



# 2023-2024

# COMMUNITY

# HANDBOOK



Dear Cascade K-8 Community School Families and Members,

Welcome! We are so excited to begin this 2023-2024 school year at Cascade K-8 Community School!

As a community school, we are all expected to work together to create an environment in which our students can learn, grow and have fun. This means we are committed to working as a community to make things happen, and each family is expected to contribute to the school, whether it be donations of time, money, and/or ideas.

The following pages contain our Cascade K-8 PTSA Community Handbook. It provides the framework for how we get things done so that our kids can benefit from the educational experiences we as a community have committed to providing. Please complete all the forms on the quick links page so we have the information we need to start the year off right!

We're looking forward to an amazing school year as we come together to build friendships and work together to nurture our incredible community of kids, teachers, families, and more. Thanks for bringing your unique talents and energy to this wonderful community.

In Community,

Christina Arcidy, Co-Chair  
[cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org)

Roxy Meek, Vice Co-Chair  
[vicecochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:vicecochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org)

Cara Hutchison, Co-Chair  
[cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org)

Sarah Piccari, Vice Co-Chair  
[vicecochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:vicecochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org)

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## Quick Links

Please complete the following forms

[\*\*Pledge\*\*](#)

[\*\*Directory Opt-in Form\*\*](#)

[\*\*Volunteer Survey\*\*](#)

[\*\*WA State PTA Membership\*\*](#)

[\*\*Order a Yearbook\*\*](#)

[\*\*Join Band\*\*](#) (Optional, but a great source of information)

Community Meetings: Generally the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm at the school

## Cascade K-8 PTSA Mission Statement

1. The name of this PTA local unit is Cascade K8 PTSA, hereinafter referred to as "this unit."
2. This unit's local number is 6.12.53.
- 3. The purpose of this unit is to serve the parents, guardians, teachers, staff and students of Cascade K-8 Community School.**

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## Getting Involved at Cascade K-8

### Family Commitment

Parent Participation is a cornerstone of our Cascade K-8 Community School. All families are asked to support Cascade K-8 Community School in three specific ways:

- 1. Attend monthly Community Meetings.** At the meetings we will discuss upcoming events, relay important information, and hear about what is going on in the school. It is also a great time to get to know the community!
- 2. Pledge financial support,** if you are able. This is what allows us to provide outstanding enrichment for our students and teachers.
- 3. Volunteer.** It truly takes a village, and our community relies on parents and caregivers to join in and make CK8 the most amazing school experience possible. There are plenty of weekly, monthly, and one-off volunteer opportunities, both on- and off-campus, with some during school hours and some outside of school hours. There really is something for everyone - we love to see our community's unique talents shine.

### Community Meetings

Community Meetings happen once per month (in 2023-24, usually the 3rd Thursday of the month). We ask that every family sends one adult to each meeting. Meetings are typically held in person in the Cafeteria at the school. Attendance is vital to foster and maintain a sense of community and commitment to our school.

Community meetings provide an opportunity for:

- Giving your personal input and hearing the thoughts of others
- Getting to know others in the school community
- Receiving updates from teachers & staff
- Voting on issues that build our community

If the meeting is on-campus, childcare is available for a suggested donation of \$7.00 per child.

Consensus of 80% agreement is used at our Community Meetings to reach decisions. A quorum (minimum families needed to vote) is achieved with 50 of our Community Members present.

## Ground Rules

- All beliefs are honored: We strive to create an environment where everyone may offer thoughts based on personal experience. We ask that you assume positive intent and also be mindful of your impact. Personal attacks will not be tolerated. Diversity is part of what makes our community great; all opinions are valued.
- Confidentiality: When issues are discussed, avoid using names, placing the focus on problem solving and on what may be learned from the situation.
- Timeliness : Everyone's time is valued, so we will adhere to the agenda while making space for all opinions to be shared.

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## Pledge

**Each family is asked to pledge \$50 per student, per month September 2023 - June 2024, for a total of \$500 per student per year.** If this amount is out of reach for your family, please indicate on your confidential pledge form what amount you are able to donate, even if it is zero. Some families are able to contribute the full amount or more, some families will contribute less, and some will be unable to contribute. All students are supported equally regardless of their family's contribution. [Complete the Pledge form now!](#)

CK8 offers a wide variety of enrichment for our students. Each spring, the CK8 Community discusses, votes, and approves a budget to finance the enrichment activities for our school. Part of the income we rely on is each family's pledge. Pledge helps fund camps, field trips, classroom grants, supplies, and much more, without asking families for many more contributions all year long. The pledge survey results will determine our projected pledge income, and the difference will be our fundraising goal.

