

Kindergarten Registration F.A.Q.

Wade King Elementary School

<i>Frequently Asked Question</i>	<i>Answer</i>
Transportation:	Across the district, transportation is provided for students who live farther than 1 mile from school, or who live closer than 1 mile but do not have a safe walking route. Wade King has 3 large school buses and several smaller Special Education buses that transport our students to and from school. If your child is eligible to ride a school bus, your child's teacher and our office staff will help you know what bus number he/she will ride and be able to give you approximate pick-up and drop-off times. Many families also transport their children.
What is the drop-off procedure in the morning?	Wade King has a car drop-off lane in the front of the school. Please stay in your car and move up as the line progresses. A staff member will be present before school to greet your child as they get out of the vehicle. You can also choose to park your vehicle in a space in the parking lot, or at the fire station below the school, and walk your child to the front of the school. Please use the sidewalk for safety!
What time can I drop my child off? Where can he/she go before school starts?	The earliest time students can arrive at Wade King is 7:30 a.m. We begin serving breakfast at 7:30 a.m. as well as providing supervision on the playground and in the library. The bell rings at 7:55 a.m., signaling the beginning of our school day. Students who were in the library or at breakfast walk outside when the bell rings. Teachers meet students outside at that time and they walk into the school together.
What is the pick-up procedure in the afternoon?	If your child will ride the bus home after school, know that we will have extra staff and older students helping him/her get on their bus. If you are picking up your child after school, you have two choices. You can stay in your car, in the pick-up line in front of the school OR park and walk to the front of the school. If you are in the pick-up line, be patient and remember that the safety of your child is our primary goal. The line moves quite quickly! Simply stay in your car and move up as the line moves. A staff member will help your child to your car. If you want to get out of your vehicle, please park in a space in the parking lot and remember to use the sidewalk to walk to the front of the school for the dismissal. Kindergarten teachers will teach your child to tell them before leaving with you.
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?	You will have a conference with your child's teacher before school starts. Your teacher will have you fill out a transportation form that indicates what the regular schedule will be for your child: bus, car pick-up, walking, day-care, after-school clubs, etc. If your child's 'Go-Home Plan' changes, you can send a note in your child's Home Folder, email the teacher early in the day, or call the school office before 11:30 a.m. with any changes.

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.	You can call the school office or email the classroom teacher (cc:ing the office) with any changes in your child's Go-Home Plan. Please contact the office no later than 11:30 a.m. so a message can be delivered to his/her classroom teacher. Playdates involving the school bus require a district bus pass which your child can get in the office. You will either need to call the school, email the office, or send a written/dated note in order to get a bus pass. It is important to know that some of our buses are very full and are not able to take guest riders. If you request a bus pass that we are unable to honor, our office staff will call you to help you make other arrangements. Please call the school office if you have questions.
Attendance:	Regular attendance is very important to the learning process for all children. If your child is not feeling well or has had a fever within the last 24 hours, please call the school office by 9:00 a.m. (or email our attendance desk), to excuse your child's absence. If your child has an appointment and will be late to school or needs to leave early, please notify the school by 9:00 a.m. Any absences that are unexcused as of 10:00 a.m. will prompt an automated attendance call. If you receive an automated call, just call our office to report it your child's absence.
What is the procedure if my child is late to school?	Regular, prompt attendance helps a child get a great start to the day. However, occasions arise when a child might be running a little late. Students who arrive after 8:05 a.m. must come to the office to check in and receive a pass to class. This is way they will not be marked with an unexcused absence.
What is the procedure if my child is absent from school?	Please notify the school office by phone or email by 9:00 a.m. that your child will be out and give the reason (ill, appointment, family event). You will receive an automated attendance call at 10:00 am if your child is absent and you have not notified the school. If your child will be out of school for a family vacation, it needs to be approved by our Assistant Principal, Mr. Holmgren. You can email him or call the office to leave him a message.
What is the procedure if my child needs to leave school early?	When possible, it is helpful to notify the school in advance of appointments and events that require your child to leave school early. If you provide the office with the information, a note will be given to the teacher so your child will be ready when you come to the office to sign them out. For the safety of all of our students, you will need to come to the office to sign out your child and we will call the classroom for you rather than having you go directly to the classroom.
Health:	Any health concerns regarding your child should be noted on the annual Health Update form. Our nurses and office staff monitor this information closely and work with families to provide care for students with health needs and concerns. You will be contacted if your child has even a mild head injury, has a fever, is not feeling well, has vomited, has an allergic reaction, or needs to be picked up for any other health reason. Up to date contact information ensures that we can reach you if needed.

