



Steele Elementary School

Denver Public Schools

Steele Elementary Orientation

Welcome to Steele! 2017/2018 School Year Orientation

Purpose for today:

- To continue to build our community by welcoming new families
- To Learn about the “day in a life” of a Steele student
- To understand some of the challenges of elementary school and how we can support our students as a team



So, if anyone feels like this



After tonight you will feel like this....



Video

<http://steele.dpsk12.org/articles-and-videos/>



Ice Breaker

- 4 corners activity
- If you had to choose one place to live for the rest of your life (all of your needs would be met in basically the same way), where would you choose to go?
 1. A Mountain town
 2. A tropical island
 3. A bustling city
 4. A small town



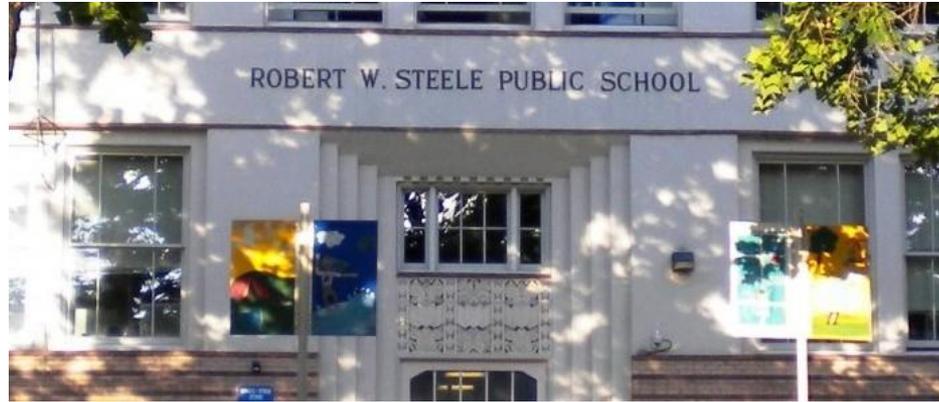
Now that you're together

- Introduce yourselves
- What has brought you to Denver (native, job, skiing)?
- What are you most excited about for next year?
- What are some of your biggest fears for next year?



A little bit about our school

320 South Marion Parkway
Main Office: 720-424-3720
Attendance Line: 720-424-3725



Our Mission:

Steele's mission is to provide children with the skills, knowledge, and values necessary to become productive citizens in a dynamic and diverse society. We seek high academic achievement by providing a challenging environment and by fostering cooperation between students. Steele offers four different electives and two educators in every classroom.

The Steele Code

At Steele, we do the right thing.
We respect ourselves, each other, our school and our community.
We treat everyone with kindness, compassion and a forgiving spirit.
We have the courage to take risks and learn from our mistakes.
We are responsible for our actions, our words and our learning.
We tell the truth even when it is difficult.
We do the right thing even when no one is watching.



We are here to help!

- Cindy Kapeller—Principal
- Andrea Dite--Nurse
- Paula Lougheed—Office Assistant
- Melissa Nawrocki—Office Assistant
- Christy Rimkus—Health aide
- The School Phone Number is 720-424-3720



Quick introductions

- Cindy Kapeller—Principal
- Christy Feller—Kindergarten teacher
- Emily Joy Walker—Kindergarten teacher
- Betsy Maletz—Kindergarten teacher
- Sarah Chapman—PTA president



Registration Dates *(Separate from the Choice process)*

Option 1: Online at your Parent Portal Account, 7/20/2017-8/11/2017

You can sign up for a Parent Portal account at the DPS website:

<https://myportal.dpsk12.org/Pages/Default.aspx>

You will need your child's student ID number. **This is the fastest and easiest way to complete registration.** Please call the school if you do not know your student's ID number. 720-424-3720

Option 2: In Person at School, Steele Cafeteria

- August 8th, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM
- August 10th, 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM
- August 15th, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
- August 16th, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM
- August 17th, 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM

***Closed for lunch each day from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM**



Kindergarten rocks...and is way different than when we were kids!!

- **Good Attendance is important:**
 - vital learning happens everyday
 - Get into good habits
 - The first day, week(s) may be hard, this is okay
- **Homework: We do not want our kindergartners spending a lot of time on homework. We do ask that you read with them for 20 minutes every night.**
 - If a student is struggling academically we may send home work to help them succeed



Other logistical items

- Field trips!
- Bathroom—
 - In the beginning of the year we do group bathroom breaks,
 - If there is an emergency we walk them to the bathroom
 - Provide a change of clothes



Steele Traditions!

- Popsicle Social
- Parent's Coffee first day
- Halloween Parade
- Turkey Trot
- Art Show
- Steele Stallion "Respector" Award
- Steele Stallion at end of the year



General Information: See FAQ's for more details!

