
WELCOME TO STEELE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Welcome Packet for Incoming Families

AUGUST 9, 2018

HELLO INCOMING STEELE FAMILIIES! WE WANTED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ALL THE INFORMATION THAT YOU WOULD NEED TO GET STARTED WITH THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON - STEELE ELEMENTARY PTA

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

August 8, 2018

Dear Steele Families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

I am thrilled to begin my second year as your principal. Last year, I learned one of the most impressive attributes of Steele Elementary is the depth of your collective commitment and dedication to our school. Our parent - staff partnership is a model for what the home-school connection should be. On behalf of our whole crew, we are looking forward to another fantastic year working in collaboration with you to provide the best environment for our students to learn and grow.

Our PTA continues to amaze us with their fundraising efforts which provide such an incredible support for our staff and students. The PTA, as you will find in this letter, is an instrumental partner in providing our students and our community with resources that we all need to grow.

In addition to the community building initiatives and fund raising activities that the PTA is spear-heading, some key areas that we are focused on as an administration include:

- 1) **Continuing to strengthen our school culture** through the implementation of our "Steele Code", the tenets that we live by as a school, promoting a sense of responsibility, accountability inclusivity in our students. Promoting the Steele code has been has proven to positively impact the social, emotional and academic growth of our students.
- 2) **Individualized student growth from year to year.** We have developed new support structures to help classroom teachers challenge all students with rigorous learning opportunities which we are confident will result in increased student academic growth. We look forward to sharing more with you as we progress through this school year.

Serving as your principal is a tremendous honor. We could not accomplish all that we do without your support and partnership. I look forward to seeing you and your families in the coming days.

See you soon!
Sincerely,

Cindy

LETTER FROM THE PTA

As we head in to the coming school year, we look forward to leading a new chapter in the Steele PTA. Steele is a unique public elementary school with two dedicated educators in each classroom. That is the result of an involved, resourceful PTA community...that means YOU!

What does the Steele PTA provide?

- A large percentage of the cost of second educator in every classroom (\$150K)
- Additional funding for Specials teachers (Art, Music, Drama, and Phys Ed)
- Teacher stipends which ensure teachers can purchase additional educational supplies for classrooms
- Family and community programs: Popsicle Social, Carnival, Dance, Movie Night, Middle School Night, Parent Education Seminars and more!
- Special funding requests, including Promethean boards, other tech upgrades (including classroom computers and ipads), curtains for auditorium, permanent art installations)
- Physical and online directory and volunteer website: Myschoolanywhere.com
- Communications: Steele Stallion Press/Extras, Steele Elementary website, Steele PTA website

How in the world do we raise enough money for all of this?! (Yearly PTA fundraising goal: 250K)

- Fall Fundraiser Parent Party (Moonlight Masquerade, Saturday, Nov. 10)
- Spring Home Tour, (Saturday, May 11)
- Stallion Fund, online giving program and/or personal donations

Knowing all of this WHY wouldn't you want to get involved? We have opportunities to match with your interests, talents and time! It takes over 200 volunteers to pull off this magic!

Where to start:

- Popsicle Social on Friday, Aug 17 2 to 4PM to meet teachers, mingle with community and ask questions
- First Day Coffee with PTA Aug 20, 8:10am, meet on the playground to commiserate, grab a cup of jo and mingle with other parents and PTA
- First PTA meeting Thursday, Sept. 13 6-7:30 Childcare available (\$3/child) Meet our Principal, Cindy Kapeller, learn the difference between our 2nd educators also known as Paras and Interns, vote on 2018/19 PTA budget, ask questions and more!
- Check out all of the volunteer opportunities available at Myschoolanywhere.com
Note: you need to be registered for the online directory in order to access this site, email steeledirectory@gmail.com for help in registering for both the directory and to volunteer

Do not hesitate to reach out to us and we look forward to meeting you all!

Sincerely,

Steele PTA Co-Presidents, Crissy Lucado and Kim Kobernusz steelepresident@gmail.com

2018/2019 Steele PTA Executive Board

Cindy Kapeller, Principal of Steele Elementary School
Crissy Lucado, PTA Co-President (Nick 3rd, Nate 3rd, Danny 5th, Luke 7th)
Kim Kobernusz, PTA Co-President (Ty 4th, Kylee 6th)
Pattie Welch, PTA Secretary (Peyton 3rd, Cody 4th)
Mary Beth Thacker, PTA Treasurer (Harrison 3rd)
Nisha Ashley, PTA VP of Volunteers (Keya 3rd, Kiki, KG)
Jennifer MacFarlane, Co-VP Fundraising (Natalie 4th, Nicole 5th)
Maureen Savage, Co-VP Fundraising (Keely 4th, Abigale 5th, Dylan 7th)



OVERVIEW OF AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Steele Elementary Enrichment Program

This includes a range of after-school options that are available to you and your child

Steele's enrichment program runs on trimesters: Fall (9/4 – 11/16), Winter (11/26 – 3/1), & Spring (3/5 – 5/24). Each trimester lasts 12 weeks and 25 different enrichment classes are offered during each session. The enrichment program at Steele offers an eclectic, high quality selection of classes. There truly is at least one class for every student!

Enrichment Classes Offered

Enrichment Classes Offered		
Coding with Kids	Adventures in Art – Pottery	Overtime Athletics
Scholastic Fencing League	National Honor Band Assoc.	Bricks 4 Kidz
Lil' Rockers Guitar Group	Movement Madness	Little Medical School
CELL Science	Eurekus!	Sticky Fingers Cooking
Movement & Creative Arts	KidStage	Alliance Francaise de Denver
Talk to the Camera	High Altitude Tennis	Science Matters
Bees Knees Book Club	Woodshop Wizards	League of Wayfinders
Play-Well TEKnologies	Denver Region Dance Academy	Chess Wizards
Young Rembrandts		

Registration Information:

If you're a current Discovery Link Family please visit this link to register:

<https://connect.schoolcareworks.com/login.jsp>

If you're not a current Discovery Link Family please visit this link to register:

https://www.schoolcareworks.com/registration/dps/start_registration.jsp

- select "Steele" as your location and scroll down the page
- click "Click to View Offerings" under the 2018-2019 Enrichment Programs

Registration goes live online Wednesday, August 15th @ 10am.

Or for more information visit the Steele Elementary page

This document will introduce your family to some useful resources and provide responses to questions you may have. We are excited to welcome you to this community!

Overview of Key Resources

There are several key sources of information that we suggest you use to stay current on school related events and activities:

1) Weekly newsletter about school-wide events and activities

Register to receive the Steele Stallion Press weekly newsletter via email. This is the primary source of key communications about school and parent-sponsored events. To register, go to the Steele website <http://steele.dpsk12.org>, scroll to “Steele Stallion Press Emails,” and click “Sign up now.”

2) Before and after school care

Discovery Link is DPS-provided before and after school care at Steele. To learn more about Discovery Link, go to <http://discoverylink.dpsk12.org/>.

3) General school programs and activities

Steele provides numerous after school activities and enrichment programs. These programs vary throughout the school year, as do their schedules. To view up-to-date information about all enrichment programs at Steele, go to the Steele website <http://steele.dpsk12.org> and click the Programs tab.

4) Classroom updates

Most teachers either send out periodic emails or update a blog/web page to provide you with classroom updates and information about events, homework, and your child’s day-to-day activities. To ensure you are receiving this information, make sure your child’s teacher has your email address. If you know who your child’s teacher is, you can find his or her contact information on the Steele website <http://steele.dpsk12.org> (click the Faculty & Staff tab). If you are unsure of a teacher’s name, call the Steele office at 720-424-3720.

- 5) **Denver Public School program updates and your child’s results from standardized tests** For communications about your child’s standardized test results and communications that relate to the Denver Public School system, we suggest that you register for the DPS Parent Portal: <https://myportal.dpsk12.org/>. If you have difficulty registering,

General FAQs

Where do I park and drop off/pick up my child?

The east side of S. Marion Parkway, directly in front of the school's main entrance, is designated as the "Kiss and Drop" area. This is for parents who want to drop their child off at the curb and don't need to park. Please respect this practice and DO NOT park your car in this area, even briefly. It is staffed by interns/adult volunteers who can help children get onto the school grounds safely. Do not double park on Marion, as it is heavily ticketed (it is a major fire truck route). You can park on S. Lafayette Street (east of the building) or on other streets nearby. Be sure to keep an eye on the posted street sweeping signs; the designated street sweeping days vary for each street, and the city does ticket for this. Many families choose to walk or bike to school. There are bike racks on the east and north sides of the building. We recommend you lock your child's bike on the racks.

