Choosing a School for Your Child

Choosing a school for your child, especially when there are so many options, can feel like a daunting task. It’s an important decision and it merits careful consideration. One of the best ways to learn about the individual programs, and whether they would be a “good fit” for your child, is to visit a variety of schools before selecting your final choices. As you explore your options we recommend that you consider which schools will be the best match for your student’s unique personality, interests and needs.

As you visit schools, you’ll want to ask questions about the academic achievement plan, school philosophy, and extra-curricular activities. By talking with principals, teachers and parents at each site, you’ll learn about the school climate and how you can be involved as a partner to ensure your child’s academic success and well-being. While test scores and other data are important considerations, there are many other factors to take into account.

At every school in the Central Cluster you’ll find staff and students focused on a clear academic achievement plan, working towards the same high academic standards that are expected at every Seattle Public School. At the same time, each school has a unique approach to learning – one that is designed to work best for its student community. This guide highlights the special features at each site and includes the mission statement, an overview of the academic achievement plan, and other key elements.

We hope you’ll find this information useful as a starting point in your exploration. We encourage you to take advantage of the tours offered by each school. They will give you a sense of which programs will best meet the needs of your child.

For additional information about school programs, you are welcome to call the school or visit us at www.seattleschools.org. For information on student enrollment and assignment, visit the Web site, call the Enrollment Services Information Line at (206) 252-0410, or visit an Enrollment Service Center.

Martin Luther King Elementary is a School on the Rise.

The newly assembled team at Martin Luther King (MLK), infused by the vision and energy of Principal Barry Dorsey, has brought clear focus and new vitality to students and their families. The Martin Luther King team is committed to measurable student success and teacher/student accountability within a safe and nurturing learning environment.

New instructional approaches implemented in the past year have led to improvements for students, as reflected in higher test scores and other student evaluations. Within the first 15 months of Principal Dorsey’s leadership, Martin Luther King’s faculty, together with two full-time Treehouse literacy tutors, has introduced new literacy strategies and continued successful programs such as “Proficiency in English” and “Reading is Fundamental.” The results are impressive. According to the Direct Reading Assessment, first graders scored nine points higher than the District average in the Spring of 2002. In addition, MLK’s

…continued page 2
emphasizing the early learner program is recognized through full-time staffing of instructional assistants in kindergarten and first-grade classrooms.

The team at MLK assesses students’ reading and math skills three times per year as part of the collaboration between students and teachers towards academic achievement for every child. Results from these assessments are used by teachers and staff to modify curriculum and instruction, as necessary, to achieve the goal of leading each student to a minimum of one grade level of academic progress per year.

With an intimate community of 215 children, class size averages out at a learning-conducive 16 students per classroom. The small class size affords teachers the opportunity to personally understand each individual student’s likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses; and to recognize the differences that make each student unique.

The family-like culture at MLK offers many opportunities for student recognition. MLK acknowledges student successes through various programs including the Self-Manager program, Star Ticket program and a variety of opportunities that promote a positive learning environment.

The staff team, including a full-time counselor, a full-time family support worker, and a part-time nurse, ensure that Martin Luther King students are cared for and nurtured beyond the scope of academic studies. Community partners such as Seattle Central Community College, University of Washington, Learning for Life, the Bon Marche, Garfield Honor Society, Invest in Youth Garfield, and neighboring Lakeside and Bush Schools, nurture academic achievement, educational opportunity and holistic well-being for every child.

To actualize his vision for the future of Martin Luther King, Principal Dorsey has created a plan to rejuvenate the look of the school. This year he initiated a school-wide gardening project culminating with every student participating in a planting project this spring. MLK will also have a newly painted school yard, and a reader board that will communicate changes, events and successes at the school.

Principal Dorsey and the devoted staff at Martin Luther King are working diligently to create an environment where every child will achieve academically. By implementing new academic programs, creating a family-like culture, and renovating the look of the school, the staff is creating a place where students from every background want to learn; want to achieve; and want to be. Martin Luther King is a school on the rise, and its students will be the shooting stars of tomorrow.

ON THE ROAD TO TRANSFORMATION . . .

Progress made in the Seattle’s Central Cluster Elementary Schools

Seattle Public Schools has adopted a transformation plan with the goal to ensure that each and every student will be equipped with the social and academic skills necessary to take advantage of the many opportunities that lie ahead.

Over the past few years, each of the Central Cluster schools has embraced this idea by creating school-based:

- Mission/Vision Statements
- Academic Achievement Plans that are reviewed and revised annually; and
- Computer Technology integration plans that will ensure students learn by using the latest tools and technology.

Below you’ll find highlights of how each Central Cluster school is changing to ensure academic achievement for every student. You can learn more about each school by visiting www.seattleschools.org. Click on “Schools.”

### BAILEY GATZERT
1301 East Yesler Way, 98122
(206) 252-2810

Principal: Jean Anthony

The staff at Gatzert aims to create an empowered learning community that provides academic excellence and recognizes the uniqueness of every student and their family by offering . . .

