

Baileywick Elementary School
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July 28, 2017

Special Information for Kindergarten Families!

We welcome our newest Bulldogs to the Baileywick family and are looking forward to working you and your child! I hope you find the information below helpful in preparing your family for an exceptional first year of school. We look forward to the new school year and all that it holds for the students of Baileywick. We know you share our enthusiasm, yet at the same time may feel apprehensive or have some questions. The following information will give you a better understanding of our kindergarten program and staggered entry plan.

Developmental Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a year of big change. Five- and six-year-olds are moving from a world of self into a world that includes others. They are much more aware of others' feelings and points of view, and are beginning to show empathy. They are becoming more independent problem solvers, and enjoy this newfound assuredness, but may still need the affirmation of their teacher. Kindergartners can be overly confident one day and insecure the next. As the year progresses, they exhibit more risk-taking behaviors.

Children at this age are like sponges, eager and able to take in new information and ideas. They're curious and are not afraid to ask questions. They learn by doing and are transitioning into having a more abstract understanding of concepts. Quite simply, kindergartners love to learn!

Activities during Morning Meeting, language, choice, math and recess help them to develop a better awareness of themselves, as well as how to successfully interact with others and the world around them. Within a center-based environment, students learn to take responsibility for themselves, develop good work habits, and complete tasks, helping them to grow personally and academically. Kindergartners become readers, writers, authors, illustrators, presenters, artists, architects, mathematicians, problem-solvers, leaders, partners, teachers, and friends.

Kindergarten Staggered Entry Plan

Baileywick Elementary uses a staggered entry plan to provide each child a smooth, individualized transition to kindergarten. On each of the first three days of school, only a small portion of our kindergarten students will attend. This means that **your child will attend school for just one day during the first week.**

Please plan to send/bring your child to school between 8:45 am and 9:00 am on:

***Highlighted in version mailed to families**

Monday, August 28th

Tuesday, August 29th

Wednesday, August 30th

Having only 6-7 children per classroom per day greatly reduces the amount of anxiety that children (and parents) feel. The children get to know their teachers and learn the school routines without confusion of worry. The staggered entry schedule also allows teachers to learn more about the students and develop classroom communities that will best support all children.

Transportation and What to Bring

Children may ride the bus to and from school on their staggered entry day if this will be their usual form of transportation. Parents wishing to walk their child(ren) to class during staggered entry are asked to park in the lower lot rather than the lot at the center of the carpool lane. **Please send your child(ren) to school with the following items on their staggered entry day:**

- A healthy snack
- A towel for rest time
- A change of clean clothes in a bag labeled with their name
- A backpack with a zippered closure
- \$2.35 for lunch or a lunch from home (milk can be purchased for \$.50)

Kindergarten Screenings

At the beginning of each school year, all kindergarten students are screened according to the guidelines of the Early Prevention of School Failure Program. The goal of this program is to prevent school failure through identifying the developmental levels and learning styles of children, and providing materials and teaching strategies to address students' needs and develop their strengths. The classroom teacher and support staff will be screening each child during the staggered entry week. Children will be assessed in five areas: language, auditory, visual, fine motor, and gross motor. The assessment results, along with teacher observation data, will be used to develop a learning goals for each child. Assessment results will be communicated during parent teacher conferences.

Kindergarten "Meet the Teacher"

Please reserve Friday, September, 1, from 9:30-10:30am for an informal drop-in event where parents and kindergartners can find out who their teacher will be and will have an opportunity to explore their new classroom. Class rosters will be posted in the lobby at 9:15. Parents will have an opportunity to acquire a carpool number, set up a lunch account, register to volunteer and join the PTA.

All kindergartens students will report to school full time on Tuesday, September 5.

Student Health Assessment Forms

A Health Assessment Form and an Immunization Record completed by a physician must be on file in each student's official school record. If you have not already done so, please bring the completed forms to the main office within the **first 30 days of school.**