

2009 Kindergarten Open Houses and Tours

Enrollment Begins March 2 for Fall

Alderwood Elementary School

3400 Hollywood Ave., 676-6404

*Open House for prospective/registered families
9:45 to 10:45 a.m., May 18*

All prospective and/or registered parents and students may attend this event. Parents and students will have the opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom, tour the school, meet teachers and principal Stephanie Korn. They can participate in a quick kindergarten screening, and receive information regarding readiness, registration and a school handbook.

Birchwood Elementary School

3200 Pinewood, 676-6466

*Tour for prospective and registered families
June 5*

RSVP to attend

All prospective and/or registered parents and students may attend this event. Parents and students will have the opportunity to visit a typical kindergarten classroom and tour the school.

Carl Cozier Elementary School

1330 Lincoln St., 676-6410

*Open House for prospective/registered families
2 to 3:30 p.m., March 23*

All prospective and/or registered parents and students may attend this event. Parents and students will have the opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom, tour the school, meet teachers and principal Tom Venable. Students will receive information regarding readiness, registration and a school handbook.

Columbia Elementary School

2508 Utter St., 676-6413

*Open House for prospective/registered families
May 5*

RSVP to attend

All prospective and/or registered students will have the opportunity to visit Columbia's kindergarten classroom, tour the school, and meet teacher Mrs. Uttech and principal Missy Ferguson. Parents and students will receive information regarding readiness, registration and a school handbook.

Geneva Elementary School

1401 Geneva St., 676-6416

*Open House for prospective/registered families
May 5 and 6*

RSVP to attend (Sign ups during registration)

All prospective and/or registered students will visit a working kindergarten classroom, share in a story, and tour the school. Parents and students will receive information regarding readiness, registration and a school handbook.

Happy Valley Elementary School

1041 24th St., 676-6420

*Open House for prospective/registered families
May 18*

Pre-registration Required

All prospective and/or registered parents and students may attend this event. Families will visit a kindergarten classroom and engage in several activities. During the tour, families will meet principal Karen Tolliver, visit the cafeteria and library, and see the playground. Parents will receive information and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Larrabee Elementary School

1409 18th St., 676-6424

*Open House for prospective and registered families
May 18*

Pre-registration Required

Prospective and/or registered parents and students may attend this event. At the event, incoming kindergarten students are assigned to a fifth grade student who gives them a tour of the building and introduces them to the cook, the librarian and the secretary. They receive a gift bag with items to collect at each stop. During this time, parents get a chance to meet and chat with the kindergarten teacher and ask any questions they may have. After the children complete their tour, they join their parents and have an opportunity to explore the classroom.

Lowell Elementary School

935 14th St., 676-6512

*Temporarily closed during the 2008-09 school year
for seismic safety work.*

Please register Lowell kindergarten and new students at the district's Central Services building, 1306 Dupont St., Deputy Superintendent's Office.

Northern Heights Elementary School

4000 Magrath Rd., 647-6820

*Tour for prospective and registered families
May 5 and 7*

RSVP to attend

Prospective and registered students and their parents are invited to attend this event. Incoming kindergarten students will take a tour of the building. They receive a gift bag as they check in and, during the tour, they are introduced to the librarian, kitchen staff, office staff and principal Wendy Barrett. They will also have a chance to visit a kindergarten classroom and see the playground.

Parkview Elementary School

3033 Coolidge Dr., 676-6433

*Open House for prospective/registered families**1 to 3:30 p.m., April 20*

All prospective and/or registered parents and students may attend this event. Parents and students will have the opportunity to visit a typical kindergarten classroom, tour the school, meet teachers and principal Jane Tromburg.

Roosevelt Elementary School

2900 Yew St., 676-6440

*Open House**May 11**Pre-registration Required*

All prospective and/or registered parents and students may attend this event. Parents and students will have the opportunity to visit a typical kindergarten classroom, tour the school, meet teachers and principal Steven Morse.

Silver Beach Elementary School

4101 Academy St., 676-6443

*Open House for prospective/registered families**9:30 to 11:30 a.m., May 21 and 22**Pre-registration Required*

Prospective and registered students and their parents are invited to attend an open house tour. Incoming kindergarten students receive a gift bag and during the tour are introduced to the librarian, kitchen staff, office staff and principal Greg Holmgren. They will also have a chance to visit a kindergarten classroom, see the playground and board a school bus.

Sunnyland Elementary School

2800 James St., 676-6446

*Open House for new kindergarten families**6:30 to 7:30 p.m., June 4**Pre-registration Required*

Prospective and/or registered parents and students may attend this event. At the event, students and parents will be greeted at the door and be given a gift bag and treasure map. Students will be able to visit seven locations around the school. Fifth grade students will assist with the greetings and tours. Students will meet kindergarten teachers, office staff and principal Mary Anne Stuckart. At each stop in the tour, kindergarten students will receive some school supplies. Interpreters will be available for families who speak Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese and Punjabi.

Wade King Elementary School

2155 Yew St., 647-6840

Orientation by appointment for registered students (session assigned at registration)

1 to 2:30 and 2:30 to 4 p.m., Monday, May 18

Registered students and families will have the opportunity to tour the school and meet principal Rob McElroy and teachers. Students will participate in 30-minute literacy and math sessions. Parents are invited to explore the room with their child and ask any questions they might have. Teachers will present information about the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program and the Program of Inquiry for kindergarten students.

Full-Day Option at Pilot Schools

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.

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.

For more information please visit our Web site at <http://www.bham.wednet.edu> or call us at 676-6512.