Your child's teacher will designate a meeting place on the school grounds for the class to meet in the morning. Typically, classes meet outside during fair weather. During poor weather, take your child to the cafeteria in the morning; teachers will pick up kids there.

After school, you must park your car and meet your child at their class's designated meeting area. During poor weather, come to your child's classroom for pickup. There is no drive-up option for picking up children at Steele.

What time does school start? Faculty is available on the playground to watch your child starting at 7:55. You may also leave your child in the cafeteria as early as 7:45 for DPS-provided breakfast or drop-off. The first bell rings at 8:10 AM which is when the teacher will start making his or her way in to the school with the students. The second bell rings at 8:15 AM. Students are expected to be in class at that time. If your child arrives after 8:15 AM, he or she will be asked to go to the main office to receive a tardy slip. "tardies" are recorded throughout the year and appear on your child's report card. You can find a current tally of tardies and absences on the Parent Portal.

What determines eligibility for the Steele bus program? If you live within the Steele district, but more than a mile from school, your child may be eligible for busing to and from Steele. If you satisfy these criteria, DPS should send you a letter about bussing. If you think you fit the criteria but have not received a letter from DPS, contact the Steele office or the DPS transportation organization (720-423-4600) or <http://transportation.dpsk12.org/> for more information.

What is the process to have my child added to the bus list? If your child qualifies for the Steele bus program, contact the office to have your child added to the bus list. You must also inform your child's teacher that your child will be taking the bus. Children who are eligible for the bus program do not need to ride the bus to and from school every day; however, it is preferable that a consistent schedule be adhered to (for example, riding the bus to school every morning

but being picked up at school every afternoon). If there will be a change in your child's bus schedule, be sure to inform your child's teacher in advance.

How to report an illness or expected absence? If your child is sick, is going to be late, or will miss school for other reasons, call the Attendance Phone Line at 720-424-3725 and leave a message by 8:30 AM. Leave your name, your child's name, teacher or room number, date of absence, and reason. If you know that your child is going to miss school for a trip, etc., make sure you complete an absentee form from the office.

What is the best way to contact my child's teacher during the day? Most teachers prefer to be contacted by email. They check their emails periodically throughout the day. If you need to inform your teacher of an appointment, vacation, special request, etc., contact the teacher at least a day in advance. In an emergency, call the office at 720-424-3720.

How does my child buy lunch? The most efficient way to appropriate funds for your child's lunch is to do so online by logging on to www.myschoolbucks.com and selecting the Enroll option. It will walk you through all the steps necessary to create an account and add money using a credit card. You can also go to the cafeteria and pay directly into your child's account. Each time your child buys milk or lunch, the cost will be deducted from your child's account. If the account balance is low, a reminder will be sent home to let you know you need to add to your child's account. Note for returning parents: this service will replace mylunchmoney.com. But you can use the same login credentials and your funds from the 2014/2015 school year will rollover.

How do I volunteer to work in my child's classroom? Please discuss classroom volunteer opportunities directly with your child's teacher. In addition, two volunteers in each classroom are part of the room parent network assisting teachers with class parties, sharing classroom news, and finding ways to build classroom community. If you are interested in becoming a room parent, please email your name and which classroom to the room parent coordinator, steele.roomparent.coordinator@gmail.com.

How do I volunteer for the Steele PTA? The Steele PTA welcomes all parents' participation. The PTA meets once a month, generally the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM. (Occasionally, a different date or time is chosen, if the regular date/time presents a school-wide conflict.) PTA meetings are announced in the Steele Stallion Press and posted on the school calendar.

How do I get my information added to the school directory? The school directory provides contact information for school staff, lists all children in each classroom, and provides family contact information. There is both a printed and online versions of the school directory. Inclusion in the directory is "opt-in," which means that each year, typically in the fall, for returning families, you **must opt in and confirm that you want to be listed in the directory**. You will get an email with instructions on opting in and updating information.

If your family is new, keep an eye on the Steele Stallion Press or check the school website for a link to the database where you can enter your family's data. You can add as much or as little of your family data (email addresses, phone numbers, and physical address) as you desire. You can update or add your family's data in the online directory at any time during the school year by emailing steledirectory@gmail.com.