- Full-day kindergarten
- An Academic Achievement Plan that includes:
  - A modified school calendar to offer an additional eight weeks of learning opportunities for students
  - Uninterrupted Reading Blocks for 90 minutes each day
  - An “Inquiry-Based” Science program which aims to enhance writing skills
  - A Community Learning Center that serves students, adults and the community, featuring:
    - More than 200 volunteers per week; and
    - After-school homework time and enrichment classes
- Adult courses in ESL, Citizenship, and Literature
- Family literacy programs and parenting
- One computer for every five students, and a computer lab
- Community events such as free dinner nights for Gatzert families on Friday nights

To learn more about GATZERT ELEMENTARY you are invited to schedule a SCHOOL TOUR by calling (206) 252-2810.
Central Cluster Courier

DELIVERING ON THE DREAM
Academic Achievement for Every Student in Every School

MARTIN LUTHER KING
3201 East Republican, 98112
(206) 252-2900

Principal: Barry Dorsey

M.L. King (MLK) is committed to student success, responsibility, accountability, and closing the learning gap among students in a safe, secure and nurturing learning environment.

The staff at MLK is helping every student achieve their highest potential through:

- Full-day kindergarten
- An Academic Achievement Plan that includes:
  - A variety of enhanced reading programs -- Proficiency in English Program (PEP), Reading is Fundamental (RIF), and a Literacy Initiative
  - Hands-on-science -- A National Science Foundation program
- An involved and caring parent group and community:
  - Volunteers donated more than 4,000 hours to MLK last year
  - Active Site Council and PTSA that support school-wide activities and fund raising
- Integrated computer technology for story webs, PowerPoint presentations and research
- A unique set of student enhancement programs such as chess club, dance, after-school tutoring and physical activity, Artist-in-Residence and an annual oratorical contest

To learn more about MLK ELEMENTARY you are invited to schedule a SCHOOL TOUR by calling (206) 252-2900.

T.T. MINOR
1700 East Union Street, 98122
Phone: (206) 252-3230

Principal: Gloria Mitchell

The staff at T.T. Minor is engaged in a unique public/private educational partnership. T.T. Minor is committed to a longer school day and a longer school year with the goal of better meeting the needs of its diverse student population.

T.T. Minor is also working with a grant through its Office of Public Instruction to support its program development.

The staff at T.T. Minor is meeting students’ needs through:

- Four full-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes
- An Academic Achievement Plan that includes:
  - Structured reading blocks for 90 minutes a day
  - Hands-on-science curriculum -- a National Science Foundation program
  - TERC, a problem-solving mathematics curriculum
  - Instructional assistants who support family reading and individual tutoring
  - A volunteer facilitator who helps volunteers align their efforts and skills with the goals of the academic achievement plan
  - A Family Support Worker who works with families to ensure students are ready to learn
- A computing center with a full set of computers
- Computers in every classroom
- Technology and computers that are connected directly to writing and multimedia projects
- A variety of student enrichment activities such as:
  - School marching band for grades three to five
  - Chess club for pre K – fifth grade
  - Jump rope club
  - Widely acclaimed student choir which performs throughout the community

To learn more about T.T. Minor ELEMENTARY you are invited to schedule a SCHOOL TOUR by calling (206) 252-3230.

LESCHI
135 32nd Avenue, 98122
Phone: (206) 252-2950

Principal: Jo Lute-Ervin

The staff of Leschi has embarked on a mission to collaborate with students’ family as they strive to equip each child with the academic and social skills required for a successful and responsible life. This goal is promoted within a culturally sensitive educational environment.

The staff accomplishes their mission through . . .

- Full-day kindergarten
- An Academic Achievement Plan that includes:
  - MESA Math and Science program
  - Hands-on-science -- A National Science Foundation program
  - A “Choice Program” which allows students to select art, science, literature or multimedia enrichment classes two days a week
  - Instructional assistants in the classroom and tutors assisting students
- Committed parents and community groups:
  - Fundraisers to align our technology
  - Assemblies
- A variety of student enrichment and involvement activities:
  - Instrumental music tutoring
  - Production of a short circuit television program each morning
  - A choir that performs for state, city and international audiences

To learn more about LESCHI ELEMENTARY you are invited to schedule a SCHOOL TOUR by calling (206) 252-2950.
Central Cluster Courier

DELIVERING ON THE DREAM
Academic Achievement for Every Student in Every School

MADRONA
1121 33rd Avenue, 98122
Phone: (206) 252-3100
Principal: Rickie Malone

Our school’s motto is: “One Community, One World—Learning and Growing Together.” Madrona School is located in an established and revitalized multiethnic “urban village,” enhanced by extensive support from our community. Within walking distance of the school are churches, a health facility, public library, markets, shopping, art galleries, fine restaurants and Pacific Oakes College.

