

# KINDERGARTEN FAMILY HANDBOOK 2024 – 2025



**SNOHOMISH**  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

Dear kindergarten families:

Welcome to kindergarten and to the Snohomish School District! Educating a child requires the efforts of a team of caring people. In Snohomish School District, this successful team involves parents/guardians, teachers, principals and district staff. We welcome you as equal partners on your child's team.

Our kindergarten program includes a strong emphasis on the development of academic and social skills. In addition, we will provide your child with the opportunity to explore, discover and experience the joy of learning. Please read through this handbook for more information.

We encourage you to get to know your child's teacher and school. Please be sure to ask questions and take an active part in your child's education.

Once again, welcome! We look forward to working with your child and your family.

Sincerely,  
Elementary Principals

## SNOHOMISH SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Your child will attend one of the following elementary schools. If you are uncertain which one serves your neighborhood, please call our Transportation Department at 360-563-3525.

Cascade View Elementary  
2401 Park Avenue  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
360-563-7000  
[www.sno.wednet.edu/cascadeview](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/cascadeview)

Machias Elementary  
231 147th Avenue SE  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
360-563-4825  
[www.sno.wednet.edu/machias](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/machias)

Cathcart Elementary  
8201 188th Street SE  
Snohomish, WA 98296  
360-563-7075  
[www.sno.wednet.edu/cathcart](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/cathcart)

Riverview Elementary  
7322 64th Street SE  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
360-563-4375  
[www.sno.wednet.edu/riverview](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/riverview)

Central Emerson Elementary  
1103 Pine Avenue  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
360-563-7150  
[www.sno.wednet.edu/centralemerson](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/centralemerson)

Seattle Hill Elementary  
12711 51st Avenue SE  
Everett, WA 98208  
360-563-4675  
[www.sno.wednet.edu/seattlehill](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/seattlehill)

Dutch Hill Elementary  
8231 131st Street SE  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
360-563-4450  
[www.sno.wednet.edu/dutchhill](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/dutchhill)

Totem Falls Elementary  
14211 Sno-Cascade Drive  
Snohomish, WA 98296  
360-563-4750  
[www.sno.wednet.edu/totemfalls](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/totemfalls)

Little Cedars Elementary  
7408 144th Place SE  
Snohomish, WA 98296  
360-563-2900  
[www.sno.wednet.edu/littlecedars](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/littlecedars)

For more information visit any of the school websites above or the district website at [www.sno.wednet.edu](http://www.sno.wednet.edu).



# WHAT IS KINDERGARTEN?

## WaKIDS

Our state full-day kindergarten programs participate in a program called Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS). WaKIDS is part of a transition process that helps to ensure a successful start to your child's school experience. There are several components to the WaKIDS program.

- **Family connections** – During the first three days, teachers will meet with each kindergarten family to get to know them and learn about the student's interests and needs. We will have many opportunities designed to get to know our new kindergarten students and their families. Our goal is to introduce school to your kindergartener and lessen the anxiety around starting school. Watch for more information from your child's school about schedules and details as the start of school approaches.
- **WaKIDS whole child assessment** – This is not an assessment in the sense of a "test" students take. In the fall, teachers observe each child during classroom activities and record data about what each child knows and can do at the beginning of the school year. Knowing more about your child's skills and strengths as they enter kindergarten helps teachers and parents work together to support student growth. The WaKIDS assessment observes six areas: social-emotional, physical, cognitive, language, literacy and mathematics.
- **Early learning collaborations** – Our schools are working to build relationships with early learning providers to support smoother transitions into school for our students.

## State-funded full-day kindergarten

Kindergarten is the first year of your child's public school life. It is an integral part of the primary program and the beginning of a child's formal education. Activities provided in kindergarten are carefully designed and appropriate for 5-year-olds. Under proper guidance, what may look like play actually produces important learning. Children learn best through active participation and are provided opportunities to learn through discovery, interaction, creativity, problem-solving, conversation and play.

The Snohomish School District kindergarten program includes a rich and varied curriculum that:

- Helps students develop initial skills in the academic areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.
- Helps students develop language and communication skills.
- Provides experiences in science, social studies, arts, physical activities and music.
- Includes a basic introduction and brief experience with a world language other than English.
- Helps students acquire large and small motor skills.
- Helps students develop social and emotional skills including successfully participating in learning activities as an individual and as part of a group.



