



2023-24 Parent / Student Handbook



Today Learners-Tomorrow Leaders

Empowering learners to be respectful, innovative, global citizens who use their knowledge and skills responsibly to be successful in a diverse, ever-changing world.

www.billingsschools.org/our-schools/elementary-schools/rosepark

WELCOME BACK!

I am pleased to welcome you and your child to Rose Park Elementary School. The coming academic year promises to be full of new learning, fun activities, and challenges for all of us.

Rose Park School is committed to the guiding principle that every student can learn and succeed. We work hard at Rose Park to create an environment that builds trust and respect for others. Rose Park has an excellent staff of educators. You will find that our teachers offer multiple approaches to learning, and that opportunities are available to accommodate students with differing needs and learning styles. We believe that optimum learning occurs when educators and parents work together as a team. We look forward to having you involved in your child's education and hope to see you at school often.

This "Parent and Student Handbook" has been prepared to help you be informed about school policies, procedures and schedules. Please take the time to review this important information and to keep it on hand for future reference.

I am looking forward to working with all of you. You will find there are many opportunities for involvement at Rose Park. You can take an active part in our PTA, help out with a special project, volunteer in the classroom or volunteer in our library. Please feel free to stop in or call if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Amber Griffith
Principal

RULES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

ARRIVAL BEFORE SCHOOL

- Students not eating breakfast are to be on campus no earlier than 8:05 a.m. when staff is available for supervision. If your child is at school prior to 8:05, you will be called.
- Students eating breakfast may begin lining up at 7:50 a.m. Students are to be in a single file line on the sidewalk. There is to be no cutting, horseplay, screaming, arguing, etc. “Friends” arriving later may not go to the front of the line, even to just “visit” while waiting for the breakfast bell – they are to go to the end of the line and stay there until the breakfast bell rings. Students who repeatedly do not follow these expectations will be asked to arrive at 7:55 when the breakfast bell rings.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for the weather while waiting outside for breakfast. If the temperature is at 0 degrees or above, students will be waiting outside.

ATTENDANCE & TARDIES

Parents need to make every attempt to have students attend school unless their child is ill or has some other valid reason for not attending. Your child needs to develop a habit of prompt and regular attendance. Good habits acquired now will help them be successful in life. Parents are asked to call the school office (281-6219) to report absences. If we do not receive a call by 8:45 a.m., the automated calling system will contact the parent at home or work. This is required by state law.

When a child is going to be absent for a prolonged period of time, assignments and make-up instruction are **provided when the child returns** rather than given in advance. The teacher’s instruction is needed for accurate completion. We have also found that most students cannot concentrate on their work when they are ill.

- When your child has a doctor/dentist appointment, please bring a note from the appointment desk. Students that arrive by 10:00 with a doctor’s note are marked as being tardy for medical reasons (MT)
- Excessive Absences – Total absences over 5% of accrued school days is considered excessive. For example, there are 60 days of school in a Trimester. If your child misses more than 3 days of school in a trimester – due to illness or for another reason – that is excessive.
- Excessive Tardies – Learning begins at 8:15 when school starts. Total tardies above 5% of accrued school days is excessive.
 - If your child misses the first five minutes of class, it is difficult for them to catch up on what the class has started.
 - If your child is half an hour late, they have missed the majority of the first lesson.
 - If your child arrives after 10:00 a.m. they have missed the majority of any morning lessons.

BICYCLES, ROLLER BLADES, SCOOTERS, & SKATE BOARDS

Children in grades 1-5 may ride their bicycles, etc. to school. Bicycle racks are provided and bicycles should be left in the racks during school hours. Students are to lock their bicycles while they are at school. The serial number and brand name should be recorded at home so that identification may be made if the bicycle is stolen. Skateboards, scooters, etc. are to be stored on racks provided in the building. **Kindergarten students are asked not to ride their bikes, etc. to school unless accompanied by a parent.** Research and experience show that most children in kindergarten lack full motor control and are easily distracted. The inconvenience far outweighs the risk of serious injury.

If your child rides a bike, etc. to school, please be certain they are aware of the following safety practices:

- Bikes should be ridden on the right-hand side of the street. Bicycles are vehicles and should be operated as such, subject to traffic signs, signals, and regulations.
- Bikes, etc. should be ridden alone. Students should not ride double.
- Bikes should be ridden in single file when in a group.
- Bikes should be in good working condition, including tires, steering, brakes and drive mechanism.
- Bikes should be walked through pedestrian crosswalks and on school property.
- Bikes should be ridden on the streets and sidewalks only, never on lawns.
- City regulations **REQUIRE** that **students wear helmets**. Students must always wear a helmet if they are riding anything to school. *
- Students are not allowed to ride their bikes or any other equipment around the school area before or during school time. Once reaching the sidewalk in front of the school, students are asked to disembark and walk their bike to the bike racks, or their scooter, etc., to the front door.

