

Sunnyside Environmental School 2007-2008

A grateful request for support

Student Name _____ Teacher Name _____
Parent Name _____ Phone # _____ Email _____
(name on check)

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECKS IN THE "FRIDAY ENVELOPE" BY MONDAY, SEPT. 17TH. MAKE SURE THE STUDENT'S NAME IS ON THE CHECK. WE WILL MAKE A COPY AND RETURN IT AS YOUR RECEIPT. YOU CAN MAIL THE FORM TO SES PTSA; 3421 SE SALMON; 97214. PLEASE READ THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM FOR FURTHER EXPLANATIONS!

- These fees help to cover the costs of our outstanding programs and enrich our students' experiences.
- Please contribute as you can, no student will receive a different educational experience based on payment level. Please read reverse side for waiver information.

Tri-Met (not chartered/yellow buses)

Middle School \$75 \$ _____
.....or, my MS student has a bus pass. \$0 _____
Grades 1-5 \$15 \$ _____

Science Lab consumables and equipment

Middle School \$10 \$ _____
Grades K-5 \$5 \$ _____

Classroom supplies for teachers (K-8)

\$25 \$ _____

Literacy Support (Books, magazines, newspapers)

\$10 \$ _____

PE consumable supplies (K-8)

\$5 \$ _____

Community Meal/Cooking Projects (K-8)

\$10 \$ _____

Arts consumables and projects (K-8)

\$10 \$ _____

Tryon Creek Environmental Intern

\$40 \$ _____

Capital Improvements

\$10 \$ _____

Gardens & Grounds supplies

\$10 \$ _____

TOTAL (Make check payable to SES) \$ _____

Arts Enrichment (K-8) \$40 \$ _____

Teacher Grant Programs \$10 \$ _____

Outreach Programs \$10 \$ _____

Chinook Books (we will deliver to classrooms) \$20/ each \$ _____

PTSA Membership (per family member) \$10 x _____ (# of members) \$ _____

TOTAL (Make check payable to SES PTSA) \$ _____

SES PTSA Membership Information 2007-2008

Name(s) _____

Child(ren)'s Name _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell _____ Email _____

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A grateful request for support

In 2005, SES and the PTSA sent home the first request for support, or grateful request. The response was phenomenal and we were able to start the year in a strong fiscal position and know that we would be able to support the programs that we felt would help lead to high student success. Throughout the year, we received informal and formal feedback stating that many in the community were thrilled with our choices.

Last year was even more successful. By directly supporting the programs at SES, the school and the PTSA have been able to pledge ongoing help for our students. We are working diligently to align our fundraising and spending efforts with the school and PTSA's missions. The strength of response to the grateful request has allowed us to drop the magazine sale as a major fundraiser at Sunnyside. Families will still be able to purchase subscriptions, but it will be in a quiet, behind-the-scenes, way.

Please read this request for funds for what it is. The cost of doing business in a public school falls more and more to the individual school. Programs will be offered to every child and no student will ever know what has been paid on her/his behalf. Similarly, waivers will be available for Tri-Met transportation. If this applies, please write "waiver" on the transportation line.

We will continue to ask for two checks this year. The bookkeeping is much easier and clearer if SES receives checks for school funded programs and SES PTSA receives those that support PTSA funded programs. Please do take the time to write both checks, if possible, as all of the programs are important to the students! If you would like to pay by credit card please contact Neeley Wells at 503-252-6552 or neeley@dnld.net, we are trying to accommodate such requests.

We understand that this request can add up to a lot of money, especially for those with multiple children. Do not feel as though this is a bill that must be paid to the dollar. Do what you can and let it go at that. We appreciate any contribution that your family is able to make. Also, last year, many people paid monthly, quarterly, or whatever worked for their situation. For planning purposes, it is helpful if this request is returned by Monday, September 17th. If you would rather send a note with intentions to pay later, or to create a "payment plan", please do.

