

Brookside Elementary Principal's Message

3/19/19



Greetings Brookside Families,

Online Safety Workshop for Parents & Guardians 3/26 at 7:00 p.m.

Children's use of online devices and social media has increased sharply in recent years. We want to help your family navigate these ever-changing tools and platforms. This is a great opportunity for parents of children in all grades. Topics will include: online safety and security, inappropriate content, privacy, sexual solicitation, and cyberbullying. I look forward to seeing you in the music room.

There are some big changes coming to Shoreline Schools for the coming school year. I've broken it down for you below. If you have any questions, please let me know. ☺

The Big Picture:

- All Shoreline general education students in grades K-3 will have reduced class sizes starting in fall.
- More classroom spaces are needed to accommodate that change.
- Brookside has sufficient space to accommodate this. Many other schools will need to have all of their 2019-2020 Kindergarten classrooms at an alternate campus to allow for the required space.
- Brookside plans to have two Kindergarten classes on-site with additional students going into the standard overload process (just like this year).
- For the 2020-2021 school year, 6th grade will be part of middle school which will make space for Kindergarten classrooms at all elementary schools.

Class Size Reduction for 2019-2020: earlier this month, our school board approved a plan that will have far-reaching effects in the coming school year. Shoreline Public Schools will tap into nearly \$30 million to lower class size in grades K-3 to approximately twenty to one. This is great news! There are adjustments that need to occur in order for this change to happen...the biggest of them will occur for incoming Kindergarten families in Shoreline (although this will be a bit different for Brookside - keep reading). When class sizes are reduced, schools will need more staff and classroom spaces to accommodate the change. At this time, many Shoreline schools would not have enough classroom spaces to account for reducing the size of K-3 classes.

Kindergarten for 2019-2020: In order to allow for reducing K-3 class sizes, many schools will have their Kindergarten classrooms off-site at one of two Kindergarten-only programs for 2019-2020. These will be at Meridian Park Elementary and the newly refurbished North City campus. The 2019-2020 school year is also the last time that 6th grade will be part of elementary school. The following school year, 6th graders will be part middle school students and Kindergarten classrooms will shift back to their neighborhood schools.

How Does this Change Affect Brookside? Our school is in a somewhat different position than many other sites. The Intensive Learning Supports (ILS) program is a self-contained special education program that used to be split between Brookside and Echo Lake Elementary. Several years ago, the District decided to consolidate that program at Echo Lake. Because this program moved out of our school two years ago, Brookside has more available classroom space. We will be able to accommodate having two Kindergarten classrooms at Brookside in 2019-2020 just as we did this year. If we have Kindergarten student enrollment beyond the two classrooms, the additional students will be placed together in an overflow classroom at either Meridian Park or North City. These students will return to Brookside for 1st grade.

Thank you for supporting to our students, staff, & school,
Principal John Simard