

BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

Kindergarten Information

Kindergarten is an exciting and important step in your child's success in school. The Bellevue School District is committed to providing a variety of experiences and opportunities so that your child's educational experience is productive as well as enjoyable. Our goal is for each child to become a life-long learner.

All Bellevue School District elementary schools offer half-day kindergarten and tuition based full-day kindergarten. The District offers Spanish and Mandarin language programs for kindergartners at selected locations. Additional information regarding kindergarten is available by visiting the Bellevue School District website at www.bsd405.org.

For additional information regarding the District's

Language Programs
Open Enrollment
Early Entrance
Transfer for Cause
Relocation

Please visit the District website
at www.bsd405.org

To register for Kindergarten you will need

Your child must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2012

Completed registration packet

Address verification

Certified copy of birth certificate

or

Current passport

Child's immunization information



Bellevue School District also offers Early Learning and After School Programs for children 4 weeks through 5th grade at district elementary schools. Contact the Early Learning and After School Program office for additional information at: www.bsd405.org or call (425) 456-4030

Before and after school programs

- Conveniently located at Bellevue elementary schools
- Available before and after school, school breaks, release days
- Daily schedule includes fun, hands-on activities designed to increase student's motivation to learn, homework time, snack and outdoor play

Preschool programs

- Conveniently located at Bellevue elementary schools
- Curriculum designed to prepare children for success in kindergarten with an emphasis on reading and social/emotional readiness
- Variety of schedule options to meet your family's needs

KINDERGARTEN OPTIONS

The majority of our kindergarten classes are blended full-day and half-day kindergarteners. Based upon the number of registrations (full-day and half-day requests) some schools may offer a half-day only class. Below is a description of kindergarten options offered by the Bellevue School District.

What is the difference between Half-Day or Full-Day Kindergarten?



Half-Day Kindergarten

- The instructional day is 2 hours, 40 minutes in length.
- Reading, writing, and mathematics form the core of the half-day kindergarten curriculum.
- Half-day kindergarten students receive instruction from a librarian, art, music or PE specialist two 40 minute periods each week.

If there is a limited number of half-day students combined classes of half-day and full-day kindergarten may be offered.

Spanish Immersion

The goal of this K-12 program is to graduate students who are functionally fluent in the Spanish language. Students are expected to graduate the 12th grade having successfully completed the academic expectations and requirements prescribed by the legislation and District policy. Students receive most of their subject matter instruction in Spanish. After completing kindergarten students should have acquired an extensive listening vocabulary and should be able to use expressions and short sentences in Spanish.

Enrollment in the Spanish Immersion program is open to any child within the Bellevue School District. The number of openings is limited and will be determined by a lottery.

Contact Puesta del Sol for additional details about the program and lottery submissions for the Spanish Immersion Program at (425) 456-6100.

Full-Day Kindergarten

- The full-day program is 6 hours, 25 minutes in length on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and 4 hours, 5 minutes on Wednesdays.
- Science, social studies and additional experiences in art, music or PE are added to the core curriculum of reading, writing and mathematics.
- Students follow the daily schedule of the school including lunch, recess and the modified day on Wednesday.
- Transportation is only provided to students on an established bus route to the school.

Dual Language

Dual Language Education is also known as Two Way Immersion. Students from two language backgrounds learn together while instruction is systematically delivered in two languages. At Ardmore the students enrolled are from English and Mandarin speaking backgrounds, while at Sherwood Forest, students enrolled are from English and Spanish speaking backgrounds. Students read, write, listen and speak in both languages, becoming bilingual, bi-literate and bi-cultural.

Students should plan to enroll for the full six years of elementary Dual Language instruction to receive the total benefits of the program.

Ardmore's Mandarin/English Dual Language Program will take enrollment district wide with preference given to Ardmore families. For additional information contact Ardmore at (425) 456-4700.

Sherwood Forest's Spanish/English Dual Language Program will enroll students from the Sherwood Forest attendance area only. For additional information contact Sherwood Forest at (425) 456-5700.

Before and after school programs are also available for full-day kindergarten children at most Bellevue elementary schools. The daily schedule includes fun, hands-on activities to support skills taught during the school day as well as snack and outdoor play. For more information about before and after school programs, please visit the district website www.bsd405.org



12111 NE First Street, Bellevue, Washington 98005 / P.O. Box 90010, Bellevue, Washington 98009-9010

January 2012

Dear Kindergarten Parent:

I'm delighted that you will soon be placing your child in Bellevue's kindergarten program. Our kindergarten teachers are committed to making their students' first experiences in school exciting and fun, filled with wonder and enthusiasm. When we spark children's love of learning at the very start of their time in school, we significantly increase the chances of making their thirteen years with us both productive and enjoyable.