Pledges may be paid online after completing the pledge form. You can also pay by check. Checks should be made out to Cascade K-8 PTSA, with 'pledge' and your kid's name(s) in the memo line. Pledge checks may be left in the Treasurer's Box located in the CK8 office, given to the Treasurer at Community Meetings or mailed to the school. Auto pay is also available - ACH transfers are at no cost to the PTSA so we get your full pledge! Contact [pledge@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:pledge@cascadek8ptsa.org) with any further questions.

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and your pledges are tax deductible (but please confirm with a tax professional). Some companies offer matching funds for pledges; please check with your workplace.

**If your family's circumstances change during the year, please contact the Pledge Coordinators to revise your pledge.** This information is critical to our financial planning. All conversations are confidential, known only to the Pledge Coordinators.

Also - check with your employer to find out if they match your contributions, whether it be monetary or time! Some companies will match your pledge amount and/or match your volunteer hours with a monetary amount. Contact [fundraising@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:fundraising@cascadek8ptsa.org) if you need guidance.

**Important info you may need:**

Cascade K-8 PTSA

2800 NE 200TH STREET

SHORELINE, WA 98155

**Tax ID: 91-1126090**

[treasurer@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:treasurer@cascadek8ptsa.org)

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## Volunteering

Each family agrees to participate in volunteer opportunities as they are able. Please note, WSP Background Checks are required for any work in classrooms or field trips, while a LiveScan (fingerprinting) is required for overnight activities (Fall and Spring Camps). There is a fee (approximately \$25 for fingerprinting and \$45 for processing) and scholarships are available.

Please complete our [volunteer survey](#) to let us know what opportunities might be right for you. The volunteer coordinators may contact you to help find jobs you may be interested in, or if you hear about an opportunity that interests you, contact them or the coordinator of the activity! We need so many volunteers to make all of our events happen and keep the school running, so every task you take on helps.

**Families sign up at CK8 with the understanding that it takes an average of 100 volunteer hours per family to facilitate the many activities we offer for our students.** Examples of ways to accumulate hours include attending Community Meetings, going on a field trip with your child's class, completing auction procurement, working at Fall Camp or Spring Camp, organizing any of the amazing events we hold, etc. Volunteer opportunities are available weekly, monthly and one-off, both on- and off-campus, with some during school hours and some outside of school hours. There really is something for everyone - we love to see our community's unique talents shine.

Any family member, relative, or friend may volunteer for CK8 Community School, with the completion of required paperwork. If your availability to volunteer changes, you should contact the Volunteer Coordinators, who will direct you to a volunteer opportunity that better fits your schedule, and help you secure a replacement. Contact [volunteer@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:volunteer@cascadek8ptsa.org).

Rather than participate in a community that checks up on its members with reminder calls and accountability statements, we have functioned successfully since 1974 as a community of parents who have confidence in each other and trust that we will all contribute to the goal of providing our students with a learning environment where

they can achieve academic success, develop a fundamental joy of learning, and become responsible community members.

## Volunteer Opportunities

You may be notified of a need by our Volunteer Coordinators or you may hear about a volunteer opportunity from a Community Meeting, your class liaison, the parent Band group, or in our PTSA newsletter, The Wolf Howl. Ask your class liaison and/or the Volunteer Coordinator for details to make sure it is a good fit.

If you see a need, or have an idea for something that could benefit students or staff, talk to the Volunteer Coordinator about creating a new volunteer position.

Hard to volunteer with toddlers and/or babies at home? Let your Liaison know that you can babysit when other parents need childcare in order to volunteer. Your availability will help your fellow parents keep their commitments! It's a win (you) – win (other parents) – win (school) situation!!