Students are allowed to use roller skates, roller blades, scooters and skateboards, etc. on their way to and from school. As with bikes, **we ask that students do not ride, skate, etc. on school property.** If a student disregards any of the above safety rules, or if a student uses their skates, blades, scooter, bike, board, etc. in any manner the school staff deems unsafe (including not wearing a helmet) they will lose their privilege to ride, and parents will be called. When this occurs, if parents are unable to pick the student and their mode of transportation up after school, students will be asked to leave their equipment at school and walk home. *If your child needs a helmet, and you would like our help in getting one, please let us know.

BIRTHDAYS and PARTY INVITATIONS

Please make arrangements with your child's teacher if you would like to bring treats to celebrate your child's birthday. They will be able to give you the number of students in the class, as well as inform you about any dietary restrictions. If you would like to have flowers, balloons, etc. delivered, please be aware that we do not deliver them to the classroom. Students will receive notification that they have a delivery at the office, and will be sent to the office to pick them up close to the end of the school day. If a parent or relative would like to make a personal delivery, they may do so on the playground before or after school, or at the office during the school day.

Emotional safety is important to us. Be considerate of the feelings of your child's classmates. In an effort to promote a safe, healthy environment for all students in each classroom, we do not permit on-campus distribution of birthday or social invitations that are not inclusive. If you would like to distribute party invitations on campus, please include either the whole class, or those students of like gender to your child. **If you would like to invite only a few of your child's classmates, please distribute them after school hours.**

BULLYING and CONFLICT

Billings Public Schools and Rose Park Elementary take Bullying very seriously. The District has very specific behaviors that constitute Bullying, and definite procedures to be followed. They are summarized here, but spelled out in detail on the District website.

Bullying is defined as actions which are negative, intentional, repeated, show a lack of empathy, **and** where there is a power imbalance between the bully and the victim.

What Bullying is not - Most conflict between students is not considered "Bullying" under the District's definition. However, we take all conflict seriously as well, and believe that quick resolution based upon effective information gathering is the best course of action. We encourage your child to tell their teacher or another adult at school about any conflict they are experiencing. Children have difficulty recalling accurate details of incidents days or weeks after they occur, so the sooner they report the conflict, the better. If your child tells you of a conflict they have experienced, contact their teacher immediately if you feel your child has not told an adult at school, or if you are concerned the conflict was not adequately resolved. If you do not receive a response from the teacher within 24 hours, contact the office.

If the principal becomes involved, they will gather information from all who were involved. They will make a determination of what occurred based on this information and formulate a plan of resolution. Depending on the severity of the conflict, you may not be informed of its occurrence and resolution. If the severity of the conflict warrants, you will be informed of the conflict and resolution by a staff member. As a matter of privacy, please do not expect to know what another child's consequence was.

CELL PHONES / SMART WATCHES

Students are not allowed to use their phones or watches at school. If a parent needs to be called, the student should notify their teacher or another adult. Then they will be sent to the office to either use the counter phone or have office staff contact their parents. Cell phones are to be kept in student backpacks, and phone/text modes are to be turned off on watches.

We consider it a parent's responsibility to monitor their child's cell phone/watch usage outside of school hours. We deal with conflicts at school that interrupt learning because of poor choices students make outside of school on their devices. Please help us to support all of our students by monitoring your student's phone/watch interactions outside of school hours.

This link, <https://www.waituntil8th.org/>, has some great information regarding the negative impact of smart devices on children, and we highly encourage all parents to read it. Find out why many executives from tech firm giants such as Apple, Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, and Ebay have delayed giving their children Smartphones until age 14.

CHEMICAL ABUSE

Billings Public School policy forbids the use or possession of any tobacco, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on school district property. Any student possessing or using these substances shall be subject to immediate suspension from school pending a hearing before the Superintendent of Schools, and law enforcement may be called. Students are not allowed to wear clothing that advertises the above mentioned products.

CLASSROOM PARTIES AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Please contact your child's teacher for information regarding classroom parties and any special activities. The front office is generally not aware of details regarding individual classrooms and their special activities.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Any student information parents provide to the school is for school use only. We do not give out names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. All information of student placement and services is also confidential and is available only to the parents and school personnel who are involved with the student's program. Information regarding discipline will only be provided to the parent or legal guardian of any particular student.