## GETTING STARTED

What you can do to help as your child begins kindergarten:

1. Get to know your child's teacher during the "first three days" and also by communicating through letters, notes and calls throughout the year.
2. Become acquainted with your school by attending school events and attend a kindergarten tour. Make yourself aware of school programs and activities. Subscribe to receive newsletters and other announcements from your child's school and the school district.
3. If your child has been in preschool or child care, consider sharing information you've received from your early learning provider with your child's kindergarten teacher.
4. Know your child. Be patient if his or her first adjustments to school are difficult and if he or she is slow in starting. Please remember each child is an individual, and all children differ in their physical and mental growth.



## HELPFUL HINTS

A successful start to kindergarten is very important to your child. Here are a few hints we hope will be helpful:

### The first few days:

- Mark your child's name, phone number and address on his/her clothing and other personal items (lunch box, backpack, etc.). Make sure labels are properly affixed.
- Wait with your child for the bus or ask an older student to watch both morning and evening.
- If there are small bumps in the road (a lost lunch box, for example), be patient and calm. Downplay these events and reassure your child that school is a great place to be.

### Throughout the year:

- Respond to messages from school promptly. We will do the same for you. Please remember that good communication is the key!
- Enclose money and/or forms sent for various purposes in a sealed envelope. On the envelope, always write your child's name, the teacher's name and the amount enclosed.

- Strive for good attendance. If your child is absent, please send a written explanation or call your school's phone attendance line.
- Send a note with your child or call the school if his or her usual transportation is temporarily changing (For example, following a different route, getting picked up where usually riding the bus, or going home with someone else).
- Report any change of address, telephone number or withdrawal from school to the school office.
- Pick your child up at the curb, crosswalk, or wait until he/she crosses the street with the patrol. Never ask your child to "jaywalk" to your car across the street – or to walk between parked cars or buses to a double-parked car.
- Assure your child is always safe and well-supervised. If you provide transportation, drop off and pick up your child as close to the beginning and end of class as possible.
- If your schedule permits, consider volunteering for your child's classroom or greater school community.
- Encourage your child and enjoy your new school community!

## IMMUNIZATIONS/HEALTH

The amended School Immunization Law requires that a completed Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) form be present at school on or before your child's first day of attendance. The CIS form must show proof of: (a) full immunization; (b) initiation of a schedule of immunization; or (c) a certificate of exemption.

The following charts note the minimum vaccines required for kindergarten attendance in the school year 2024-2025 (charts as of January 1, 2024), according to the State of Washington WAC 246-100-166:

Required documentation must include the month, day and year that all vaccinations were given.



### Vaccines required for school attendance, grades K – 12 August 1, 2024-July 31, 2025

Vaccine	Kindergarten – 6th Grade	7th – 10th Grade	11th – 12th Grade
Hepatitis B	<b>3 doses</b> Dose 3 must be given on or after 24 weeks of age		<b>3 doses</b> Dose 3 must be given on or after 4 months of age
Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP/DT/Td/Tdap)	<b>5 doses</b> (4 doses only <i>IF</i> 4th dose given on or after 4th birthday) <i>PLUS</i>		
		<b>1 dose</b> Tdap required for 6th – 12th grade <i>AND</i> on or after 11 years of age ( <i>see page 5 for more details</i> )	
Polio (IPV or OPV)	<b>4 doses</b> (3 doses only <i>IF</i> 3rd dose given on or after 4th birthday)  The final dose given on or after August 7, 2009, must be given on or after 4 years of age <i>AND</i> a minimum interval of 6 months from the previous dose.	<b>4 doses</b> (3 doses only <i>IF</i> 3rd dose given on or after 4th birthday)	
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella	<b>2 doses</b>		
Varicella	<b>2 doses</b> <i>OR</i> Healthcare provider verified disease		

Look at the Minimum Age and Interval Table on page 5 for recommended minimum age and spacing information.

Review the Individual Vaccine Requirements Summary for more detailed information:

[www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/VaccineRequirements.aspx](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/VaccineRequirements.aspx)