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## Volunteer Etiquette in the Classroom

Our Teachers and Staff NEED parent volunteers this year more than ever. Your time and commitment make a huge difference to our children's education. Our teachers feel supported by CK8 volunteers and your presence often allows teachers to use more dynamic and personalized teaching techniques. Below are a few suggestions for maximizing your contribution:

- **Show up 5 minutes early.** Your teacher may have instructions for that day's project
- **Sign in and wear your name tag.** It's a requirement and it is part of our school's safety plan. It also helps students and teachers interact with you. Name tags are located at the sign in table in the office.
- **Email your liaison and your teacher if you can't make a shift - AS SOON AS YOU KNOW.** Please try and arrange a substitute. Ask your liaison for ideas of people who might sub for you.
- **Last minute cancellation?** Call the office and ask that your message be sent to the classroom. Email the teacher, too.
- **Was the lesson plan difficult for you to implement?** Tell your teacher - they want to know.
- **Had a challenging student?** Let your teacher know. Ask for ideas of how to handle the situation in the future.
- **Tell the teacher your strengths.** Are you great at creating displays? Grading papers? Sorting? Do you have a PhD in physics? Are you an author? Your teacher may have just the job for you.
- **Be flexible.** Classrooms are fluid environments. Sometimes opportunities arise suddenly, and the math class you showed up for has turned into a sushi-making experience. Roll with it!

# Cascade K-8 PTSA

## PTSA General Membership

[Join the Cascade K-8 PTSA](#). It's \$10 per membership and helps us exert more influence at the regional, state, and national levels. Also, you can get some sweet discounts.

Cascade K-8 Community School's PTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is a member of the state PTA organization. The official title is "Cascade K-8 Parent Teacher Student Association, Shoreline Council, 6.12.53" or "CK8 PTSA" for short. CK8 PTSA is registered with the State of Washington as a non-profit corporation with tax-exempt status, allowing us to fundraise and to participate in the [Shoreline PTSA Council](#). All donations are tax deductible.

Collectively, families of CK8 Community School are referred to as the CK8 Community and can participate in CK8 Community School decisions. Within the CK8 Community, parents may choose to join the PTSA. Benefits of joining the PTSA include:

- Helps families stay informed about issues and events supported by PTSA.
- A portion of each membership supports CK8 PTSA, the Shoreline PTA Council, and our WA State PTSA. • Helps connect our CK8 Community to the larger district and state PTSA Communities.
- Membership qualifies adults to serve on the CK8 Representative Body (RepBod). This is comparable to a PTSA Board. Also, you'll get snacks.
- Many state and national discounts including rental cars, hotels, theme parks, cell phone services and more!

## RepBod

The Cascade K-8 Community School Representative Body "RepBod" serves as the PTSA Board of Directors for the family involvement component of our school. RepBod acts as a planning and management group. RepBod's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring the appropriate use of PTSA funds
- Coordinating and monitoring effective use of volunteer time, talents, and energy
- Communicating with both District and non-District organizations and agencies
- Carrying out agreements and contracts made on behalf of Cascade K-8 and in accordance with PTSA by-laws and standing rules
- Reviewing information for presentation to the parent community group
- Acting as a hearing board for community concerns
- Appointing committee coordinators

RepBod is charged with making recommendations on behalf of the students and families, including PTSA Budget, Fundraising, and the Calendar of Events. Most PTSA decisions, except those legally reserved to staff and administration, are arrived at through majority. Implementation of final decisions is often delegated to appropriate sub-groups or committees. On-site or district administrators make decisions regarding staffing (with input from the hiring committee), interpreting Board policy and legal issues, core curriculum requirements, use of District funds, and staff evaluation. The teaching staff makes decisions regarding curriculum, behavior plan, and schedule. All community members are welcome to attend RepBod meetings, but only RepBod members are able to vote.

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## RepBod Membership & Officers

RepBod consists of parents and school administrators. New officers assume their duties after the last Community meeting in June. Roles include:

Community Chair*	Chair
	Treasurer*
Vice-Community Chair*	Finance Committee Chair*
Secretary*	Fundraising Chair*
Communications Chair*	Volunteer Coordinator
Classroom liaisons (including Lead)	IT Chair
Legislative Liaison	Auction Chair
	Pledge Coordinator
Membership Coordinator	
Family & Community Engagement	

An asterisk (\*) designates RepBod Executive Officers. These positions are elected by a vote of the Community. All other Representative Body positions are appointed. Many of these positions, including the Chair and Vice-chair, are held by two parent co-officers who share the duties.

