

2020 – 2021



New Student
Welcome Handbook



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I. Welcome!

The PTSA Welcomes you to a new school year! Sherman Elementary is such a wonderful school and we are truly excited to share this year with you!

Sherman's PTSA is a powerful voice for our Sherman Elementary children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the well-being and education of every Sherman child. Stay tuned for ways you can support the Sherman PTSA, but in the meantime, we wanted to share with you some important information about Sherman Elementary School.

The full student handbook can be found at the Tacoma Public Schools website for Sherman, under the 'Resources' drop down to the right of the screen.

II. What is S.T.E.A.M.?

Sherman Elementary is a S.T.E.A.M. designated school. **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.** Teachers, specialist staff and paraeducators incorporate added focus on these aspects of academics into their classrooms. It helps focus students on creative problem solving and is a great way to prepare kids to be 21st Century citizens!

Sherman Elementary incorporates the STEAM experience through Project Based Learning (PBL). These are large scale initiatives & projects taking place throughout the year at each grade level in addition to state-mandated curriculum.

What is Project Based Learning (PBL)? Project-based learning is a dynamic classroom approach in which students actively explore real-world problems and challenges to acquire deeper knowledge & problem-solving skills. To be successful, students will need to collaborate with others, utilize technology, and effectively communicate their ideas.

How will I know my child's academic progress? Teachers communicate with parents in many ways, including Parent Nights. These happen during each PBL initiative and are an opportunity to view your child's learning experience. In addition, if you would like to have a traditional conference, please let your teacher know and they will schedule one for you. Teachers are happy to work with you to determine the best form of communication for your family.

III. Important Upcoming Dates

Event dates and school start dates are TBD pending the 2020-2021 school schedule. Please see school website for the most up to date information.

IV. Arrival and Dismissal

Every class has an assigned line up location for arrival & dismissal. Kindergarten students line up in their dedicated playground space. 1st-5th grade classes lineup under the covered basketball court. Teachers will come out to retrieve their students in the morning and will walk out with their students after school to be released to their bus or individually to a guardian.

Any alterations to pick up and drop off needs to be pre-arranged with a teacher (example, grandparent picking up or student going home with a friend). Parents are asked not to wait at the classroom doors, as this causes a distraction and congestion at dismissal time.

Due to social distancing in 2020-2021, some of these procedures may need to be altered.

V. Late Start Wednesday Schedule

To sustain work at Sherman Elementary as an Innovative School, Sherman has a Late Start Wednesday. The time will be focused for teachers to collaborate around standards, STEAM and PBL initiatives and participate in professional development. Due to the uncertainty around the 2020-2021 school year, this late start schedule will be announced later.

LATESTART BELL SCHEDULE:

TBD pending 2020-2021 school schedule. Please see school website for the most up to date information.

VI. Uniform Policy & Spirit Wear

Sherman Uniform Dress Standards reflect pride and unity, and demonstrate that school is a place to study and learn. Our Sherman Uniform Dress Standards support student safety and promote a focused, orderly school climate. Standards are also designed to provide a "business-like" atmosphere, to help students develop this lifelong habit of dressing appropriately for the workplace.

Sherman students are required to wear uniform clothing every day (except for special ASB events – e.g. crazy hair day, etc.). All clothing must be neat in appearance, in good repair, no holes, and worn appropriately. The fit and/or style of the clothing should not be tight, revealing, or oversized.

EVERY Friday is designated as a free-dress day.

SHIRTS

A. Colors: plain, **ANY solid color is acceptable** (beginning in the 2020-2021 school year)

B. T-shirt or Polo style

C. Sherman Spirit-Wear and/or Club Shirts (e.g. - ASB, Glee Club, Young Ambassadors, etc.)

D. No logos are acceptable on shirts except Sherman Elementary School logo tops purchased from school.

PANTS, LEGGINGS, SHORTS, SKIRTS, SKORTS, JUMPERS, AND CAPRIS

A. Colors: navy blue, khaki (tan), or solid blue jeans (no faded or bleached jeans).

B. Fabric: Fabric should be cotton twill, corduroy, or traditional blue jean denim.

C. Pants must be fitted, plain in style, and hemmed neatly. No adornments (patches, holes, stripes, or any other decorations) and no sagging.