Where to drop off your child? *Marion Parkway or bring your child into his/her classroom. Drop-off is 8:10 am...and try to be on time!*

School attendance process for tardies and absences

- Pick up pink slip and tell Melissa or Paula your name
- Call or leave a message by 8:30 am day of event please
- Contact the School Attendance Line: : **720-424-3725**

Before and after school care: *Discovery Link provides both before and after school care.*

- Before school care is available starting at 6:30 AM. After school until 6:00 PM.
- Check with DPS for availability, <http://discoverylink.dpsk12.org/> – this fills up

Meals? *Here at Steele we provide a healthful locally sourced (whenever possible) food option for both breakfast and lunch.*

Breakfast is served from 7:50 in the morning and is free for all children

For Lunch there are two options available:

- 1) Your child is always welcome to bring his or her own lunch
- 2) A prepared option is also available to add money see www.myschoolbucks.com or see FAQ's for school lunch program



Getting to the school

- Buses are available! For Eligibility:
 - You must live more than one mile from the school
 - Steele must be your “home” school
 - For more on busses, contact the DPS transportation organization: 720-423-4600



Next year you may feel like this....



But if this is your first kindergartner it may look like this...



The challenge of being a parent

“Kevin, you have to remember that parenting is a process of letting go.” Alan Schroeder



First day things to know about: Classroom

- Drop-offs can be hard! The kids handle it better than you might think, so trust that they will be O.K. after drop-off. We will be monitoring your child closely and will call if there are ever any major challenges.
- Your teacher will pick your child up outside at their designated pick-up spot.
- Immediately following drop-off on the first day, a Parent Coffee will take place on the playground.
- If you are concerned about your child's ability to navigate throughout the school, we have it covered!
- Kindergarten, elementary school in general, has become more rigorous over the years.
- They will be very tired during the first week of school
Kids will have a tour of the school on the first day and learn to find their way around.



Some things to know about the first week of school

- There is a good chance your kindergartner will be very tired!
- Teachers will build community while starting academics in their classes
- They may or may not eat all of their lunch. This is normal.



How to help your child get ready for school this summer

- Spend a lot of time with them!
- Have them interact in social situations

- Play dates

There was a yellow sheet when you checked in today; if you provided your information you will be contacted about dates and times via e-mail

- Team events

- Get used to interacting with other kids

- Make reading a fun part of your life together

Popsicle Social! There is also a popsicle social with the staff the Friday before school starts



Getting Involved

The Steele community is actively engaged in providing the best possible experience for our children. We highly encourage you to get involved! Some great opportunities to participate in the school include:

- The PTA—you will hear more about this in a minute!
 - For more information on how to get involved in the PTA, send an email to: steelevp1@gmail.com
 - Or come to a meeting! PTA meetings typically take place on the first Tuesday of every month, check calendar for when the next PTA meeting takes place
- Participate in your child's academic and social growth by:
 - Reaching out to his or her teacher for volunteer opportunities in the classroom
- Stay on top of communications and participate in community building activities



Steele PTA--Fundraising

- Our PTA has raised over \$200,000 the last two school years. This enables us to have a 2nd educator in every classroom and enhance the resources that our students have.
- We have three main fundraisers:
 - The Stallion Fund
 - The Fall Party/Auction
 - The Wash Park Home Tour
- In all of our fundraisers we combine raising money with building community. These are community events where lots of people pitch in and everyone has fun!!



Steele PTA--Community Building

- The PTA works in conjunction with the Steele staff to ensure that Steele Elementary is a place where everyone is welcome and everyone has a voice
- The Steele PTA donates approximately \$10,000 a year to charitable causes; 10% of the Home Tour proceeds go to DPS Homeless families
- The PTA has started a new enrichment program that will allow students to learn the value of service work
- There are many fun activities that the PTA sponsors that help us get to know one another; a few are:
 - The Popsicle Social
 - First Day Coffee
 - The Steele Carnival



Steele PTA—School Communication

- 1) Steele Stallion Press: Our weekly e-newsletter about school-wide events and activities. Sign up on the Steele website.
- 2) Steele Website: <http://steele.dpsk12.org/> A comprehensive guide to everything Steele.
 - Calendar of Events
 - After School Activities
 - FAQs
 - How to Get Involved
 - And Much More!
- 3) Facebook: Public Pages [facebook.com/SteeleElementaryPTA/](https://www.facebook.com/SteeleElementaryPTA/) and [facebook.com/WashParkHomeTour/](https://www.facebook.com/WashParkHomeTour/).

We also have a Steele Elementary Private Group for Steele parents/legal guardians and staff to ask questions and post notices of interest to the Steele community. Permission is necessary to join.



Steele PTA – Room Parents

Two or more parents in each classroom help their child's teacher with tasks that could include organizing classroom parties, updating the classroom website and sending out a monthly email with classroom news to families. They can also be a resource for other classroom families to learn more about the PTA and ways you can get involved. Be sure to meet your room parents!

steele.dpsk12.org/room-parents



Last Thought

A Parent's 1st Day of School Prayer

I wonder what you're doing now,
And if everyone is treating you kind.
I hope there is a special person,
A nice friend that you can find.

I wonder if the teacher knows
Just how special you are to me.
And if the brightness of your heart
Is something she can see.

I wonder if you are thinking about me,
And if you need a hug.
I already miss the sound of your voice
And how you give my leg a tug.

I wonder if you could possibly understand
How hard it is for me to let you grow
On this day know that my heart breaks
For this is the first step in letting you go.