## RepBod meetings

The RepBod meets monthly to conduct business. These meetings are open to the community. Though everyone present can participate in discussion and recommendations, only RepBod members can vote.

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# Communication

Dependable and frequent communication is an important element at Cascade K-8 Community

School. **PTSA**

Community meetings Monthly (usually the 3rd Thursday of the month), attendance encouraged. RepBod meetings Monthly, attendance optional but informative.

CK8 PTSA website [www.cascadek8ptsa.org](http://www.cascadek8ptsa.org)

Create an account to access the private website. You can complete your pledge form and pay pledge, complete volunteer forms, read The Wolf Howl, tell us your dietary needs for camp, and much more!

BAND BAND is a tool for parents and caregivers to connect with each other about all things Cascade. BAND is where you can go for communication, events, important info, and to find the parents of your kiddo's new bestie that they are begging to have a playdate with. Download the BAND app for iOS or Android. Join the CK8 BAND here: <https://band.us/n/aeac6el4S2odX>

CK8 Directory Published in October, it includes family and staff contact information. Fill out the [Opt-in form](#) by September 30th.

The Wolf Howl A weekly e-newsletter with photos, upcoming events, links to teacher and liaison updates, and commonly requested resources.

Cascade Community News [news@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:news@cascadek8ptsa.org)  
Community listserv with time-sensitive announcements and reminders.

Liaison e-mails Classroom liaisons will reach out with class-specific needs and information.

Yearbook Purchased through TreeRing. You will receive an email from TreeRing to set up an account to be able to purchase or use this link:

<https://www.treering.com/purchase?PassCode=1012883018052096> Email [yearbook@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:yearbook@cascadek8ptsa.org) with questions.

## School

ParentSquare ParentSquare is a communication tool for the Shoreline Public School Community. Learn more about it and how to sign up here:

<https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/7979>

School Website <https://www.shorelineschools.org/cascade>

School District Calendar <https://www.shorelineschools.org/calendar>

Skyward Family Access An online tool for families to access school information. Families receive access at the start of the school year. For questions, call 206-393-4238.

School Messenger Recorded information sent by phone or Rebbecah's email. Reserved for emergencies and very important reminders.

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Shoreline Public Schools App Digital app from the District that contains calendars, news, notifications, bus routes, student info, etc. Download from app stores.

Teacher/staff email See the [School Website](#).

Teacher websites May include homework, curriculum, activity information, educational links, instructions, reminders and more.

"Kid mail" Flyers that are sent home with students by either the school or the PTSA. **Who to**

## Contact

<b>I have a question, concern, idea, curiosity... Communicate with:</b>
...question or concern about my child Your child's teacher

...need help, support or accommodations because of a family situation	The Family Advocate, the Dean of Students, or the Principal
...want to teach an elective.	Electives Coordinator <a href="mailto:electives@cascadek8ptsa.org">electives@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
...want to volunteer in my child's classroom. Your class liaisons	
...want to help with an existing special event.	Volunteer coordinator <a href="mailto:volunteer@cascadek8ptsa.org">volunteer@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
...idea for a K-8 program, event, activity, focus, goal or priority.	PTSA co-chairs <a href="mailto:cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org">cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
...question about what is being taught in my child's class. Your child's teacher ...need information about Market Day/Spring Camp/Art Fest/other events.	Your class liaisons
...when I bring snack for my child's class. Your class liaisons ...question or concern about a district policy or requirement. Principal or Dean of Students ...suggestion or question about parent group meetings, committees, or leadership roles	PTSA Co-chairs <a href="mailto:cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org">cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
...let the school know that my child will be absent or tardy.	The Office Manager or attendance line <a href="mailto:ck8.attendance@ssd412.org">ck8.attendance@ssd412.org</a>
...question or concern about a teacher's decision or something I observed at school. Community School PTSA budget or budget policy.	Your child's teacher and/or the Principal PTSA Treasurers <a href="mailto:treasurer@cascadek8ptsa.org">treasurer@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
...a great idea for a fundraiser.	Fundraising Chair <a href="mailto:fundraising@cascadek8ptsa.org">fundraising@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
...I'm a new parent, and I just don't know who to ask!	New Family Liaison <a href="mailto:newfamily@cascadek8ptsa.org">newfamily@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>