CROSSING GUARDS AT 17TH ST W AND PARKHILL, AND 19TH ST W AND COLTON

For the 23-24 school year, we **DO NOT** anticipate being able to staff the crosswalks at the above locations before and after school regularly with permanent crosswalk guards. Please note that if either of the permanent crosswalk guards are sick or unavailable for other reasons, we cannot guarantee the crosswalks mentioned above will be staffed every school day. We strongly encourage parents to teach their children to safely cross these intersections without the help of an adult if you plan on having your child walk to school along these routes. If your child is unable to safely cross these streets by themselves, we strongly recommend that they be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

COMMUNICATION

Parents are responsible for

- 1) providing the school with an up to date working phone number. In addition, you must have at least one alternate contact listed that we can reach in the case of an illness, behavior issue, or emergency.
- 2) having voicemail set up on their phones with a cleared mailbox that they listen to regularly.
- 3) a working email that you check regularly.
- 4) setting up your child's teacher's messaging app on your phone
- 5) making a habit of visiting the school's website regularly for schedules, announcements, calendars, District information
- 6) checking your child's backpack for information, permission slips, and specific communication to you from your child's teacher, counselor, specialist or the office.

Contacting your child's teacher: A parent's primary source of specific information regarding their child is their child's teacher. If you call during school hours, you may leave a voice message for them. You may also use whichever messaging app the teacher uses, or email them. App information should be given to you by your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year. Teachers' email addresses may be found on the Rose Park website under the Teachers and Specialists tab.

Website: Our website has school and lunch schedules, a link to the Rose Park Family Event calendar, the Rose Park Student/Parent Handbook, School and Building Protocols, and other important Rose Park information, in addition to the most current news. Please make a habit of visiting the website to obtain needed information. <https://www.billingsschools.org/our-schools/elementary-schools/rosepark>

Principal Communications: We will use all of the following to ensure you receive important communication from Ms. Griffith. 1) email from the building secretary 2) messaging from the teacher 3) take home fliers and 4) website posting.

Front Office: Front office personnel primarily use the telephone to contact parents. It is imperative that you have voicemail set up, and that you keep your voicemail boxes cleared. The Front Office does not use text messaging, as this requires the use of personal phones. If you do not have at least one secondary contact, please add one as soon as possible. If we cannot reach a parent or secondary contact by phone, we will email the parent. For this reason, please make sure the school has a working email address for each parent that is checked regularly.

DAYCARE PROVIDERS - Before and after school practices

Please be certain that your daycare provider is listed on your annual contact information updates online. If this changes during the school year, please let us know right away. It is important for you to have arrangements made so that children do not arrive at school before 8:05 unless it is for a special school activity, to receive help from a teacher, or to eat breakfast at school. School doors open for breakfast at 7:55. If a child needs to come early for help, their teacher will give them permission the day before. If daycare providers are picking students up, they should be prompt in picking up the children as close to dismissal time as possible. We cannot allow primary students being dismissed at 2:20 to wait for siblings in intermediate grades, who are dismissed at 3:05 because there is no supervision available during that time.

DRESS CODE

We believe that attention to appearance and a student's attitude toward self and school are related. Good taste, good grooming, and appropriateness of attire are a part of learning for both boys and girls. However, we recognize that students' mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of their personal style and individual preference. With this in mind, students must dress in a manner that supports a serious, business-like, and safe environment for learning. Therefore, the following rules shall be followed in regards to students' dress:

- Shorts must have an inseam of at least 2 inches on each pant leg (4 inches across the crotch area).
- Undergarments (briefs, shorts, bra, etc.) must not be visible.
- Pants should sit at the waist or above the hip bone; **never below.**
- See-through and fishnet fabrics are not permitted unless worn over another shirt.
- Skirts and dresses may not be shorter than mid-thigh.
- Short shirts that show the midriff are not allowed. Off-the-shoulder, halter-tops, tube tops, low-cut tops, spaghetti strapped tops, are not allowed. Shirts with extremely large armholes may be worn over a tank top or t-shirt.
- No clothing advertising alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or having inappropriate language are allowed.
- Footwear should be safe and comfortable to walk in. Close-toed shoes and sandals with straps around the heel are preferable. High heels and flip-flops are highly discouraged.

DROP OFF / PICK UP OF STUDENTS

Students that cross 19th Street West MUST cross with the Crosswalk Guard at 19th St. West and Avenue E. Please do not drop off or pick up students in the staff parking lot because it creates congestion and unsafe conditions for our students. Students may not walk through the parking lot unless escorted by an adult. There are a few parking spaces available in the staff parking lot and along the east side of 19th Street that you may use if you need to park. You could be ticketed for parking and waiting for your child if you are in the no parking zone, blocking the alley or blocking any driveways. The neighbors who border the alley have been blocked in by waiting vehicles and have asked that we all honor their space.