D. The length of short skirts, skorts, and shorts must pass the fingertip length test. With arms down at the sides, the bottom of the garment must be at/or below the fingertips.

SWEATSHIRTS/SWEATERS/VESTS

A. Plain, solid in color

B. No logos are acceptable on sweatshirts except Sherman Elementary School logo tops purchased from school.

SHOES

A. Shoes should be appropriate for all school activities – no flip-flops, no heels, no shoes without a back strap or slipper-like footwear allowed.

GROOMING:

A. Hair/fake tattoos, etc. are allowed unless they are a distraction or disturb classroom learning.

SPIRIT WEAR

Sherman Spirit Wear is available for purchase from the Sherman PTSA through our partnership with Puget Sound Screen Printing. Go to www.shermanptsa.com and click on "Tiger Wear" during a spirit wear ordering window. During an ordering event which occurs 2-3 times yearly, you can place your online order to be delivered to school.

VII. School Supplies

The kindergarten program at Sherman Elementary has pre-purchased totes to be used by each student. These totes are to be used in place of backpacks and will be handed out on the first day of school. Our kindergarten classrooms have community supplies that are used and shared by all. This type of arrangement works best when the supplies match from table to table and are specific in color or form. Students can then focus on the learning goals rather than the contrasting variety of supplies and materials. Over the years, we have seen a big decline in the quality and value of the "back to school brands". To keep costs down and the quality of the supplies and materials high, we have decided to purchase these items in bulk to be shared by all students attending our kindergarten community.

Supplies can be paid for in the Sherman Main office starting the week of Jumpstart in August or the start of school should Jumpstart not be offered. The cost is TBD until we know more about the school year. **Please note that the fee is not a mandatory requirement for families where it is a hardship.**

All other grades at Sherman have the option to purchase their own supplies based on very detailed supply lists or pay the supply fee to the office to purchase bulk supplies at a discount like the Kindergarten grade does. Supply lists can be found on the Sherman district website:

<https://www.tacomaschools.org/sherman/Pages/default.aspx>

Please see school website for the most up to date information regarding supplies.

VIII. Lunch Information

Lunch/Recess Schedule:

TBD based on 2020-2021 school schedule. Please see school website for the most up to date information.

How do you pay for school lunch for your child?

Lunch Money Now is a convenient, easy to use system that allows parents to pre-pay for meals, access meal card balances and check recent meal purchases. Parents are able to check account balances 24-hours a day and receive email notification when the account falls below a specified balance. Visa and MasterCard transactions through Lunch Money Now are charged a \$1.50 convenience fee.

How do you know what the school lunch menu is?

Your child will come home with a monthly printed menu. Additionally, the school lunch menu is available to view online: <http://tacoma.healtheliving.net/>

For more information, please contact Nutrition Services at 253-571-3370 or go online: <https://www.tacomaschools.org/nutrition/Pages/default.aspx>

Can your child alternate between a school lunch and home packed lunch?

Yes! Teachers at the start of the day will announce the school menu for that day and take a classroom lunch roll call. If your child forgot their lunch that day and the child has pre-payment on their lunch account, they can choose a school lunch. The lunch staff will send notices home when your school lunch account runs low. Did you forget to re-load your child's lunch account? Don't worry...the child will receive a sack lunch for that day!

Parents are always welcome to join their child for lunch! Just check-in with the front office to fill out a visitor pass.

IX. School Classroom Treats

All kids at Sherman love a class party! Celebrating your child's birthday with goodies is a special treat! If you are bringing in classroom treats...**first** check with your child's teacher! Some classrooms have strict dietary restrictions.

The following is the Tacoma School District's Classroom Food Policy(6700R):

Food used in classes is an important part of the learning environment. Curriculum and activities that involve food should be handled in a safe environment and be appropriate for the students involved. Foods produced as a part of a student learning experience will be exempt from the nutrition requirements in this regulation, but healthy foods meeting the district's current nutrition standard should be used.