## Fiscal Planning

Cascade K-8 Community School is supported by funds from three main sources:

- Shoreline School District per pupil allocation, as with all Shoreline schools
- Family pledges to PTSA
- Fundraising, grants, and donations

## **How funds are used**

The District allocation is budgeted by the Cascade K-8 Administrator and is used primarily for school supplies, curriculum materials, and technology supplies. The remaining funds come from the PTSA. PTSA funding covers the many activities that are an integral part of our school, including field trips, special projects, Camps, and thematic learning experiences. PTSA funds are at times used to purchase equipment and supplies to supplement what can be provided by the District per pupil allocation.

## **PTSA Budget Process**

An Annual PTSA Budget is prepared by the PTSA Finance Committee and is presented for review and discussion at a RepBod meeting. At this time input is taken, and the budget is revised. The budget is approved at the following Community Meeting. The budget reflects the priorities of the parents and teachers and acts as a planning guide for RepBod. The Annual PTSA Budget is typically brought to the Community for the following year in April or May and then again in October. This is to adjust for any changes in the District allocation that may have occurred in August when the School Board approved its budget, account for updated costs from vendors (such as transportation and camps), and align with any changes in school staffing.

Each month a budget report is prepared and is reviewed by RepBod. Copies of the budget are available by request from the Treasurer.

## **Pledges**

Pledge payments constitute the majority of our PTSA funds. [Complete your pledge form now!](#)

## **Fundraising**

Fundraising activities bridge the gap between expected expenses and the amount that our families are able to pledge. Each family is encouraged to participate in fundraising activities.

## **Reimbursement for Parent Expenditures**

Before spending any money for which you wish to be reimbursed, you must get authorization from the person who is responsible for that budget line item. You must identify the budget line item of your expenditure, attach receipts, and provide explanatory comments, as appropriate.

Receipts must be turned into the Treasurer within 30 days of the expenditure. \*If you've made a purchase for which you do not require reimbursement, please fill out the form and check the box at the top for "donation".\* This allows us to more accurately track the true cost of our activities...and, thank you.

[Cascade K-8 Reimbursement Form](#)

## PTSA Executive Officers (Elected)

Position	Name
Co-Chairs	Christina Arcidy & Cara Hutchison <a href="mailto:cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org">cochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Vice Co-Chairs	Roxy Meek & Sarah Piccari <a href="mailto:vicecochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org">vicecochairs@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Secretary	Amber Struckman & Bette Wolf <a href="mailto:secretary@cascadek8ptsa.org">secretary@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Treasurer	Eusebio Garcia <a href="mailto:treasurer@cascadek8ptsa.org">treasurer@cascadek8ptsa.org</a> Brandon Halverson <a href="mailto:cotreasurer@cascadek8ptsa.org">cotreasurer@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Finance Committee Chair	Richard Golob & Jennifer Dennis <a href="mailto:finance@cascadek8ptsa.org">finance@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Fundraising Committee Chair	Andrew Kawahara <a href="mailto:fundraising@cascadek8ptsa.org">fundraising@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>

Communications Chair Julie Goldenberg-Hay & Open Position  
[communications@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:communications@cascadek8ptsa.org)

## RepBod Officers (Appointed)

Position	Name
Volunteer Coordinator	Amity Kramer & Hanae Bettencourt <a href="mailto:volunteer@cascadek8ptsa.org">volunteer@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Auction Chair	Regina McGinnis & Corinna Sullivan <a href="mailto:auction@cascadek8ptsa.org">auction@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Tours/Registration Support	Hanae Bettencourt & Amity Kramer <a href="mailto:info@cascadek8ptsa.org">info@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
New Family Liaison	Julia Cox <a href="mailto:newfamily@cascadek8ptsa.org">newfamily@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Classroom Liaison Leads	Bryanne Hains & Noell Bernard Kingsley <a href="mailto:liaisonlead@cascadek8ptsa.org">liaisonlead@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Wolf Howl Weekly Coordinator	Julie Goldenberg-Hay & Open Position <a href="mailto:wolfhowl@cascadek8ptsa.org">wolfhowl@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>

Pledge Coordinators Heidi Loewen & Jen Belcourt [pledge@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:pledge@cascadek8ptsa.org) IT Chairs Paul

