



Kindergarten

Bellingham Public Schools

Registration Begins March 2

Families are encouraged to learn more about the Bellingham School District's kindergarten program by contacting their neighborhood school for the tour schedule and to meet the principal. Registration begins Monday, March 2. Children must be 5 years old before Sept. 1 to attend kindergarten or they need to take a district assessment to determine if they qualify for early entrance. For more about what to bring for registration, required immunizations and early entrance, see "Families" and "Kindergarten" at www.bham.wednet.edu or contact our schools.



New for Fall: High Scope Approach

Beginning in fall 2009, children attending kindergarten in the Bellingham Public Schools will receive instruction through a nationally renowned learning method known as High Scope. This method is based on the philosophy that children should be actively engaged in their own learning. Students become involved in their learning through interactions with people and hands-on experiences with materials, events and ideas. The approach recognizes that children enter kindergarten with a range of skills and abilities. High Scope allows for personalization of instruction and for every child to learn and grow. Teachers and parents are involved in supporting children's emotional, intellectual, social, and physical skills and abilities. Literacy, math, science, music and the arts, play and physical education are all part of High Scope. To learn more about High Scope, visit www.highscope.org.



1306 Dupont Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-3118
360-676-6400
www.bham.wednet.edu

PLEASE SEE REVERSE FOR FULL-DAY PILOT OPTION

Full-Day Option at Pilot Schools: Register by March 13

All schools will offer a half-day, every day kindergarten program from 9 to 11:35 a.m. or 12:55 to 3:30 p.m. There is no cost for half day kindergarten. In addition, Alderwood, Carl Cozier, Happy Valley, Lowell, Northern Heights and Roosevelt elementary schools will offer full-day kindergarten from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on a space available basis.

Because Washington state does not fund full-day kindergarten in our district, Bellingham needs to operate this program at no cost to the district due to budget challenges. Therefore, monthly tuition will be charged on a sliding scale based on a family's qualifying income for free/ reduced meals.

A set number of full and reduced pay opportunities for full-day kindergarten will be offered at each of the pilot schools for those registered **by March 13**. Available spaces for full-day kindergarten, filled by lottery, will be offered with preference given to those living in the full-day kindergarten schools' attendance areas. A waiting list will be developed. Families living outside of the pilot schools' attendance areas may apply for full-day kindergarten, but will need to provide their own transportation if selected. They should register at their neighborhood school and indicate their preference for full-day at a pilot school. Deposits will be required to hold assigned spots. A lottery will be held on Monday, March 16 to fill full-day positions from within the pilot schools' attendance areas. A second lottery will be held March 30 to fill any remaining full-day openings from other schools' attendance areas. Full-day kindergarten will be limited to the six pilot schools during the 2009-10 school year to allow the program to develop with plans to expand in the future.

Return on Investment

A landmark, long-term study of the effects of high-quality early care and education on low-income 3 and 4 year olds shows that adults at age 40 who participated in a preschool program in their early years have higher earnings, are more likely to hold a job, have committed fewer crimes, and are more likely to have graduated from high school. Overall, the study documented a return to society of more than \$16 for every tax dollar invested in early childhood education. The High/Scope Perry Preschool study was conducted over four decades.

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Bellingham Elementary Schools

Beginning March 2, register at the neighborhood elementary school that your child will attend this fall.

Alderwood, 676-6404
3400 Hollywood Ave.

Birchwood, 676-6466
3200 Pinewood Ave.

Carl Cozier, 676-6410
1330 Lincoln St.

Columbia, 676-6413
2508 Utter St.

Geneva, 676-6416
1401 Geneva St.

Happy Valley, 676-6420
1041 24th St.

Larrabee, 676-6424
1409 18th St.

Lowell, 676-6512
RE-OPENS FALL '09
Register at: 1306 Dupont St.

Northern Heights, 647-6820
4000 Magrath Rd.

Parkview, 676-6433
3033 Coolidge Dr.

Roosevelt, 676-6440
2900 Yew St.

Silver Beach, 676-6443
4101 Academy St.

Sunnyland, 676-6446
2800 James St.

Wade King, 647-6840
2155 Yew St. Road

Attendance Areas

If you do not know which school your child will attend, please visit our searchable PDF map online at <http://www.bham.wednet.edu/district/attendance.htm>. Enter your street name to find your attendance area. If Internet access is not available, please call 676-6512.

Immunization

Immunizations protect the health of your child and the health of others. State law requires children entering school must have certain immunizations. They include:

- Two doses of Varicella (Chickenpox) given on or after first birthday AND received at least 28 days apart OR blood test (titer) showing immunity to Varicella OR healthcare provider diagnosis. Parent-reported history of disease is NO longer acceptable.
- Four doses of DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis), the last dose must be administered after 4 years old.
- Three doses of Polio, the last dose must be administered after 4 years old.
- Four doses of Polio, if all doses are given before 4 years old.
- Two doses of MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) given on or after first birthday and received at least 28 days apart OR blood test (titer) showing immunity to Measles, Mumps, or Rubella is acceptable.
- Three doses of Hepatitis B.

For the most updated information, please visit <http://www.bham.wednet.edu/families/Immunizations.htm>

Keep in touch with your Bellingham Public Schools.
Register for news via e-mail at www.bham.wednet.edu.