The Gator Gazette

Decatur PTA Newsletter

November 17, 2026

Upcoming Events

11/23- 11/25 Parent-Teacher Conferences

12/10 Superintendent Meeting to Discuss School Merger
6:30-8:00pm, View Ridge Elementary

12/14 Middle School Info Night for 5th Grade Parents
7-8pm, Virtual

12/18 One Hour Early School Release

12/21 - 1/1 Winter Break- No School

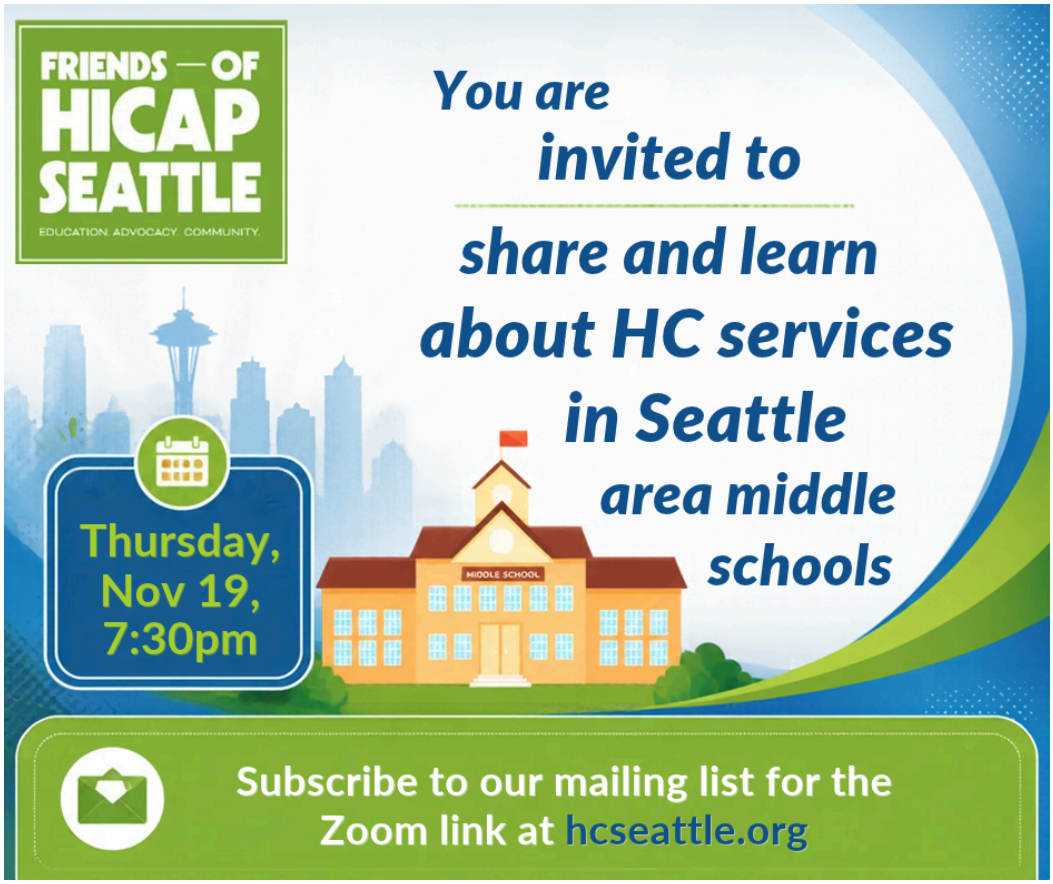
View the full PTA events calendar **here**.

Announcements

Two Opportunities to Learn About SPS Middle School

Thanks to all the fifth grade parents who filled out our planning survey. Based on your responses, the PTA will hold a parent-led middle school info night for fifth grade families on **Monday, December 14, 7-8pm (virtual).** This meeting will focus on the two SPS middle schools that are options for most Decatur kids: Jane Addams and Eckstein. A link will be sent out via the Gazette and 5th grade room parents the week beforehand.