EMERGENCIES

It is important that the school be able to contact parents in case of illness, emergency or accident. School records must include current home and work phone numbers, **and** the phone number of a designated relative, neighbor, and/or daycare. During the year, if you change your workplace, phone numbers, home address, or are planning to move out of the Rose Park attendance area, please call the school and inform us. **Please set up your voice mail boxes, and keep them clear:** The office does not use text as a method of parent contact. If we cannot reach an emergency contact by phone, we will email as an alternative. Parents should have working emails that they check regularly.

INTERNET ACCESS

Our curriculum is the basis of our teaching at Rose Park, and internet networks are tools to enhance and practice our curriculum. **The use of these networks is to be for educational purposes only.** Students are to be under the direction of a teacher when using the networks. Please see District Policy 3205 and 3205-P1 District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks which will be provided in the First Day Packet and are always available via the Rose Park or District websites. Parents and students must review the District policy and sign the Rose Park Acceptable Use Policy to be completed by all students using Billings Public Schools laptops, ipads and computers.

LOITERING

Students are expected to be picked up, or to walk or ride their bicycles/scooters, etc. home, as soon as they are dismissed. They may not stay anywhere on campus, unless accompanied by an adult. If a student returns to school grounds after going home, it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to ensure their safety and proper behavior.

MEDICATIONS

Speak with the school nurse, and complete the appropriate medication form given to you by the nurse. Please note that doctors are required to fill out the District form; we do not accept prescriptions, or other documents provided by the doctor. Send the medicine in the **original container** labeled with the child's name. Be sure the child is able to self-administer the medication, or work with the school nurse to develop an appropriate plan. We do not provide nor administer over the counter medications to students. If OTC medications are needed, parents must complete the required medical form authorizing their child to come to the office as needed to self-administer OTC medication provided by the parent. Alternatively, parents may bring OTC medications to school to administer to their child as needed during school hours.

MONEY, WALLETS, Etc.

Unless your child has specifically been asked by their teacher to bring in money, or you are sending lunch money, please ensure that your child does not bring money to school. We cannot be responsible for lost or stolen money that your child brings to school. If you are sending lunch money or other money requested by your child's teacher, please send it in a sealed envelope with your child's name and teacher's name on it. If you don't have a new envelope, feel free to reuse an old envelope that is clearly labeled and taped or stapled shut. A Ziploc baggie labeled with a sharpie or containing a slip of paper with your child's name and their teacher's name on it may also be used.

REPORT CARDS AND CONFERENCES

Report cards are sent home each trimester. Parent / Teacher conferences are held in early November for all students. Parents who have concerns may ask for a conference with their child's teacher any time during the school year.

TOYS, TRADING CARDS, ETC.

Toys, trading cards, etc are not needed or allowed at school. Please do not send them. They cause disruption to the learning environment and cause problems on the playground. Toys, cards, etc should only be sent to school on special occasions communicated to parents by the teacher.

VALENTINES' DAY

Please check with your child's teacher for information regarding how Valentines will be exchanged. To limit class disruption, we do not allow parents / relatives to visit students' classrooms or the lunchroom during the school day. Deliveries of flowers, etc. will be taken at the office; students will be notified of the delivery and will be sent to pick them up near the end of the school day. If a parent or relative would like to make a personal delivery, they may do so on the playground before or after school, or at the office during the school day.

VANDALISM AND THEFT

Students involved in vandalism or theft of school property will be referred to the police department and will be suspended from school. Students and/or parents will be responsible for making full restitution for any damage or loss.

WEATHER

We ask that your child comes dressed appropriately for anticipated weather; please keep apprised of weather forecasts. Please send appropriate outer garments, boots, mittens, hats, etc., during cold weather, and raincoats and umbrellas in wet weather. Our policy is that children go outside unless the temperature with or without windchill is below zero. If it is raining hard, or in certain other situations, we keep the children inside. However, in light rain students will go outside, so it is imperative they come dressed appropriately. Occasionally, teachers will take the children out for a few minutes during inclement weather to give them some fresh air.

OUR PROGRAMS

Art

Students in grades 4-5 receive one hour per week of instruction from the Art Specialist. The art program is a discipline-based program with emphasis on studying technique and processes. Students at this level will receive a letter grade in art. Primary students in grades 1-3 receive art instruction from the classroom teacher.