We know, too, how excited--and perhaps a bit apprehensive--you are about sending your child off to school. We are committed to working closely with you and look forward to forming a partnership we hope will last for a very long time.

The kindergarten information meetings will provide you with some important information and the enclosed materials should also be helpful. However, if you need additional information, please contact the principal, counselor, or kindergarten teacher at your neighborhood school. If you do not know which school serves your neighborhood, please call (425) 456-4200.

We love seeing children discover the power and joy of learning, then acquire the skills they need to tackle any academic task and in the process discover that with the proper amount of effort there isn't anything they can't learn. We are anxiously awaiting to take that journey with your child.

Sincerely,

Amalia Cudeiro
Superintendent

Ready for Kindergarten?

Although there is no perfect formula for determining when a child is ready for kindergarten, research has identified six areas often associated with early school success.

Language and Literacy

Uses oral language to express emotions and thoughts

Listens to stories without interrupting

Talks in complete sentences of 5-6 words

Knows some basic sight words

Able to look at pictures and tell a story about a picture

Identifies sounds in words, rhyming words, lower and upper case letters

Understands print concepts such as front of the book, left-to-right, top to bottom



General Knowledge

Recognizes, names and writes some numerals

Understands one-to-one correspondence

Counts to at least 30

Physical

Runs smoothly, hops, maintains balance

Able to work with puzzles, scissors, color, trace shapes etc.

Writes name

Social

Able to play, share and cooperate with other children

Assumes responsibility for personal belongings

Able to follow simple rules and structured daily routines

Separates from parents without being upset for a long period

Begins to control oneself; understands actions have both causes and effects



School Related

Enthusiastic and curious about new activities

Pays attention for short periods (10 minutes) to adult-directed tasks

Able to work independently with supervision

Able to listen and pay attention to what someone else is saying

Self Help

Manages bathroom needs

Buttons shirts, pants, coats and zips up zippers

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

Starting kindergarten is a big, exciting transition in a child's life. It can be scary and stressful for both you and your child, especially if this is your child's first experience in school. However, if you take some steps to prepare yourself and your child for this new experience, you can ease some of the anxiety and get your child's schooling off to a great start!

Start talking early. Start talking about kindergarten a few weeks before school starts. Tell your child all of the positive and exciting things about kindergarten, but also listen and answer questions. Be sure to listen for emotions such as excitement, fear, anxiety, and confusion. Provide not just answers to questions but also comfort and reassurance to help your child feel more confident about going to kindergarten.

Get to know other kindergarteners. If possible, organize a play date or two with children who will be in your child's class. You may already know families with children the same age as yours, or you might meet some when you visit the school. You can ask the teacher if there are any families close by to you or new to the school, as well. This way, not every face in the classroom will be unfamiliar when your child goes to school the first day and you can find other parents with whom to share experiences.

Get into a routine. In the weeks before your child starts kindergarten, establish a school day routine. Put your child to bed as if it were a school night and wake up in the morning and get ready (get dressed, have breakfast, wash up) as if it were a school morning. If this is your child's first experience in a school setting, create a schedule during the day similar to that which your child will experience in kindergarten. Your child will then get acquainted to the kindergarten day structure. If your child will be taking lunch or snack, make sure that any containers and packages are user-friendly. If your child takes a backpack to school, make sure it is a good fit and easy to get on and off.

Go for a visit. Find out if your child's kindergarten class has an orientation or a visiting day. You and your child may meet the teachers and other children who will be in the school as well as other parents and you can find out what the daily schedule will be like. If not, take your child to the school, walk around the grounds together, and play on the playground.

Give it time. Leave plenty of time on the first day to arrive at school, especially if this is your child's first school experience. When it is time for you to leave, make a point of saying goodbye. Sneaking out of the classroom when your child is not looking will make the transition far more difficult. Your child may even be more scared upon realizing you are no longer there. It takes some children longer than others to adjust and become comfortable with the new school routine. Anticipate some ups and downs during the first few weeks. If you are struggling or have concerns about how the transition is going, ask your child's teacher for some ideas.



Practice everyday activities. If your child has never been to school before, there may be a few things you want to practice with your child in the weeks leading up to kindergarten. If you are not sure your child can do things like use the bathroom independently, take off and put on shoes, or put on a jacket, you may want to work on these things. Ask the classroom teacher what your child will be expected to know how to do. Let the teacher know if there is anything your child has difficulty doing.