Additionally, we have just learned that Friends of HiCap Seattle is hosting a discussion about **Middle School for Highly Capable Students** this **Thursday, November 19 at 7:30pm**. Subscribe to the Friends of HiCap Seattle newsletter for the Zoom link and other updates (and see below).



Wordmasters Challenge - First Meet!

The first WordMasters Challenge Meet of the year will be held on **Thursday, November 19.**

When: This Thursday during Lunch Recess
Where: The Library
Who: The first meet is open to any 3rd, 4th, or 5th graders who have participated in at least one practice.

If your student has missed the practices but wants to participate, don't worry, there's more! Practices will begin again in January for our second meet.

For mor information, please email Sarah McBride sarahmcbr@gmail.com.

Two Local Chess Tournaments Coming Up

1 Decatur Gator Fest – February 27, 2027
Our annual Gator Fest chess tournament is coming back to Decatur on Saturday, February 27! Registration is now open, and it's free for all Decatur students, thanks to the generous support of our PTA.

A big thank you to the PTA for helping make this event accessible to our students!

Whether you're new to tournaments or have played before, we'd love to see you participate. Register here: https://chessreg.com/gator

2 Bryant Fall Classic – December 5, 2026
The Bryant Fall Classic is happening on Saturday, December 5, just around the corner at Bryant Elementary!

Decatur has traditionally had a great group of students participate each year. It's always a fun opportunity for our kids to play chess, spend time with friends, and connect with

other schools in the neighborhood.

We'd love to see another great Decatur turnout this year!

Registration: $35 through November 22, increasing to $45 starting November 23.
Register here: https://www.chessreg.com/bfc



Friends of HiCap Seattle (FoHCS) invites HC and HC-interested families to join us for a December 3rd webinar “Who are HiCap Kids and Why Do They Need Something Different?” from local WA state HC expert, Dr. Austina De Bonte, from *Smart is Not Easy*. Subscribe to the FoHCS newsletter to receive the Zoom link.

Pilot Program for Decatur Math Club

A small group of parent volunteers is leading the effort to form small student groups to practice for a few different math competitions for the 2026-2027 season. If your kid is interested, please fill out the online google form https://forms.gle/XqXSCRrkn5FYUtPK7 to get further information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Have some time to spare and want to spend it helping out our specialists? Please consider signing up to volunteer in the art room or for PE! Our 5th grade classes are especially large this year and Ms. Munro and Ms. Bastasch could use an extra set of hands! You are welcome to stay longer and help out with other classes, however these sign-ups are for the 5th grade slots specifically! Thank you for your willingness to help!

Art: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084EAAAE2CA7F85-66480167-artroom

PE: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084EAAAE2CA7F85-66480587-pevolunteer

Volunteer paperwork must be submitted in order to volunteer in any capacity. Please allow a few days for this process to go through. Click the link to "update your volunteer paperwork"
here: **https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/volunteer/**. Make sure Decatur Elementary is on your list of approved schools.

Decatur Morning STEAM/Chess Club

Decatur Morning STEAM/Chess Club runs Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7:40-8:40 AM during the Fall Session: October 20th to December 17th (except school holidays). It's not too late to join, and drop-ins will be accepted, but pre-registration is required. This community allows new and experienced chess students to learn and grow together. We will cover chess endgame skills, tactics, openings, and positional chess concepts in addition to STEAM topics, such as geology, biology, atmospheric sciences, chemistry, astronomy, and physics. For more info or to register, please reach out to Megan Brady at megybrady@gmail.com.

Helpful Links

PTA Full Calendar

District Calendar

School Directory

District News

Newsletter Archive

Gazette Submissions

Community Shares

Holiday Gift Making Is Back At Squirrelly!

Kids will spend six weeks creating beautiful, handmade surprises for family and friends-all wrapped and ready to give. So much creativity, joy, and holiday magic!
Sign up at squirrellyworkshop.com

Need Weekend Plans With the Kids?

takethe.kids keeps a free list of family events around Seattle, updated every day, with nothing to sign up for. Link here.

The Gator Gazette goes out each Tuesday and shares news that is of use and interest to the school community. To submit an item to the Gazette, please email comms@decaturpta.org by 9pm Monday.

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!