The staff at Madrona fully participates in this motto through:

• A K-8 program with two full-day kindergarten classes
• An Academic Achievement Plan that includes:
  − An Early Childhood Model for developmentally appropriate instruction
  − Uninterrupted reading blocks for 90 minutes each day
• The use of student portfolios
• Engaging parents and the community:
  − Volunteer tutors every Friday
  − Active arts guild
  − Grandparents day
  − A newly constructed, state-of-the-art school building with fully networked classrooms.
• Computer technology is focused on improving research skills, word processing, typing skills, data-graphing and information presentation
• A variety of student enrichment activities:
  − An emphasis on the fine arts including student music, drama and art
  − Skills-based physical education program
  − Soul food night
  − Madrona gospel choir
  − Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

To learn more about MADRONA K-8 you are invited to schedule a SCHOOL TOUR by calling (206) 252-3100.

THURGOOD MARSHALL
2401 South Irving Street, 98144
Phone: (206) 252-2800
Principal: Ben Wright

Thurgood Marshall is preparing youth to be critical thinking leaders of the 21st century. Thus, Thurgood Marshall is a world-class, child-centered, comprehensive, individualized learning center.

The staff at Thurgood Marshall provides essential educational, social, and emotional development for all students utilizing comprehensive teaching methods and technology that engages students through:

• Five full-day academies (Primary, Intermediate, Senior, International and PEACE academies) that help foster a child-centered learning environment
• Uniforms worn by all students
• An Academic Achievement Plan that:
  − Functions on a modified (year round) school calendar to aid in students’ retention of learned materials
  − Separates students in grades one through five based on gender, resulting in increased test scores
  − Uses individual test scores to place students in reading, writing and math
  − Provides a comprehensive individualized learning center to implement their basic skills program and small groups for instruction and learning
• Tremendous parent and community involvement that includes:
  − A Building Leadership Team comprised of parents, teachers, the principal and community members
• Computer Science:
  − Every classroom has five to six computers directly wired to the Internet for independent learning within the classroom
  − Computer lab is used to create projects, independent learning, math, reading and language
• Student enrichment activities:
  − Music, arts and crafts
  − Swimming and tennis
  − Team Read: High School students as reading tutors two days a week

To learn more about MARSHALL ELEMENTARY you are invited to schedule an ORIENTATION by calling (206) 252-2800.

MCGILVRA
1617 38th Avenue East, 98112
Phone: (206) 252-3160
Principal: Jo Shapiro

McGilvra’s mission is to engage students in a challenging curriculum, enhanced by small class sizes, and multi-arts experiences, and to build a strong academic foundation for future success. McGilvra students shall thrive in a safe environment that promotes academic achievement, develops problem-solving skills, and fosters a sense of respect and appreciation for oneself and others.

The staff at McGilvra encourages this mission through:

• Full-day kindergarten
• An Academic Achievement Plan that includes:
  − Science Inquiry program
  − Learning Assistance Program (LAP) for reading and math
McGilvra continued…

• Tremendous parent and community involvement that includes:
  − A Building Leadership Team comprised of parents, teachers and administration
  − An active PTA which helps organize and fund enrichment activities and reduced class size
  − An i-MAC computer lab with a full-time certified computer teacher

• A variety of student enrichment activities:
  − Certified poetry/writing teacher, Chess club, music specialist
  − Instrumental music available to students in grades four and five

To learn more about McGILVRA ELEMENTARY you are invited to schedule a SCHOOL TOUR by calling (206) 252-3160.

MONTLAKE
2409 22nd Avenue East, 98112
Phone: (206) 252-3300
Principal: Claudia Allan

VISION: Montlake School community is an innovative leader in creating a safe, inclusive, and high performing environment where diversity and creativity are honored and fostered. Students are prepared to live, learn, and work successfully in a digital communication age. Students must leave our school ready to be successful. We hold ourselves accountable and in the service of our high ideals. Our motto is: be a reader, be writer, be a problem solver.

The staff at Montlake achieves this mission through:
• Full-day kindergarten for all students
• An Academic Achievement Plan that includes:
  − Multi-age core (homeroom) classes
  − Basic skills classes of approximately 20 students grouped by grade level
  − Inquiry-based science and math program
  − Challenge projects for every student applying technology and research skills

To learn more about MONTLAKE ELEMENTARY you are invited to schedule a SCHOOL TOUR by calling (206) 252-3300 to register.

STEVENS
1242 18th Avenue East, 98112
Phone: (206) 252-3400
Principal: Larry Bell

At Stevens, we work to create an environment that challenges each child to reach his or her potential by encouraging academic excellence, embracing diversity, and teaching social responsibility. Stevens is a learning community where students, teachers, parents, and community members teach, learn and practice freedom, respect, honesty, caring, and responsibility.

The Stevens staff achieves this through:
• Full-day kindergarten
• An Academic Achievement Plan that includes:
  − An emphasis on the writing process and the six writing traits
  − Literature circles, discussion, decoding skills of phonics and whole language; reading buddies and peer tutors
  − TERC - an open ended multi-step problem solving math curriculum
  − Academic team meetings

To learn more about STEVENS ELEMENTARY you are invited to visit our Website or schedule an ORIENTATION or SCHOOL TOUR by calling (206) 252-3400.

Please join us
Thursday, March 20, from 7–9 p.m.
University of Washington
Professor Ed Taylor leads a dialogue around
“Attacking the Achievement Gap – Part II”
TOPS Gymnasium
2500 Franklin Ave. E., Seattle
Childcare will be provided