

Kindergarten Registration F.A.Q.
(Northern Heights Elementary School)

<i>Frequently Asked Question</i>	<i>Answer</i>
Transportation:	
What is the drop-off procedure in the morning?	Starting at 7:30 am students may be dropped off at the front of the school along the curb in the drop off area. Students should only exit the car on the curb side. This is a drop off area only, you may not leave your vehicle. Parents can also park in the parking lot and walk with their student across the crosswalk. Students are not allowed to cross in the crosswalk without being accompanied by an adult.
What time can I drop my child off? Where can he/she go before school starts?	For the safety of our students, the earliest drop off time is 7:30 am which is when adult supervision is available. Students may go to breakfast, playground or library until the bell rings at 7:55.
What is the pick-up procedure in the afternoon?	Parents have the option of waiting in their car in the pick-up line in front of the school or parking in the parking lot and waiting for their student at the front doors. Teachers will walk their students outside and the pick-up students will wait on the sidewalk for their ride. For safety, teachers will assist students in their car. Only the first few cars will be allowed to pick-up their student and then the line will move up.
Is there something that tracks my child if they are on the bus?	Bellingham Public Schools issues ‘Hamster Passes’ to all bus-riding students. This card allows for the transportation office the ability to verify if a child is on the bus, providing the child swipes the card. When swiping, we can verify when a student boards the bus and when they get off the bus.
What if my student leaves their belongings on the bus?	Transportation does not have a ‘lost and found.’ The items usually remain on the bus for 1 day and then they are taken to the lost and found at the school.
How does my student remember how to get home?	Parent should fill out a Return Home Plan which is provided in the kindergarten registration. A copy of this form is kept in the classroom and office so that adults can assist students on their going home plan. Bus riders will wear labels with their name/bus number/address/parent information for the first couple of weeks until they learn the routine and their bus stop.
What if my student misses the bus stop or forgets to get off the bus?	If the student does not get off the bus, we activate the ‘reconnect plan’ which will take the student to the next school site on the route, typically one of our high schools. The parent will be notified and would need to meet their child at the high school.
Will the bus driver drop off my student if an adult is not there to meet them?	Yes. Transportation will drop the student off if no one is there to meet them <i>unless</i> the student tells the driver they’re supposed to stay on the bus, or they indicate they

	feel unsafe. Additionally, if the bus driver recognizes the environment bus stop is unsafe for any reason, the student will remain on the bus.
How do we change the 'going home' plans? Playdates, second homes, etc.	If you know ahead of time, please either send a note or email the teacher. Last minute changes should be relayed to the main office at (360) 647-6820. Teachers may not have a chance to read emails or check their phone messages before dismissal time. Making plans ahead of time is very appreciated.
Attendance:	
What is the procedure if my child is late to school?	Parent should come to the office and sign their student in. Student will receive an orange check-in pass to give to their teacher which notifies the teacher that the office will change the absence to a tardy.
What is the procedure if my child is absent from school?	Please either contact your student's teacher or the office by email or phone call.
What is the procedure if my child needs to leave school early?	If you know ahead of time, please write a note for your student to give to their teacher. Your student will wait for you in the office to be signed out. If you are unable to write a note, please call the office at (360) 647-6820 as soon as possible, so that we can have your student waiting for you in the office to be signed out.
Health:	
What is the allergy policy? Can I pack nuts in my child's lunchbox?	<p>It is our goal to ensure that every student in our school is safe. School Nurses work with our school district staff regarding allergy management. Staff are trained on our policy and procedures surrounding allergies and anaphylaxis.</p> <p>Yes, you can send foods that are common allergens, (tree nuts, peanuts, soy, dairy, wheat, egg, fish/shellfish), to school in your student's lunch. We ask that students not share food at school. Lunchroom staff are trained to assist our students who have life threatening food allergies. Classroom teachers will work with families to manage food that is consumed in the classroom for treats and snacks.</p>
What is the procedure if my child gets hurt or feels sick at school?	If the school nurse is available, she/he will assess the child and make recommendations to school staff or contact parents. If the school nurse is not on-site, office staff will assess the child and contact parent. The office staff will always try to contact parents first. If parents are unavailable, emergency contacts will then be contacted.
What is procedure if my child has a toileting accident at school?	The office has a limited supply of extra clothes. Student will be given dry clothes and student will use the restroom in the health room to change their own clothes without assistance.