## Minimum Age & Interval for Valid Vaccine Doses

Vaccine	Dose #	Minimum Age	Minimum Interval Between Doses	Notes
Hepatitis B <b>Hep B</b>	Dose 1	Birth	4 weeks between dose 1 & 2 (K – 12th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 doses valid if adult Recombivax HB® given between ages 11 and 15 and doses separated by at least 4 months.</li> </ul>
	Dose 2	4 weeks	8 weeks between dose 2 & 3 (K – 12th)	
	Dose 3	24 weeks 4 months	16 weeks between dose 1 & 3 (K – 10th) 12 weeks between dose 1 & 3 (11th – 12th)	
Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis <b>DTaP/DT</b>	Dose 1	6 weeks	4 weeks between dose 1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DTaP: for children through age 6.</li> </ul>
	Dose 2	10 weeks	4 weeks between dose 2 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 month interval is recommended between Dose 3 and Dose 4, but minimum interval of 4 months is acceptable.</li> </ul>
	Dose 3	14 weeks	6 months between dose 3 & 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students 7 – 10 years of age not fully immunized with DTaP should get one Tdap followed by additional doses of Td if needed.</li> <li>• DTaP given after age 7 counts for the Tdap dose; no Tdap required at 11 – 12 years of age.</li> </ul>
	Dose 4	12 months	6 months between dose 4 & 5	
	Dose 5	4 years	–	
Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis <b>Tdap</b>	Dose 1	10 years recommended. See notes for exceptions.	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tdap: for children 7 years of age or older.</li> <li>• If no DTaP doses given before age 7, students must get Tdap followed by 2 doses of Td.</li> <li>• Tdap given between 7 – 10 years of age is valid and meets the requirement.</li> <li>• Can be given regardless of the interval between DTaP or Td.</li> </ul>
Tetanus and Diphtheria <b>Td</b>	Dose 1	7 years	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Td: for children 7 years of age or older.</li> </ul>
Polio <b>IPV or OPV</b>	Dose 1	6 weeks	4 weeks between dose 1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not required for students 18 years and older.</li> </ul>
	Dose 2	10 weeks	4 weeks between dose 2 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If 4 doses of OPV received, and all doses given before 4 years of age, one dose of IPV is required at 4 years and older.</li> <li>• Please see Individual Vaccine Requirements Summary for more details: <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/VaccineRequirements.aspx">www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/VaccineRequirements.aspx</a></li> </ul>
	Dose 3	14 weeks	6 months between dose 3 & 4	
	Dose 4	4 years	–	
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella <b>MMR</b>	Dose 1	12 months	4 weeks between dose 1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MMRV (MMR + varicella) may be used instead of separate MMR and varicella vaccines.</li> <li>• Must get the same day as VAR OR at least 28 days apart.</li> </ul>
	Dose 2	13 months	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-day grace DOES apply between doses of the same live vaccine such as MMR and MMR. The 4 day grace period DOES NOT apply between dose 1 and dose 2 of different live vaccines, such as between MMR and Varicella or between MMR and live flu vaccine.</li> </ul>
Varicella (chickenpox) <b>VAR</b>	Dose 1	12 months	3 months between dose 1 & 2 (12 months through 12 years) 4 weeks between dose 1 & 2 (13 years and older)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended: 3 months between varicella doses, but minimum interval of 28 days acceptable. Minimum age of 13 months also acceptable.</li> <li>• Must get the same day as MMR OR at least 28 days apart.</li> </ul>
	Dose 2	15 months	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-day grace DOES apply between doses of the same live vaccine; DOES NOT apply between doses of different live vaccines.</li> </ul>

If you have a disability and need this document in another format, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711)

DOH 348-051 December 2016

Snohomish School District strives to provide for a safe and optimum learning environment for your child. Legislation enacted in June 2002 requires that children with life-threatening health conditions have a medication or treatment order and nursing care plan in place before they start school. The medication or treatment order must be from the child's licensed health care provider. The law defines life-threatening condition as "a health condition that will put the child in danger of death during the

school day if a medication or treatment order and nursing care plan are not in place." These health conditions may be life threatening reactions to bee stings or food allergies, severe asthma, unstable diabetes, severe seizures, and others.

Students who miss school due to illness should be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. If you have any questions and/or require assistance in any way, please call your child's school and ask to speak with the district nurse.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration will begin spring 2024 at all Snohomish School District elementary schools. All kindergarten families and students are highly encouraged to attend this year's Spring Into Kindergarten event. Spring Into Kindergarten will be held on Thursday, March 7, from 4-6:30 p.m. at district elementary schools. Families should complete and return their kindergarten registration paperwork that day. Each school will also be conducting school tours and having important information available for families (WaKIDS, PTA/PTO/parent organizations, bus transportation, special services and more). For more information, please contact the elementary school your child will attend.

### Age of admission:

To enter kindergarten a child must be 5-years-old on or before August 31. (Note: Please call your school if information is needed regarding early entrance requirements. Depending on availability, early entrance may be considered only if your child's birthday falls between September 1 and October 31.)

### Where to enroll:

Your child should be registered before the first day of school at the school nearest your home. Kindergarten registration will begin Thursday, March 7, at all Snohomish School District elementary schools. All registration materials will be available at [www.sno.wednet.edu/kindergarten](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/kindergarten). We encourage families to utilize the online student enrollment and registration available at that site.

