

Baileywick Elementary School
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<http://baileywickes.wcpss.net>

June 20, 2025

Special Information for Kindergarten Families!

We welcome our newest Bulldogs to the Baileywick family and look forward to working with you and your child! We 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 it has in store for the students of Baileywick. We know you share our enthusiasm, yet at the same time, you 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 significant change. Five- and six-year-olds are moving from a world of self into one 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 Meetings, including language, choice, math, and recess, help them develop a better awareness of themselves, as well as how to interact successfully 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, which helps them grow both personally and academically. Kindergartners become readers, writers, authors, illustrators, presenters, artists, architects, mathematicians, problem-solvers, leaders, partners, teachers, and friends.

Kindergarten Play Date and Parent Information Session: Thursday, August 21 - 3:30-4:15 pm

Learn about Baileywick's approach to learning and preview what "a day in K" looks like. Kindergarten teachers will share some logistics and need-to-knows for staggered entry. Children will have an opportunity to play on the playground and meet some friends before the first day of school.

Kindergarten Staggered Entry

Baileywick Elementary utilizes a staggered entry to ensure each child has a smooth, individualized transition to kindergarten. On each of the first three days of school, only a small portion of our kindergarten students will be in attendance. This means **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 the following day:

Monday, August 25th
(last names A-M)

Tuesday, August 26th
(last names N-Z)

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

Transportation

Parent Walk-in During Staggered Entry: Parents wishing to walk their child(ren) to class during staggered entry are asked to park in the lower lot, rather than the lot located at the center of the carpool lane.

Carpool Arrival: To drop students off before school, parents should enter the carpool circle in a single-file line and drop children off in front of the school ONLY between 8:45 and 9:10 am. When pulling out, look to your left for vehicles approaching from behind. For the safety and efficiency of the process, parents are asked to remain in their cars during this time. Baileywick staff will assist your students in exiting your vehicle.

Carpool Pick-up: To pick students up at dismissal, parents should enter the carpool lane in a single-file line through the upper parking lot. For safety, numbered cones will be set up daily to guide students to meet the drivers at each cone. Please pull up to the next available cone. Staff members and the safety patrol will monitor the process. Students will be called by their assigned carpool number as the parent approaches the building. Students will walk around the circle to board their vehicles from the right side only. Parents are to remain in their cars at all times during the carpool process. For everyone's safety, please refrain from using your cell phone during the carpool. Dismissal time is 3:45 pm.

Bus: Children may ride the bus to and from school on their staggered entry day if this will be their usual form of transportation. Bus route information is available at www.wcpss.net. Select Menu, Parents, More, Transportation. Please check the website for stop and route information. The time shown at the top of each route will be the estimated time the bus is due to arrive at the first stop. Any questions or concerns about the bus routes and times should be directed to Assistant Principal Genevieve Meyert at gmeyer@wcpss.net or (919) 518-0090.

What to Bring

Please send your child(ren) to school with the following items on their staggered entry day:

- A healthy snack
- Water bottle
- A towel for rest time
- A change of clean clothes in a bag labeled with their name
- A backpack with a zippered closure
- Lunch is \$3.50 to purchase.

School Meals

Full-paid breakfast will be \$1.75, and lunch will be \$3.50 at elementary schools. To receive free lunch, families must complete the 2025-26 meal benefits application, available online at MySchoolApps.com. Paper copies are available for pickup at the school office. For families who completed the 2024-25 meal benefits application, the eligibility benefit will be in place for their student's first 30 school days of the 2025-26 school year.

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 identify the developmental levels and learning styles of children and provide materials and teaching strategies to address students' needs and develop their strengths. The classroom teacher and support staff will screen 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 learning goals for each child. Assessment results will be communicated during the Academic Parent Teacher Team meeting in September.

Kindergarten “Meet the Teacher”

Please reserve **Friday, August 29, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for an informal drop-in event where parents and kindergartners can meet their teacher and** explore their new classroom. Parents will have an opportunity to acquire a carpool number, set up a lunch account, register to volunteer, and join the PTA. **All kindergarten students will report to school full-time on Tuesday, September 2.**

Before and After School Programs

We are pleased to announce that Baileywick will offer before and after-school programs for the 2024-25 school year! The programs will be coordinated and staffed by Baileywick teachers and will include time for guided homework and a broad range of enrichment activities. The before- and after-school programs will begin for kindergarten students on Tuesday, September 2. If you are interested in enrolling your child, you can find registration information on the school's website.

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.**

Kind regards,

Kendall Grigg and Genevieve Meyer