What does my child need to bring to school with them? Can I pack extra clothes?	Students need a backpack. The Bellingham School District provides all necessary supplies for your student's education. You may pack extra clothes in their backpack
Meals and Snacks	
Can my child eat breakfast at school?	Breakfast is available daily starting at 7:30 am for a charge of \$1.50 unless your student qualifies for free or reduced meals.
Is there a snack time? Who provides it?	Bellingham Public Schools provide a daily healthy snack and typically classroom teachers have a mid-morning time for snack.
How do families pay for school lunch?	Each student has a meal account with a five-digit PIN. This number will be on a card for kindergarten students. Parent puts money in the student's account either by cash, check or online. If paying by cash or check, please give to the Food Service Lead in the cafeteria. For online deposits visit the district website for instructions on how to make deposits to the MyPaymentsPlus system.
How do I know what choices my child can make for school lunch?	Printed menus will be sent home in backpacks every six weeks. Menus are also posted online at bellingshamschools.org/school-menus .
What happens if my child doesn't finish their lunch?	Every attempt will be made to provide adequate time to eat with support from our lunchroom coach. Additionally, most teachers will provide a few extra minutes to finish upon returning to class.
What do I do if my child has food allergies or sensitivities?	If your child has food sensitivities or allergies that require food substitutions please fill out a diet prescription form and return it to your school. If your child has a life-threatening food allergy, please contact your school nurse for information regarding health care plans and required emergency medications for school.
General:	
What can I do to prepare my student for kindergarten?	Bellingham Public Schools strongly believe it is not the child's job to be 'ready' for kindergarten. It is our job to be ready for them. We recommend engaging your child in play-based learning activities that make sense for your family routine and structure. Please visit our website or click here for suggested activities.
Are there before and after school options for childcare?	After school options for childcare are YMCA (onsite), ASA (The Firs) and Kids World 2000 transport students from and to their facilities. A variety of after school enrichment classes are offered through our PTA.
Do parents get contact information for another child's family?	Staff is not allowed to give out student information for playdates, parties, etc.
Is there a school lost and found?	Lost and found is located in the cafeteria.
When is recess? Will my child have to go out if it is rainy or cold?	Recess is right before lunch and another recess is taken in the afternoon. We feel it is important for students to get fresh air and have a chance for outdoor activities. We have a play shed to be used during rainy and cold weather. We ask that students dress for the weather as most days recess will be outside. We do monitor the

	weather and may call for indoor recess if we find it necessary.
Can my child bring toys to school?	Children are not allowed to bring toys from home.
Classroom:	
When will we know who the classroom teacher is?	This is pending as we wait for guidelines from the Governor and Office of Public Instruction for school opening practices for the fall.
Is there a conference or time to meet my child's teacher prior to school starting?	Yes. Prior to school starting, you will be contacted by school personnel to schedule a 30-minute entry conference.
What does the classroom look like?	Every classroom reflects a play-based, developmentally appropriate environment ready for your student. Each classroom has the following areas: block, home, toy, writing, library, art, quiet corner, whole group and small group learning spaces. Each classroom environment is unique to the classroom teacher and provides opportunities for experimentation, exploration, discovery, inquiry, challenge, and peer interaction.
What does a typical daily schedule look like?	The kindergarten daily schedule is a balanced one that accommodates play-based learning across content areas. Quieter and more active moments are balanced throughout the day. Because schedules vary slightly from school to school and classroom to classroom, your student's teacher will review the daily schedule during the entry conference.
How should I communicate with my child's teacher?	The easiest way to communicate is through Seesaw, which is a program set up between teachers and parents. Other options are email, classroom telephone or leave a message at the main office. Each classroom is equipped with a telephone, but please be mindful to limit classroom disruptions and know that teachers may not always have time to check messages during the day based on their teaching schedule.
How do I volunteer?	Please contact your student(s) teacher or school for volunteer opportunities. Prior to volunteering a volunteer application must be completed and approved. Volunteer applications are available online at bellingshamschools.org/volunteer . Once approved, volunteer status is valid for two academic years.
Who do I contact to learn more about PTA?	On the first day of kindergarten, parents are invited to coffee with the principal. Members of the PTA exec. board will be there to welcome you and discuss how to get involved with PTA.