### Important materials:

Families should complete their kindergarten registration materials online at [www.sno.wednet.edu/kindergarten](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/kindergarten).

Materials you will need to have handy include:

- Child's birth certificate
- Child's immunization records (child's immunization records must be up-to-date)
- Emergency contact information and phone numbers (at least 2)
- Name and phone number of your family doctor
- Parent's phone number at work
- Proof of address (see below)
- Any relevant legal documents (parenting plans, protection orders, etc.)
- When registering students who have transferred from another school, please bring the name, address and phone number of the school

### Proof of address (at least one):

Our registration policy requires for any student/parent to show proof of residency before acceptance into our school district. Proof of residency is:

1. A current Snohomish County property tax statement (original) with the parent/guardian name and address. The address must be within the service area of your home school.
2. A current utility bill (PUD, water, phone landline, etc.)
3. Closing documents in home purchase – Documentation from a title company is acceptable. Purchase offers are not.

NOTE: Cell phone bills, vehicle registration and driver's licenses are not acceptable forms of proof.

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

Our Transportation Office is responsible for developing student bus routes and schedules. For the most up-to-date information on bus schedules and routes:

- Visit our district website at [www.sno.wednet.edu](http://www.sno.wednet.edu)
- Log onto your student's Skyward/Family Access account
- Call 360-563-3525

It is our district's practice that kindergarteners will not be let off the bus unless the student's parent (or designated adult) is at the bus stop at the time of student drop-off. Kindergarteners whose parent is not at the bus stop will be returned to the student's elementary school where the parent (or emergency contact) will be called for student pick-up.

### Bus safety

We highly value the safety of those who ride our buses and will do our best to ensure that each student arrives at school, and back home, safely.

Families and schools share the responsibility for providing a safe environment for students while they are riding district buses and during times of emergency school closures.

Posted bus routes and pick-up and drop-off times are approximate. Please remember that traffic, weather and other unforeseen circumstances may cause some routes to be early or delayed. It is recommended that parents and students arrive at their bus stops five minutes prior to the published times.

Students on buses are expected to conform to behavior rules corresponding to classroom conduct regulations. They must:

- Sit properly in their seats,
- Refrain from throwing objects,
- Keep their hands to themselves,
- Be courteous to others, and
- Obey the bus drivers at all times.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Each school will publish a list of school supplies on its website. Please watch for this information in the summer prior to the start of the school year.



# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

## Your child learns to:

## You can help by:

### Speaking



- Increase vocabulary.
- Gain confidence in self-expression.
- Express ideas in sentences.
- Relate events in proper sequence.
- Listen for a purpose (specific things, directions or information).

1. Encouraging your child to take part in family conversations.
2. Giving your child experiences to talk about.
3. Encouraging your child to talk plainly and to use correct language. Avoid using baby talk.
4. Listening when your child talks to you.
5. Teaching them about following directions.

### Reading



- Develop interest in books and a desire to read.
- Interpret pictures.
- Discover likenesses or differences in form, size, number and ideas.
- Identify beginning sound in words.
- Hear like sounds in rhyming words.
- Follow sequence of ideas.
- Sound out words.
- Read when ready.

1. Reading to your child. Talk about what you've read together.
2. Setting an example by reading yourself.
3. Giving your child books of his/her own.
4. Visiting the public library.
5. Talking with your child about pictures.
6. Encouraging your child to notice signs.

### Writing



- Be aware of handwriting and its purposes.
- Use art materials and puzzles to develop small muscle coordination.
- Write his own name in manuscript form.
- Write letters and numbers in manuscript form.
- Draw pictures to tell stories and begin to create labels to go with them.

1. Providing opportunities to cut and color large pictures.
2. Helping your child hold the crayon correctly and easily in first drawing experiences.
3. Helping your child recognize his own name in print.
4. Helping your child write letters in correct manuscript form (refer to the manuscript alphabet).
5. Encouraging your child to draw pictures and tell oral stories about their drawings.

### Art



- Use a variety of art materials and tools.
- Control small muscles used in writing.
- Develop and express his/her own ideas.

1. Being enthusiastic – talk about your child's artwork and display it.
2. Providing materials and tools for art activities in the home.
3. Developing an appreciation for all of the beauty around us.

### Playing



- Play appropriately with others.
- Develop large muscle coordination.
- Release emotions through play.

1. Encouraging your child to share toys.
2. Playing family games at home.
3. Praising your child when he is thoughtful of others.

