

Dear King family,

Congratulations to your child(ren) and adult(s) alike who helped navigate this first week of the 2020-21 school year! As promised, there were a few bumps and unexpected turns, and we still found reasons to smile and celebrate all that transpired. Our number one goal for the first week was to get your child comfortable with his/her teacher, begin to get acquainted with his/her classmates, and learn how to get on the device.

From an adult's lens this week might have felt slow, but as one of my mentors always reminds me, "You have to go slow to go fast." This apparent "slowness" was very intentional on our part. We want all students to feel just as safe and comfortable as they would in the classroom. Without this important component we know your child cannot learn. Brain research reminds us that learning and thinking take place in the frontal lobe, and this only happens when the brain is relaxed and feeling safe. Thank you for all you did/do on the home-front to help your child(ren) feel relaxed and comfortable. This makes a positive, significant difference.

Your child's participation is essential

The staff and I are desiring for and expecting each King student to be present for every school day. (I realize that some families were confused because expectations were different last spring.)

- Students will be ready to begin their day at the Morning Meeting, which begins promptly at 8:10AM.
- Just like if we are in the classroom, if someone enters late, you will be warmly welcomed, but we strongly encourage all children to be punctual for the sake of his/her learning and the rest of the classmates.
- The school day concludes at 3:13PM.
- If your child will not be joining us online, please email **and** use one of the following options:
 - Email the office at kingattendance@aaps.k12.mi.us

- Submit attendance online at <http://kingelementaryoffice.weebly.com>

Week 2: September 14-18

- On Monday (and all next week), please use the Zoom video conferencing link from your child's teacher to go to enter school.
 - We will use that link again to be fully ready to use Schoology in Week 3 to access the virtual learning classroom. (To be clear this is a different plan than we shared previously.)
 - We are delaying logging into Schoology until September 21.
 - During week 2, your child's teacher will be teaching lessons for the year as well as teaching some technology skills to get them ready for Week 3.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Please check the US Mail for a letter we sent to your home. It contains QR codes your child will need in Week 3 until Week 39 of school. An example of a QR code **shows below.**
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- Preschool, Young 5s, Kindergarten and 1st grade students will have **two QR codes** in their letter.
 - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th will have **one QR code.**
 - **If you have NOT received the QR code(s), please tell your child's teacher.** They will inform us, so we can get this to you.
 - NOTE: Please keep these codes in a special, accessible spot. Do not lose the QR code. Your child will need these for Week 3 through Week 39 of school. (However, if you do misplace them, contact your child's teacher.)
 - In addition to your child having time with his/her classroom teacher, this week s/he will be introduced to each of the special area teachers, with the exception of our primary art teacher, who we are in the process of hiring. Those special area teachers include:
 - Mrs. Julie Arbour: Physical Education (PE) teacher
 - Ms. Kristin Berger: Vocal Music teacher
 - Mrs. Katie Burrill: Media Specialist (Library and tech)
 - Ms. Emily Fineberg: Art teacher (only for our Fabulous 5's and kindergartners)
 - TBD: All other art classes
 - Mr. Nathan Moger: Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teacher
 - Ms. Elizabeth Paddock: 5th grade strings
 - Mr. Henry Pakela: 5th grade band
 - Ms. YuTing Yeh: Chinese teacher

Before signing off, please be sure to read the letter below from our PTO President, Leslie Calhoun.

Enjoy your weekend, and be well!

Mary

King PTO 2020-21 Parent Welcome Letter

Dear King Families,

Welcome to King Elementary PTO for the 2020-21 school year. We hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well. By way of introduction, our 2020-21 King PTO officers are:

Leslie Calhoun: President

Cori Peng: Vice President

Tim Pinto: Treasurer

Matt Monroe: Secretary

This is a year unlike any we have experienced before. In addition to school being different this year, our King PTO will also look different. But our commitment to doing our best to support teachers, parents, and King students remains as strong as ever.

For those of you who are new to King, here is a little background about our PTO. The King PTO is a volunteer-run non-profit organization focused on furthering and promoting the education of students attending King. Every parent is an automatic member. We aim to provide an equitable environment for all students, support our teachers' training and development, provide a forum for discussion, and enhance the spirit of cooperation between parents and teachers. In past years, the King PTO collected annual donations from families, raised money at an annual silent auction, and provided those funds directly to teachers. Teachers then used the money to purchase school supplies and special curricula for all students in their classrooms. We have also funded field trips for all students and hosted many memorable after school events that bring families together and have become well-loved King traditions.

But in the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have to pause and rethink how to achieve our goals. We cancelled our events in spring 2020, including our silent auction, which has historically been the main source of funding our organization. So this school year, we need to adjust how the King PTO operates so that we can best support each other whether we are remote or physically together.

We note that typically at the beginning of the school year, we request that families make an annual donation to support the King PTO. The reality is that with no spring 2020 auction, we do not have the budget we have been privileged enough to have in the past when starting the school year. We are also sensitive to and want to acknowledge that many families are facing hardships unlike any they may have faced in the past and may be unable to donate as much or anything at all this year. We also know that teachers will need time to figure out what their needs are for students in the new remote learning environment. So, we are not asking for an annual donation this month. After we have a better idea of what the teachers' needs are and what our budget will be, we will communicate with you about donations. Our November 2 meeting will be our annual budget meeting and we encourage you to attend so you can see how your donations will be budgeted.

We welcome you to attend all of our monthly meetings. We will have a new meeting format this year; we're mixing it up! We hope to be able to offer a more "town hall" style with meeting topics where our Principal addresses parent questions about remote learning. We also hope to invite some guest speakers. We welcome your ideas on making our meetings worthwhile.

We will also be changing the content of our newsletter a bit this year to include family activity ideas, a King Staff member spotlight section so we can get to know staff better, and other creative ideas that we hope inspire a greater sense of connectedness. We welcome your participation.

Our King PTO website is: <https://kingschoolpto.digitalpto.com/> You can also email us at aakingpto@gmail.com. Our meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. and are remote via Zoom unless otherwise indicated. We will circulate the Zoom meeting ID before each meeting. Here are our meeting dates:

Monday September 14, 2020

Monday October 5, 2020

Monday November 2, 2020 (budget meeting)

Monday December 7, 2020

Monday February 1, 2021

Monday March 1, 2021

Monday April 5, 2021

Monday May 3, 2021

Monday June 7, 2021

We look forward to working together with you this year.

Best Regards,

Leslie Calhoun

PTO President