

Kindergarten Registration F.A.Q.

Silver Beach Elementary School



Frequently Asked Question	Answer
Transportation	
What is the drop-off procedure?	You may drop off your child in the morning after 7:30. Please pull up as far as you can in the drop off lane before you stop and let your child out. We have supervision out front in the morning to make sure students get where they are going safely.
What time can I drop my child off? Where can he/she go before school starts?	The earliest drop off time is 7:30am. Students may not enter the school at that time unless they are having breakfast at school. Students who are not eating breakfast at school may go to the playground where there will be supervision starting at 7:30am.
What is the pick-up procedure in the afternoon?	Please form a single file line, pull up as far as you can, and remain in your car. Students will be walked out to the pickup area by their teachers where they will wait until they see their parent and will then go to their car.
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.
How does my student remember how to get home?	Teachers gather the information before the start of kindergarten and keep the information accessible. Teachers ensure the child is in the correct pickup location daily.
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 unless the student tells the driver they are 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.	It is very important that parents let us know if going home plans change well before the end of the day. Please send a note to school in your child's chat folder. The teacher will see the note in the folder and then send it to the office, so we all know what the plan is. If you are unable to send a note, please call the office by 11:00 am and let us know the plan. We will then notify your child's teacher. You may also email, if necessary, but please email both your child's teacher and the office. If you do not get acknowledgement of your email, please call the office.

Attendance	
What is the procedure if my child is <u>late</u> to school?	If your child arrives at school after the second bell has rung at 8:00am, please walk your child into the office where they will sign in and get an arrival slip to take to their teacher. This system is in place so we can keep our attendance records accurate.
What is the procedure if my child is <u>absent</u> from school?	Please call the office to report an absence. We have voicemail so if you are up during the night with your sick child, you do not have to wait until school opens to report the absence. If you know in advance of an absence, please call, or email the office and your child's teacher. If an absence is not entered in our system by 9:30am, an automatic call will go out to parents/guardians. Please call back as soon as possible that day to clear up the absence.
What is the procedure if my child <u>needs to leave school early</u> ?	Please send a note in your child's chat folder letting us know the time and reason for leaving early. If something unplanned comes up, please call the office as soon as possible to let us know. If you know in advance of an early dismissal, please call or email the office and your child's teacher.
Health	
What is the allergy policy?	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.
Can I pack nuts in my child's lunchbox?	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.
What is the procedure if my child gets hurt or feels sick at school?	Your child will come to the office where we have first aid supplies to take care of minor cuts and bumps. For significant injuries, we will call to have you take your child home or perhaps recommend a visit to the doctor. In very serious cases, we will call 911 first and parent/guardian second. We also can check temperatures. If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, or is vomiting or has diarrhea, you will be called to take your child home. It is important to have at least one emergency contact listed so if we are unable to reach a parent/guardian, we have other options, so your child is not stuck at school feeling sick or hurt.
What is procedure if my child has a toileting accident at school?	Child goes to the office and changes clothes and then returns to class.
What does my child need to bring to school with them?	<u>Need:</u> Backpack, lunchbox (if home lunch), snack.
Can I pack extra clothes?	<u>Recommended:</u> Extra set of clothes

Meals and Snack	
Can my child eat breakfast at school?	Yes, breakfast is served starting at 7:30am. Please make sure there is money in your child's food service account or fill out the free/reduced lunch application to see if your family qualifies for assistance with school meals.
Is there a snack time?	Yes, a daily afternoon snack, except for early release days.
Who provides it?	Families provide snack for their child.
How do families pay for school lunch?	You can pay online at: https://bellingshamschools.org/families/school-day-information/online-payments/food-services-online-payments/ You can also send a check, made out to Silver Beach Elementary, in your child's chat folder or pay directly with cash or check to our kitchen staff in the cafeteria.
How do I know what choices my child can make for school lunch?	We send hard copies of menus home each month or you can look up the menu online at: https://bellingshamschools.org/families/school-day-information/school-menus/
What happens if my child does not finish their lunch?	Uneaten food is kept in their lunchbox and they have the option of finishing it during afternoon snack time.
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?	The YMCA provides on-site after school care at Silver Beach. For information, please call YMCA at 360-733-8630. Before and after school off-site childcare options offered for Silver Beach are The Firs 360-733-6840, and Kid's World 360-647-3423.
Do parents get contact information for another child's family?	Our PTO publishes a school directory, usually by October each year. The information you have submitted when registering your child can be listed in the directory unless you specifically opt-out by filling out this form yearly: https://bellingshamschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/P4011F-1.pdf
Is there a school lost and found?	Yes, we have a lost and found located at the top of the stairway to the lower level where the Cafeteria, Gym, and Music Room are located. PLEASE remember to write your child's name on all their belongings. We donate unclaimed and unlabeled items approximately twice a year.
When is recess? Will my child have to go out if it is rainy or cold?	Unless it is extremely wet, cold, or windy, your child will be expected to go out to recess. Please have your child dress in appropriate clothing for the weather. There is a covered area outside if it gets very rainy during recess.

Can my child bring toys to school?	Unless your child's teacher specifically tells you that your child can bring a toy for sharing or other special day, please do not send your child to school with toys or other items from home. They can cause disruption and disappointment to your child, if lost, and to others who may wish they had one. We cannot be responsible for lost items that have been brought from home.
Classroom	
When will we know who the classroom teacher is?	Our goal is to mail out class placement postcards, so they arrive 1-3 days prior to the first day of school.
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?	There are several options to communicate with your child's teacher: Seesaw App, Email, Phone, Scheduled Meeting, and a note in the provided Blue Silver Beach folder.
How do I volunteer?	Please contact your student(s) teacher or school for volunteer application and opportunities
Who do I contact to learn more about PTA?	You can email our PTO president at SBEA.pres@gmail.com or our PTO volunteer coordinator at SBEA.vc@gmail.com Here is the link to the New Family Orientation slide show. This is normally a live event and is packed with great information for families new to Silver Beach. www.silverbeach.org/Nfo