### Living



- Walk safely, cross at crosswalks and obey traffic lights.
- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Play safely.
- Practice safety on the school bus.

1. Encouraging your child to practice good health and safety habits.
2. Providing your child a healthy diet.
3. Encouraging outdoor activities.
4. Helping your child learn the safest way to and from school.
5. Teaching your child his name, address and telephone number.
6. Seeing that your child receives eleven to twelve hours of sleep each night.

### Exploring



- Explore and understand scientific concepts.
- Understand needs of living things.
- Care for pets.
- Share scientific discoveries with others.

1. Taking your child on trips.
2. Exploring the wonders of nature with your child.
3. Planning simple experiments at home.
4. Encouraging your child to share interesting items at school.
5. Answering questions or suggesting ways for your child to find answers.

### Counting and math



- Enjoy numbers.
- Understand number meaning.
- Appreciate the use of arithmetic in daily living.
- Use arithmetic vocabulary (shapes, large, small, many, few).
- Be aware of early concepts in addition and subtraction.
- Recognize shapes

1. Playing simple mathematical games.
2. Using the calendar to mark special days.
3. Helping your child use money.
4. Counting things during play.
5. Pointing out shapes, numbers, and math in daily life around you. Make it fun!

### Understanding



- Respect the community.
- Develop an understanding of neighborhood workers.
- Be responsible for self and others.
- Work, share and play safely.
- Participate as a group member.
- Treat others with respect.

1. Letting your child share in family responsibilities.
2. Providing opportunities to meet and play with other children.
3. Treating every encounter as a learning opportunity.

# KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

## Math

**Bridges in Mathematics** - [www.mathlearningcenter.org](http://www.mathlearningcenter.org)

In kindergarten children will learn to count to 100 by ones and tens, be able to add and subtract within 10, and develop an understanding of teen numbers are 10 and some more. They will also use mathematical language to describe shapes, weight, and length. The curriculum provides lots of hands-on practice, and opportunities to play math games to help children engage in playful learning. The Math Learning Center has a wide variety of resources for families to engage in fun math activities at home.

## Reading

**Fountas and Pinnell Classroom** - [www.fountasandpinnell.com/intro](http://www.fountasandpinnell.com/intro)

By the end of kindergarten children will know the ABCs and the primary sound each letter makes. They will be able to read books 8-16 pages long with about two to three lines of text per page. We teach our students to use some sight words they have learned, to “sound out” words with short vowels, and use pictures to help understand the meaning of the story. We also provide lots of opportunities to play with letters and sounds such as rhyming games and songs, and read aloud and talk about books daily.

## Writing

**Being a Writer** -

[www.collaborativeclassroom.org/programs/being-a-writer](http://www.collaborativeclassroom.org/programs/being-a-writer)

The focus in kindergarten is developing an understanding that writing is a form of communication. Children begin by drawing pictures and labeling the pictures, and they end the year writing two to three short sentences on lines related to the pictures they draw. We teach students the difference between fiction and nonfiction, and help children develop confidence in their writing.

## Purposeful Play

Play is an important part of our kindergarten classrooms. Students develop social skills, problem solving, and creativity during our purposeful play time. Teachers facilitate learning by providing activities to engage and challenge students in a playful setting. Examples of play areas in a kindergarten classroom are the block and toy area, dramatic play area, home area, writing area, math area, and art area.

## Social-Emotional

**Second Step** - [www.secondstep.org/social-emotional-learning](http://www.secondstep.org/social-emotional-learning)

Children learn social-emotional skills in a variety of ways, including the behavior they see modeled by the adults in their lives.

Social-emotional skills and concepts are also taught explicitly in the classroom, in much the same way math or reading is taught. Second Step provides whole class lessons in empathy, emotion recognition and management, problem solving, impulse control, calming down, communication and assertiveness.



## SPRING INTO KINDERGARTEN

Mark your calendars for our Spring Into Kindergarten event. All kindergarten families and students are highly encouraged to attend. Spring Into Kindergarten will be held on Thursday, March 7, from 4–6:30 p.m. at district elementary schools. Families should complete and return their kindergarten registration paperwork that day. Each school will also be conducting school tours and having important information available for families (WaKIDS, PTA/PTO/parent organizations, bus transportation, special services and more).

**THANK YOU FOR ENROLLING YOUR CHILD IN THE SNOHOMISH SCHOOL DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM. WE ARE HERE TO HELP AND SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AND YOUR FAMILY. PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL OR OUR DISTRICT OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!**



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