



Queen Creek Unified School District continues to grow! Starting at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, QCUSD will have an 8th elementary school, Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary. Some unique features of this school include the following: it will be a School of Choice, all classes will follow an accelerated curriculum map, and students will wear uniforms. Since Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary School marks the start of 'choice' in our district, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions about this new school in hopes of helping you make the best decision for your child's education.

Elementary #8 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I find more information about Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary?

You can access the landing page for more information at <http://qcusdel8.com/>

2. When will enrollment for Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary begin?

Enrollment will begin January 23, 2020

3. What grades will this school serve?

The school will serve grades K-6th. (Preschool is offered dependent on need and available space.)

4. When is the first day of school?

The first day of school for all QCUSD schools will be July 22, 2020.

5. What are the boundaries for Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary?

View the boundaries for Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary here:

<http://bit.ly/34kGBPk>

6. Will transportation be provided?

Many parents will take advantage of transporting their student(s) on their own. For parents wanting to explore QCUSD Transportation services, we will be providing bus depot options. The bus depots will be located at all elementary and middle schools throughout the district. Routes could be up to 30 minutes long to get students to and from the depot and school. As a result the morning pick-up times could be as early as 6:45 am and afternoon drop-off times could be as late as 4:15 pm.

At all depots we will want to ensure safe delivery and pick-up of students. In order to accomplish this parents will have three options for their students:



- 1) Personally wait in the parking lot to safely deliver and receive their student at the depot.
- 2) Use the services of QCUSD Community Education through our Discovery Kids program for before and after school care.
- 3) If the family lives within the square mile of the depot location sign a waiver with the Transportation department that their child will be walking to and from the depot on their own (3rd through 6th grade only).

7. What is a School of Choice?

Schools of choice have a theme or specialized programming that is *different from other neighborhood schools*. They are designed to attract students with common interests or skill sets.

8. What special programming will Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary have?

Elementary #8 will have an accelerated curriculum in math and English language arts. It will also implement Project Lead the Way as part of STEAM programming, which will include computer science and robotics at the intermediate levels. It will be a Leader in Me campus, following a program that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century based on Franklin Covey's book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*.

9. What does acceleration in math and ELA mean?

Students will have an accelerated curriculum map that will allow them to learn ELA and math content a grade level above their current grade, in addition to current grade level Standards.

10. Is there a test required for admittance to the school?

You do not have to "test in" to enroll, but all students will be required to take a placement test to identify their current level of achievement. This will allow teachers to create individualized instructional groups based on student readiness.

11. Will the school have special classes like music and P.E.?

Yes, Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary will have the same music and P.E. specials as the other elementary schools.

12. Will art classes be offered?

Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary will have a part-time art teacher as part of the STEAM programming.

13. What type of technology will this school have?

All classrooms will have 2:1 Chromebooks available for students. Every classroom will have a Smart Panel.



14. Will students wear uniforms?

Yes, Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary students will wear uniforms.

15. Why do students wear uniforms?

School uniforms provide a sense of belonging and pride at Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary. Not having to worry about fashion trends helps students focus on academics and can promote school spirit as well as reduce conflicts among students. School uniforms can also help parents save time and money shopping for school clothes.

16. Will Special Education services be provided?

Yes, special education services will be provided for students on an IEP dependent on programs offered at the school.

17. Will gifted/ELP classes be offered on campus?

All teachers will receive specialized training and will provide gifted services through differentiation within all classrooms. There will not be a pull-out program.

18. Will before and after-school enrichment programs be provided?

The QCUSD Discovery Kids program will be available before and after-school. If a student is taking advantage of the bus depot system mentioned in Question 6 then the student will be able to take advantage of Discovery Kids at the depot site if the site has a Discovery Kids program.

19. Will Preschool be offered at this site?

Preschool locations will be determined based on K-6 enrollment and available space on campus.

20. What are the start/end times?

The start and end times for Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary are 7:55-3:00 Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri and 7:55-1:20 on Wednesdays.

21. What if I live in the boundaries for Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary, but don't want my child to attend a school of choice?

Transportation will be provided to a nearby "sister school" for students in the boundaries who do not wish to attend the school of choice.

22. Are there special requirements for parents who have students attending the school?

Students and parents will sign a student-parent contract outlining the expectations for students and parents at Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary.