal, teachers, classified employees, and adult family representatives of students. The mission of the Site Council is to be a vehicle for promotion of educational excellence, student learning and achievement, and fostering family/school/community partnerships at Markham School. Site Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:15 p.m. Please come to a meeting if you are interested in becoming involved.

Site Council Members:

Brian Fraught	bfraught@pps.net	Parent: TBD
Katie Rossitto	krossitt@pps.net	Parent: TBD
Sandra Kent	skent@pps.net	Parent: TBD
Emily Neve	eneve@nhweb.org	

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

The PTA works with the school principal and other groups within the school, to enrich the educational program and coordinate volunteers. The PTA also works to determine fund-raising needs and sponsors several fundraising and community events throughout the year. You will want to be a part of this dynamic and productive group. PTA meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00p.m. Free childcare is provided.

The PTA board for the 2016-17 school year:

• Michelle Marsden: President- m3marsden@comcast.net

- Kelly Skelton: Vice-President- kkskelton@yahoo.com
- Kathy Jennings: Treasurer- kathy@thejenningsfamily.net
- Misty Plock: Secretary- markhamsecretary@gmail.com or mistyplock@yahoo.com
- Shannon Kandel: Member at Large- shannonkandel@gmail.com

Email the Markham PTA at markhampta@gmail.com for further information

Backpack Bulletin

Editor.....Jennifer Wisher backpackbulletin@comcast.net

The PTA offers a Markham Family Directory for a nominal fee each year. Information about this service is in the Opening Day Packet. Check the Directory this fall for a more complete listing of PTA activities and other after school activities in the community.

Portland Public Schools Nondiscrimination Statement: Portland Public Schools recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. All individuals and groups shall be treated with fairness in all activities, programs and operations, without regard to age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. ~
Board of Education Policy 1.80.020-P

District Title VI and Title IX Contact: Carolyn M. Leonard, Compliance (503-916-3183)
District 504 Contact: Suzy Harris, Integrated Student Support (503-916-2000 x74214)
American Disabilities Act Contact: Jeff Fish, HR Legal Counsel (503-916-3246)

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