<p>What is the allergy policy? Can I pack nuts in my child's lunchbox?</p>	<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. 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>
<p>What is the procedure if my child has a food allergy?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>What is the procedure if my child gets hurt or feels sick at school?</p>	<p>Students who are injured or feel ill come to the office and are assessed by our nurse and our trained office staff. A temperature is often taken for those students who appear ill. If your child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, we will call you to pick him/her up. If your child is injured, we will assess the injury and treat it. If it is serious or your child appears distressed, we will call you immediately.</p>
<p>What is procedure if my child has a toileting accident at school?</p>	<p>Toileting accidents happen, especially when students are first starting school. If your child is likely to have an accident, it is helpful to keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack. We do have spare underwear (new) and pants available in case your child needs them. Students can wash up and change clothes in the privacy of their classroom bathroom or the health room bathroom located in the office. If a student borrows pants from school, we ask that you wash them and return them so others can use them. You can keep the underwear.</p>
<p>What does my child need to bring to school with them? Can I pack extra clothes?</p>	<p>The Bellingham Promise assures families that every child receives a public, free education. This means you do not need to buy school supplies! We do ask that your child come to school with a backpack to carry his/her personal belongings and any schoolwork they need to carry. If you need a backpack, please let the office know and we will provide one for you. A spare change of clothes is an important item to keep in your child's backpack.</p>
<p>Meals and Snacks</p>	<p>Both breakfast and lunch are available at school. Our Central Kitchen provides healthy breakfast and lunches made from scratch using local food sources. Students may purchase meals by bringing in money to school or families can purchase meals online. All students have a 5-digit pin number that they punch in on a keypad to debit out their meal cost. We will teach your child his/her number and how to do this! Students have the same number through 12th grade! You can also apply for Free or Reduced meals by completing the district application. You can find this application on our school and district web sites. Our office can also help you access the form.</p>
<p>Can my child eat breakfast at school?</p>	<p>We serve breakfast at school at 7:30 a.m. When students are done with breakfast, they can go to the playground or library until the bell rings at 7:55 a.m.</p>
<p>Is there a snack time? Who provides it?</p>	<p>Snack time is part of our daily kindergarten schedule. We ask parents to pack a healthy snack in their child's backpack if they can. If your child receives Free or Reduced meals, or if you are unable to provide a snack for your child, our PTA provides Graham Crackers and Goldfish crackers for snacks.</p>

How do families pay for school lunch?	Students may bring in money (check or cash) to be credited toward their food service account. Families can also add money to their child's account online.
How do I know what choices my child can make for school lunch?	A monthly menu is available on our district website. We will also send home a hard copy of the menu each month in your child's Go Home folder.
What happens if my child doesn't finish their lunch?	If a student has brought lunch from home and is unable to finish lunch, he/she can keep it in their lunchbox. Hot lunches that are not finished will be thrown away.
What do I do if my child has food allergies or sensitivities?	The annual Health Form is an important way to notify school staff of food allergies and sensitivities. If your child has life threatening allergies to an allergen (such as nut, peanuts, eggs), you will need to meet with our school nurse before your child can begin school so a health plan can be implemented. Classrooms that have life threatening allergies are identified by a sign next to the classroom door and families with students in that classroom are notified that there is an allergy in the classroom. If your child is sensitive to certain foods, please note this on the Health Form as that is also important for us to know.
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?	In the morning, we do not have on-site childcare at Wade King, although students can come to school at 7:30 a.m. The Firs ASA provides childcare both before and after school and transports students to and from their site, located in the Geneva neighborhood. The YMCA provides afterschool childcare from 2:30 p.m. (12:45 p.m. on Thursdays) until 6:00 p.m. We also have PTA sponsored after school clubs that provide enrichment for one to two hours after school certain days of the week. Each PTA sponsored club is one day a week and the registration for classes will be available through 6-Crickets on the PTA website in late September. Most classes run for six weeks and there is typically a break of 1-2 weeks in between sessions. There are registration fees for PTA sponsored after school clubs, but there are partial scholarships for those who need them.
Do parents get contact information for another child's family?	An electronic directory will be available to all Wade King families in the fall. Families who opt out for security purposes will not be included in the directory. Your child's name, you name, phone number and email will be listed in the directory.
Is there a school lost and found?	Our Lost and Found rack is located in the foyer of Wade King. Twice a year, remaining items are donated to a local charity. You are encouraged to check the Lost and Found whenever your child is missing something. Please write your child's name on inside of coats, hats, and gloves to make it easier for us to return it to your child.
When is recess? Will my child have to go out if it is rainy or cold?	Fresh air and exercise are vital to a child's health and well-being. Unless the weather is exceptionally cold and wet, students will go outside for recess. Please be sure your child has appropriate clothing to be outside! If you are in need of a coat, let our Principal or Counselor know and we can help. If the weather prohibits outside play, students can opt for either an indoor-recess activity or they can play under the protection of the play-shed (provided they have a coat).

Can my child bring toys to school?	We ask that toys be left at home so they aren't lost or damaged. We have many toys at school for students to enjoy both on the playground and in the classroom.
Classroom:	
When will we know who the classroom teacher is?	You will receive a letter from your child's kindergarten teacher in mid-August welcoming you to their classroom.
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?	You can communicate via email or by calling the office and leaving a message. The teacher will call you back at the end of teaching day. You can also call the classroom before or after school.
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?	Our Wade King PTA is a vibrant, energetic, and passionate group. A PTA information packet will be sent home the first week of school sharing volunteer opportunities, positions, and contact information. There are many ways to participate, and many have small time commitments. It's a fantastic way to meet other families. We encourage you to join!!