Thank you for your support!
SES and the SES PTSA

School supported programs:

Transportation—Our curriculum, particularly in the middle school, requires that our students learn in the community at local parks, museums and historical places. The majority of these trips are taken on tri-met buses. Families may choose to purchase a bus pass each month or to pay for bus tickets at the start of the year. The \$75 fee is based on 32 trips at \$1.30 one way. It is critical that we receive this money for each student to whom SES provides Tri-Met tickets.

Supplies—Art, science and project-based learning is integrated into all of the classes. We have asked the classroom teachers and specialists what the consumables budget should be to ensure that they will have the supplies they need for the year. They have requested \$25 for each classroom. There is also a small request for consumables for science, PE and Mia and Indigo's art and garden projects. These teachers are all better able to make your child's educational experiences creative and meaningful with support for materials.

Community Meal—Students are engaged in cooking projects throughout the year. This request helps pay for cooking supplies and materials. These projects are critical within the curriculum as well as for building community. And, we need to maintain the fabulous community kitchen which we built last year!

Tryon Creek Environmental Intern—This is the same intern request that was sent home in a letter this summer. Tryon Creek is working with SES on an innovative program which will enhance the environmental, place-based education of each of our students. The intern will be hired for as many hours as our fundraising supports. To those of you which have already sent in donations for this project, thank-you and disregard this second request.

Capital Improvements—This summer we planned for, worked on, and created many projects designed to improve the school including: remodeling a closet for our literacy specialist and elementary resource room, improving the maze for middle school Spanish classes, getting Mia a temporary sink to wash supplies and hands, and painting the dumpsters. Your \$10 donation helps make all this possible.

SES PTSA supported programs:

Arts Enrichment Program—The SES PTSA Board has voted to support and pay for a specific Arts Enrichment Program designed to enrich the experiences of all SES students. PTSA will make funds available based largely on the sum collected through this request. Teachers will be able to make decisions for their classrooms based on that number.

K-5th

All students will receive age-appropriate instruction to enrich the classes already offered at Sunnyside. This could include a "Music Together" type experience for kindergarteners, 1st, and 2nd graders. These children will also have an onsite residency with Tears of Joy Theatre. The 3rd grade will wow the school with a musical history of the City of Portland. Most likely, 4th graders will learn square dancing, an art form which corresponds well to the curriculum exploring the early days of our state. 5th graders are lucky enough to be able to explore the works of Shakespeare through the same residency which we brought to the school last year.

6th-8th

In response to feedback from middle school teachers seeking more flexible arts enrichment for their students, PTSA will be funding artists-in-residence for each middle school class.

Middle school students will continue with Start Your Day with Activities once a week on Wednesdays. This might mean reinvigorating the worm bins, working on murals, helping elderly neighbors in their yards, or other important works.

As always, the middle school will have morning meeting. If you have music to share, a topic to speak about, or any other relevant experience (and you do not need to be the parent of a middle school student) please contact one of the middle school teachers or Sarah. They would love to have you!

Teacher Grant Programs—PTSA is happy to support the imagination of our teachers! That means that teachers, and teams, will come to us for monies for particular programs or capitol investments that they have dreamed up and researched. We want to be able to fund these requests. Your dollars will help make this possible.

Outreach Programs—Throughout the year, individual students and families have needs, both predictable and unforeseen. One of the four major goals of PTSA is to be able to give the school counselor a budget that can help with these needs. In the past, we have helped with school supplies, bus tickets to and from school, programs to increase attendance, and other important investments in the lives of our students. This year we are hoping to boost the fund so that we can provide scholarships for after school classes and activities. Please help us with this program!

Chinook Books are on the form just as an easy way for you to order. Each book brings in \$10 for the school. They are great to keep with you, as many local businesses participate. If you do not need the bus tickets in the back, please slip them into the PTSA box in the office workroom. We pass them back to the counselor for students who need them.