

Welcome back, families!

Whether you're returning to Creative Science or brand new to our school, staying connected is an important way to make sure you're getting all the information you need. Here's a rundown of the different ways our school communicates:

CSS Announce: We recommend you subscribe to this!

What is it? CSS Announce is a weekly newsletter sent out by our PTA. It's full of all kinds of useful information about the school and the community.

What else does it have going on? CSS Announce sends out a second weekly email called The Principal's Podium in which Kristie Lindholm writes directly to the community about what's happening at Creative Science School.

Anything else? Yep. CSS Announce sometimes sends out a message called a BOOM. Those only show up in your inbox when the PTA wants to get out something important or time sensitive.

Great! How do I sign up? [Click here](#) or send an email request to kenneth.macseain@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list. (The main office cannot give the PTA personal information, such as your email address, so this is the only way to subscribe.)

Mid-Level Blast:

What is it? The Mid-Level Blast is a bi-weekly newsletter specifically for mid-level families.

How do I sign up? Send an email request to kenneth.macseain@gmail.com and specify that you're a mid-level family and would like to receive the Mid-Level Blast in addition to CSS Announce.

SchoolMessenger:

What is it? SchoolMessenger is a messaging system used by the district and by individual schools to mass communicate with their communities.

Who sends me stuff? PPS sends you district wide announcements, attendance calls, and emergency messages. The CSS office sends other info as needed. Even though it's all sent through the SchoolMessenger system, the sender display name will specify who the message is from.

How do I sign up? If your email address is in the Synergy database (the database we use to hold all student and parent information), you're signed up. In fact, this message was sent with SchoolMessenger.

What's this I heard about texts? You can also choose to get text messages. Text **YES to 68453** to opt in.

And phone calls too? Yep. PPS usually calls families and staff to notify us of school closures and late openings, but other kinds phone messages could be sent out in the future. (Note: This is also how you'll receive attendance calls. If your student is marked absent without excuse in our database past a certain time of day, the autodialer will call your primary number to let you know.)

ParentVue:

What is it? ParentVue is an online portal parents can use to see student schedules, grades, and assignments. It can also be used to communicate with teachers. This is really useful for mid-level parents.

How do I get an account? You should have received a letter from PPS with a unique activation key needed to create an account, but you could have received that letter when your student first registered at PPS.

So I totally lost it: If you lost your activation key, stop by the CSS main office and we can print you one.

I have my activation key: Visit the [ParentVue Portal \(http://www.pps.net/Page/2341\)](http://www.pps.net/Page/2341) to get set up.

SchoolPay: *This is new for everyone!

What is it? It's a way to pay for school stuff online.

How do I sign up? Every parent with an email address in Synergy has an account ready for activation. To activate your account, click [right here](http://pps.schoolpay.com) (<http://pps.schoolpay.com>), click "Find My Account," and follow the instructions. Students linked to you in Synergy are already linked to you in SchoolPay, so you'll only see items meant for you and your family.

Peachjar:

What is it? Peachjar is a service PPS uses to distribute flyers digitally.

Who decides what gets distributed? As of now, everything that comes to you through Peachjar was submitted and approved through the district office. On a school level, we usually stick to announcements through CSS Annouce or SchoolMessenger.

How do I sign up? You're already signed up.

Facebook:

I've heard of it. CSS has two places you can visit on Facebook. The page called "PPS Creative Science School" is a public page that gets updated by school staff with photos and updates from the school. The group "Creative Science School" is a closed group page where the community can share and talk. The closed group is moderated by the PTA, and members are required to follow the CSS Community Agreements.

How do I join the closed group? [Request to join](#), and within 24 hours a PTA moderator will send you a message and ask you to verify that your child goes to Creative Science. Then you're approved!

Anything else to note? Facebook participation is completely optional for parents and staff, so not everyone is able to engage in the conversation if concerns are voiced online. We ask that if you have concerns within *any* part of our community that you discuss them directly with the appropriate people. We are all in this together, and all members are expected to follow the Community Agreements.

Other Very Helpful Websites:

The Portland Public School's district website: <http://www.pps.net/>

The district CSS website: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/creativescience/>

The PTA CSS website: <http://creativescienceschool.org/>

The Mid Level website: <http://cssmidlevel.net>

AT A GLANCE	SIGN ME UP
CSS Annouce & Mid-Level Blast	Click here or email kenneth.macseain@gmail.com
SchoolMessenger	Text YES to 68453
ParentVue	Visit the PPS ParentVue Page
SchoolPay	Visit the PPS SchoolPay Website
Facebook	Request to join

We're looking forward to a great year at Creative Science School.