Food items sold or offered to students outside of the classroom, during the school day, must comply with the nutrition standards in this regulation.

Outside food brought into the school and/or classes shall be unopened, commercially processed and commercially pre-packaged, requiring no preparation. If the food item requires refrigeration, it must be consumed within two hours.

Food used as a classroom reward or incentive must comply with the nutrition standards in this regulation.

Parents and teachers shall encourage use of foods and/or beverages that comply with the nutrition standards in this regulation for school/classroom parties. They will be encouraged to offer no more than one food or beverage that does not meet the nutrition standard for parties.

Foods of minimal nutritional value are not allowed during the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, soft drinks, water ices, chewing gum, and certain types of candies (hard candies, jellies and gums, marshmallow candies, fondant, licorice, spun candy, and candy-coated popcorn).

X. School Communications

Sherman Elementary School communicates upcoming events and news through a variety of sources.

Info Table: Information & registration paperwork for PTSA and other school related news is available on the "info table" by the school office.

Robo-Calls & Emails: You will receive important notices from the office and your classroom parent regarding activities, meetings & other school related information via pre-recorded phone calls, lovingly referred to as "robo calls," or via email to a preferred email address you provide!

Sherman Elementary School website:

<https://www.tacomashools.org/sherman/Pages/default.aspx>

Sherman Elementary PTSA General Meetings

The Sherman Elementary PTSA is a very active organization at Sherman, coordinating activities, fundraisers and helping in the classrooms. Sherman PTSA general meetings are typically the 2nd Tuesday of every month* and are a great way to keep up to date with upcoming events and hear about ways to have fun helping your student thrive at Sherman! *The first meeting for this year is tentatively scheduled for 9/15.

Sherman Elementary PTSA Website:

<https://www.shermanptsa.com/>

Sherman Elementary, PTSA Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ShermanElementaryPTSA>

Peachjar: Sherman Elementary partners with Peachjar to distribute school-approved flyers to parents online. Peachjar can save schools tons of paper. Peachjar emails school flyers directly to you and posts them online:
<https://www.peachjar.com>

School Handouts: Be sure to check your child's backpack daily for printed flyers!

Coffee with the Principal: Each month Sherman parents can join Principal Christian Jordan to discuss upcoming events, Sherman Elementary news and answer parent questions. The dates for these gatherings are TBD based on the 2020-2021 school schedule. Please see school website for the most up to date information.

XI. Social Emotional Learning

School Counselor, Karen Jaskar along with parent and Certified K-12 Mindfulness Educator Celesta Smith support every student at Sherman Elementary through a variety of social emotional learning opportunities including Mindfulness. Mrs. Jaskar hosts small groups throughout the day and student lead activities during lunch time. She teaches whole class lessons throughout the school year and supports the student with one-on-one as needed. You can find more information on her classroom page on the Sherman website.

Sherman Elementary is fortunate to incorporate Mindfulness into every day learning. Mrs. Smith teaches classes on mindfulness utilizing Mindful Schools and MindUp curriculum. Her definition of mindfulness is "Paying attention right now to what's happening around you and inside you with curiosity and without judgement." Mindfulness practices support students in providing them tools for identifying how they are feeling and to learn how to notice those feelings so they can respond and not react. This is one more way Sherman students grow and stretch their brain to support their learning now and in the future. For more information or questions contact Mrs. Smith at growingmindfulwa@gmail.com.

XII. Sherman PTSA Membership

In the coming year, the Sherman PTSA has many amazing events scheduled to help provide a fun and exciting school year and build our community relationships, like a Bingo Night, Masquerade Ball, a Holiday Shop to empower students to shop for their own family gifts, our Theater Production, and our annual Draw Me In semi-formal auction fundraiser, to name just a few. Membership in the PTSA gives you a vote at our meetings to help drive the direction of our community events and fundraising. **We would like to invite you to our first meeting of the year on September 15, 2020.** Come see what PTSA is all about, and the fun ways to get involved in our amazing Sherman community!

We wish you a wonderful 2020-2021 school year!

~Your Sherman PTSA Board & Membership