Sisk [itchair@cascadek8ptsa.org](mailto:itchair@cascadek8ptsa.org)

## Classroom Liaisons (Appointed)

Position	Name
Classroom Liaison Leads	Bryanne Hains & Noell Bernard Kingsley <a href="mailto:liaisonlead@cascadek8ptsa.org">liaisonlead@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Kindergarten Liaison	Renee Garcia <a href="mailto:k.1.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org">k.1.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
1st Grade Liaison	Sarah Forrest <a href="mailto:k.1.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org">k.1.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
2nd Grade Liaison	Bryanne Hains <a href="mailto:2.3.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org">2.3.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
3rd Grade Liaison	Lorraine Flaherty <a href="mailto:2.3.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org">2.3.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
4th Grade Liaison	Olivia Hu <a href="mailto:4.5.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org">4.5.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
5th Grade Liaison	Noell Bernard Kingsley <a href="mailto:4.5.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org">4.5.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Journey (6, 7, 8) Liaisons	Sam Scherer <a href="mailto:journey.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org">journey.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org</a> Bonnie Stieber <a href="mailto:journey.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org">journey.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org</a> Emily & Be Cameron <a href="mailto:journey.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org">journey.liaisons@cascadek8ptsa.org</a>
Art & Tech Liaison	To be filled
Library Liaison	To be filled
P.E. Liaison	Lauren Bakken <a href="mailto:laurenkoslowsky@yahoo.com">laurenkoslowsky@yahoo.com</a>
LAP and Resource Liaison	To be filled

Office Liaison To be filled

## Appendix B: Cascade K-8 School Glossary

A work-in-progress defining many commonly-used terms community members may hear once the school year gets underway.

### **Academy Style Learning**

Students have homeroom teachers but also change classrooms (and teachers) for their core academic classes.

### **ArtsFest**

Families are invited to the school to view art, hear the band and watch any other student performances that have been put together. This is a wonderful community time with the chance for kids and parents to visit with each other and celebrate the artistic accomplishments of our students. The spring edition is paired with the Bite of Cascade (see below).

### **ASB (Associated Student Body)**

A student group of elected officers and representatives that meets regularly with a staff advisor to work on (in part) fundraising, student activities, [TSA](#) (Technology Student Association), assemblies and school spirit activities under the approval, direction of the School District.

### **Back To School Picnic**

This event occurs prior to the school year. Staff is introduced and some info about forms and upcoming events is shared. Student back-to-school packets will be handed out, containing forms for the school year. There will be an opportunity to fill out forms there as well.

### **BAND**

BAND is a tool for families to connect with each other about all things Cascade. BAND offers a one-stop-shop for communication, events, important info, and to find the parents of your kiddo's new bestie that they are

begging to have a playdate with. Download the BAND app for iOS or Android. Join the CK8 BAND here: <https://band.us/n/aeac6el4S2odX>.

### **Bite of Cascade**

At the spring ArtsFest (see above), we add a food component to the event! Parent volunteers contribute small "individual bites" of different yummy foods for other parents, relatives and staff to sample. Tickets are sold for the "bites."

### **CK8**

CK8 is the acronym for the school's name – Cascade K-8 Community School.

### **Circle Up**

This is a practice used to take attendance and to gather together for information, celebration, and community building. It happens in the classroom, on field trips, and at camp.

### **Clusters**

K/1, 2-3,4-5, and Journey are the grade clusters and they are often grouped together and do activities together, like field trips.

### **Community Meetings**

Typically, the third Thursday of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm at the school. This is a time for the sharing of important information. There is sometimes a presentation from teachers or the principal Rebbecah regarding classroom happenings and upcoming events. Childcare is available.

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### **Electives**

2-3 times a year, parents take over education during part of a school day and offer elective classes that students select to take. Curriculum varies by the parents' expertise (i.e. yoga, outdoor games, drama, photography, orienteering, etc.). Classes run for either one hour or two hours. In order to have electives as part of the program, we need parents to take the lead.