Assigned School Frequently Asked Questions

Students shall attend the school in the attendance area in which they reside unless one of the following exceptions are granted

Open Enrollment

The purpose of open enrollment is to grant free choice of schools to the extent that space is available. Each year the District will establish a specific open enrollment period. The open enrollment period for the 2012-13 school year is January 9 – February 10, 2012. (This period is ONLY for Bellevue School District resident students.) Parents of students eligible to enter kindergarten for the following school year may begin applications for open enrollment to kindergarten during the specified period. **No application for kindergarten open enrollment will be accepted prior to the open enrollment period.**

Open Schools – Any school whose Bellevue School District-projected enrollment for next year (2011-2012) is less than 90% of its District-computed available classroom space. Students who apply for Open Enrollment transfers to “Open” schools during the General Open Enrollment Period will usually be accepted.

One In/One Out Schools – Any school whose Bellevue School District-projected enrollment for next year (2012-2013) is between 90% and 100% of its District-computed classroom space. Theoretically one student must leave before one student who applies may be approved for an Open Enrollment transfer into a “1-In/1-Out” school during the General Open Enrollment Period.

Closed Schools – Any school whose Bellevue School District-projected enrollment for next year (2012-2013) is greater than or equal to its District-computed space. Applications may be submitted for Open Enrollment transfers to “Closed” schools, but they most likely will be denied. Such applications will be kept on file until the next school year begins, in case space becomes available within a particular grade level.

Students transferred under the open enrollment policy continue until the student changes schools. However, students are subject to being removed from an open-enrolled school if adequate space is no longer available at the proper grade level due to increased resident-school enrollment. Transfers also may be revoked because of attendance or discipline problems.

Transfer for Cause

Transfer for Cause is limited to space in grade level at school. A student may be granted an exception for cause when there exists a special hardship or detrimental condition of a financial, educational, safety or health nature affecting the student or student’s immediate family, provided the hardship or condition is likely to be significantly alleviated as a result of the transfer. Examples include reduced disruption when the family will be moving into the resident area of a school within five months, and as a corrective strategy to address a student’s social behavior problem.

If appropriate requirements are met, the student will be considered for transfer-for-cause if there is adequate space at the appropriate grade level; if there is adequate information to reflect a reasonable chance that the student’s attendance, citizenship and academic progress will be satisfactory; and if parents assume full responsibility for adequate transportation and supervision to and from school.

Parents of students currently in grades K-12 may make application for transfer any time during the school year.

Relocation of Kindergarten Students

Kindergartens will be located at each elementary school except when combining kindergartens will contribute to more effective use of limited staffing resources and/or classroom space, and to a more effective educational program. (See Policy No. 4023)

Spanish Immersion Program

One educational goal, unique to the Spanish Immersion program, is that students develop the ability to communicate (understand, speak, read and write) in Spanish on a level approximating that of a pupil who is a native Spanish speaker. A second significant goal is that students learn all of the regular subject matter including developing their English language competencies.

To achieve these goals in this K-12 program, students begin at kindergarten and receive almost all their subject matter instruction in Spanish. In middle school, Immersion students enroll in two classes taught in Spanish; in high school, Immersion is limited to one course/year.

The K-5 program is housed at Puesta del Sol; the 6-8 program is at Tillicum Middle School; the 9-12 program is at Newport High School. Students may remain in the school as long as they are enrolled in the Spanish Immersion Program.

Mandarin Dual Language Program

The goal of the Mandarin Program is to educate children in all academic areas while learning Mandarin Chinese. In Kindergarten 90% of the instructional day is in Mandarin. Each year of the program, the amount of Mandarin used lessens until there is a balance of English and Chinese in the second half of the 2nd grade year. The Mandarin Dual Language Program was established in the fall of 2011, and will advance to the Middle School level in 2017. The Mandarin Dual Language program K-5 gives preference to the Ardmore community. Parents considering enrolling in the Ardmore Mandarin Dual Language program should attend an informational meeting which describes the commitment and intent of the program.

Spanish Dual Language Program

The Spanish Dual Language Program goal is to educate children in all academic areas while learning Spanish. In Kindergarten 90% of the instructional day is in Spanish. Each year of the program, the amount of Spanish used lessens until there is a balance of English and Spanish in the second half of the 2nd grade year. The Spanish Dual Language Program was established in the fall of 2011, and will advance to the Middle School level in 2017. The Spanish Dual Language program K-5 gives preference to the Sherwood Forest community. Parents considering enrolling in the Sherwood Dual Language program should attend an informational meeting which describes the commitment and intent of the program.