Where can I access the online school directory? The student directory is available on the Steele website <http://steele.dpsk12.org> under the Parent Resources tab. In order to ensure privacy of all Steele families, the online directory is only available to Steele families and staff. When you enter/confirm your data for the directory, at least one email address is required (additional email addresses can be entered for each parent). After all families have entered/confirmed their data, the online directory is generated, and an email is sent to each parent with instructions for logging in to the online directory. Only parents whose email is in the directory database can access the online/mobile directory.

Parent Checklist

We recognize that there is a lot to keep in mind when registering your child at the beginning of the school year. Below are guidelines to ensure your readiness for the beginning of the school year.

- Go to the Steele office to register your child and make sure you know who your child's teacher is.
- After the first day of school, make sure your child's teacher has your email address (or has information about your preferred contact method). Teachers typically ask parents to fill out an information sheet during the first week of school. If you need to contact your child's teacher, you will find teacher email addresses listed on the Steele website (<http://steele.dpsk12.org>).
- Sign up for the Steele Stallion Press email newsletter on the Steele website (<http://steele.dpsk12.org>).
- If you need before or after school care, sign up for Discovery Link by calling [720-424-8293](tel:720-424-8293) or visiting their website: <http://discoverylink.dpsk12.org>
- If your child will be having hot lunch or buying milk at Steele, put money in your child's lunch account at www.myschoolbucks.com.
- Ensure your family's information is listed in the Steele Directory, if desired. Find more information on the Steele website (<http://steele.dpsk12.org>) under the Parent Resource tab, School Directory option.
- Search for then Like Steele Elementary on [Facebook](#).

FAQs are also posted on the Steele website, <http://steele.dpsk12.org> under the Parent Resources tab, FAQ option.

Additional details and current calendar at <http://steele.dpsk12.org>

2018

Summer

Kindergarten/New Family Play Dates
June 15 (3-4PM), July 15 (10-11AM)
& August 8 (10-11AM)

August

walk-In registration (see Steele website)
16 K/New Family Orientation, 5:30-6:15
**this is a repeat of the May 1, 2018 program*
17 Popsicle Social, 3-4PM
20 First Day of School Parent Coffee, 8:15AM
29 Back to School Night, 5-7:30PM

September

3 no school/Labor Day
13 CSC Meeting, 4:30-6PM
13 PTA Meeting, 6-7:30PM
16 Bike-A-Thon, 9:30AM
16 Carnival, 11AM-1PM

October

2 Walk to School Day
9 CSC Meeting, 4:30PM
9 PTA Meeting/Middle School Night, 6PM
12 Coffee with Cindy, 8:30-9:30AM
14 Steele Garden "Dig It!" Day, 9AM-1PM
15-18 Parent-Teacher Conferences
15-18 Scholastic Book Fair
15-18 Steele Garden Rainbow Week
19 no school
22-23 no school/planning day
31 Halloween Parade

November

10 Fall PTA Auction & Party Fundraiser
13 CSC Meeting, 4:30PM
13 PTA Meeting, 6PM
16 Turkey Trot
19-23 Thanksgiving Break

December

no CSC or PTA meeting this month
4 **CO Gives Day: Support our Stallion Fund!**
21 no School/Steele planning day
24 to Jan. 4 Winter Break

2019

January

7 classes resume
8 CSC Meeting, 4:30PM
8 PTA Meeting, 6PM
10 Science Fair
21 no school/MLK Jr. Day

February

Jump Rope for Heart Month
1 no school/planning day
12 CSC Meeting, 4:30PM
12 PTA Meeting, 6PM
14 **I Heart Steele Day!**
18 no school/Presidents' Day
22 Movie Night

March

4 No School/Planning Day
12 CSC Meeting, 4:30PM
12 PTA Meeting, 6PM
14 Talent Show
15 Coffee with Cindy, 8:30-9:30AM
18-21 Parent-Teacher Conferences
22 no school/Steele planning day
25-29 Spring Break Week/C. Chavez Day

April

9 CSC Meeting, 4:30PM
9 PTA Meeting, 6PM
15-19 Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
19 Family Dance Party
26 Shakespeare Festival
29 no school/planning day

May

5 Steele Garden "Dig It!" Day, 9AM-1PM
8 Bike to School Day
9 Art Show
11 **Wash Park Home Tour, 10AM-4PM**
14 CSC Meeting, 4:30PM
14 PTA Meeting, 6PM
17 Field Day
27 no school/Memorial Day
31 last day of school (Friday, half day)

Steele Dines Out (SDO) every month! Watch for details in the Steele Stallion Press.