### **Fall Camp**

This is an overnight trip for the whole school, often in the 3rd week of September. Students are expected to attend this two day, one night camp (three days, two nights for Journey students). Students attend classes (i.e. nature class, writing, hiking, science, math, art, etc.). Parent participation is needed. Younger siblings who are not attending school are welcome and will attend sibling care, which is offered by other Cascade parents, while you are doing your assigned jobs! Parents who want to spend the night must be fingerprinted and background checked. Camp is paid for by pledge and proceeds of other fundraising efforts, like the auction.

### **Journey**

Cascade's middle-school program for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

### **Liaisons**

Liaisons are like Room Parents but MORE! Each classroom will have a liaison available to answer questions about events, processes and procedures, help organize snacks, paperwork, and field trip forms. Liaisons also help to communicate information to and from classroom teachers and, in general, can help point you in the direction you need to go if you have questions, concerns, and/or compliments!

### **Market Day**

Market Day is a chance for kids to participate in a Token Based Economy (no real money is used) two or three times per school year. Prior to selling and buying, students must make a Market Day business proposal to sell

something they have created themselves or have at home (books, toys, etc.) If their proposal is approved, students get a 'business license' and may rent a table to sell their wares or services. On the "big day" the students bring their "wares" to school and offer them for sale. Students are given an amount of Token Money at the beginning of the year to get them started. Parents/Guardians are invited and encouraged to attend. All parents in attendance are also given Token Money in order to help keep the economy thriving.

### **Novice/Apprentice/Practitioner/Scholar**

A method of student and teacher assessment that defines the progress a student is making towards an academic or personal growth area or skill. They correlate with the 1, 2, 3, and 4 used in the standard report cards. These terms are more fully defined in the student handbook.

### **PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association)**

The official title: Cascade K-8 Community School PTSA body as it exists within the greater Washington State PTA.

### **Reflections**

A program sponsored by Washington State PTA for students to create personal art entries based on a yearly theme designated by WA State PTA. The entries are judged against other same-aged-student entries across the district, region and even the State Level. Many different mediums are available for student expression including drawing, painting, sculpting, song writing, etc. All CK8 Community School students are given the chance to participate in making an art piece regardless of whether-or-not they want to submit their piece for judging. All students are encouraged to participate in the process for the purpose of enjoying art. The competition is a secondary component.

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### **RepBod (Representative Body)**

Parents/Guardians from the Community who have been elected or appointed to represent our larger community for the purpose of managing large activities, dealing with the "nitty gritty" of fundraising, budget balancing, etc. and keeping our very active community organized in a positive and productive way.

### **RepBod Meeting**

If you would like to see how the "nitty gritty" things are run, you are always welcome to attend the business meetings, usually on one Thursday of each month, from 7-9pm at the school or on Zoom. Your input on topics discussed is welcome, however, only board members are eligible to vote.

### **Snack**

Each K-3 parent signs up to provide 2-3 weeks of snacks for his or her child's classroom. Parents do not have to provide their child with snacks on any other (in school) day. More info will come from your class liaison.

### **Spring Camp**

Similar to Fall Camp but bigger and longer and SO AWESOME!! There are 3 Spring Camps: K-5 Camp, 6-7 Camp, and 8th Grade Camp. Parent volunteers run the K-5 Camp, and will need to be fingerprinted to stay overnight. The other two camps are provided by other organizations. Volunteers typically attend 6-7 Camp, while no parents attend 8th Grade Camp. Camp is paid for by pledge and proceeds of other fundraising efforts, like the auction.

### **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)**

The STEAM Program at Cascade K-8 helps our 6th – 8th grade students gain the skills required to succeed in today's evolving world. Our DesignMaker Course includes the ability to think critically, solve complex problems, and drive advancements in science, math, arts and technology through hands-on projects with practical

applications. We will prepare students for success in the 21st century by facilitating high-level learning. Designing solutions to real problems and testing them will create excitement about learning, particularly in crucial STEM-related fields. In conjunction with STEAM, the Journey Program will continue to use District-wide curricula and learn other subjects.

#### **TSA (Technology Student Association)**

TSA is an ASB club for 6th-8th graders that meets after school approximately two times per week. TSA members apply STEAM concepts through co-curricular programs. TSA develops leadership and opportunities in technology, innovation, design, and engineering. There are several competitions each year: regional, state, and nationals. TSA typically does several fundraisers for students whose projects qualify for these competitions, as the current PTSA budget has not covered their participation in these activities.