Counseling

Elementary School Counseling services are an integral part of the total school program and complement learning in the classroom. Services are child-centered, proactive and developmental. Counselors promote positive intellectual, behavioral, and emotional growth. These uniquely qualified professionals work directly with students in individual and group counseling sessions. Classroom guidance lessons are presented in grades K-5. Counselors also consult and collaborate with parents, teachers, and other professionals in the community. School counseling services are intended to enhance the potential of all elementary students.

Health Enhancement

Health Enhancement is a combination of physical education and health-related sciences. All students in grades 4-5 spend one hour two times a week in Health Enhancement and receive a grade from the Health Enhancement teacher. Included in the curriculum are units on wellness, anatomy, growth, development, personal hygiene, nutrition, environmental health, safety, exercise, disease, medicine, drugs and traditional activities when students are involved in physical fitness testing. Primary grades 1-3 spend a half hour per week in Health Enhancement and mainly focus on learning playground games and safety. The major goal of Health Enhancement is to provide students with information so they can make responsible decisions for a healthy life. This is done in Health Enhancement by combining the academic work with social skills and physical activities.

Library

Each class visits the library weekly to give students the opportunity to check out books and receive instruction from the librarian. Library class includes listening to stories, learning about books and authors, and developing research and information-use skills using print and electronic resources. Primary students have a half hour per week of scheduled library class time. Intermediate grades have an hour per week. Students are expected to return or renew their library books weekly. Students with an overdue book will receive reminders to return the book. If a book is lost or damaged, the student will be charged for the current replacement cost.

Lunch

Students have two options for lunch. They may eat school lunch or bring their own lunch from home. Check the Rose Park website for pricing and online payments www.mymealtime.com . You may also send lunch money with your child in an envelope with their name, teacher's name and amount of money enclosed. For families who need assistance, a reduced/free lunch application is available online at www.billingsschools.org or at the Rose Park office. Sodexo Food Service, the provider of our hot lunches, has a policy that does not allow students to "charge" their lunches. If students forget their cold lunch or do not have money on their account, they will be able to have a cheese or peanut butter sandwich with milk in the lunchroom. Milk is available for \$.60 a carton for those students who bring a cold lunch from home. Milk may be purchased in the lunchroom and purchased on a daily basis. Please remember to label all lunch containers -- even sack lunches. Students are not allowed to bring soda or pop in school lunches unless it is for a special classroom party, etc. Students eat lunch in the cafeteria, but may be checked out for lunch off campus by their parents. Parents are welcome to join their child for lunch-- please call the office the day you would like to visit.

Music

General music is taught by a music specialist twice a week in grades 4-5. Students in grades 1-3 will have music once a week for 30 minutes.

P.T.A.

Rose Park has an active PTA and we encourage each of you to become members. Membership forms will be sent home the first week of school, and will be available throughout the school year. You do not have to be a member to volunteer to serve: please respond to the parent questionnaire on the membership form if you would like to help.

Quest

Students who demonstrate very high academic or creative ability and who might be in need of extensive intervention and challenge could be served in our Quest program. Quest is offered to students in satellite sites throughout the District. The amount of time varies depending on grade level. Testing for the Quest Program is only done in the spring. Parents will be contacted if their child appears eligible for this program and parental permission will be obtained. There are very strict guidelines for placement in the program. The Quest Teacher is available to answer any questions regarding qualifying factors for placement.

Speech

The Speech/Language Pathologist is available to provide diagnosis and remediation for a variety of speech and language disorders. Students in kindergarten and first grade will be screened with the "6 Traits or Oral Language" assessment. Those students who have difficulty with this will be considered for a language intervention group or a speech intervention group. If after these regular education interventions a child continues to have speech and language difficulties, a referral for evaluation will be made. Students who exhibit significant delays in the areas of language, fluency, or articulation will be considered for direct speech/language therapy. The speech/language problem must be related to difficulty in an academic or social area in order for a child to qualify for direct therapy.

Volunteers

We welcome volunteers at Rose Park School. Parents are encouraged to sign up anytime during the year by contacting their child's teacher or the office. A name recognition background check and Confidentiality Agreement is required per District Policy for all volunteers. Volunteers help in the library, in the classroom, and at special events during the school year. The work a volunteer wants to do is cross-matched with work that a teacher would like to have done. The number of hours and choice of days dedicated to volunteering is up to the parent and teacher.

School District 2~Policy Guidelines

In addition to this Rose Park handbook of procedures specific to our school, a District level student/parent handbook is available on the District website or by request at the school office. It is your responsibility as a parent/student in our District to know the contents of both handbooks.

Violations of District policy will be dealt with through disciplinary actions assigned by building administrator(s) as agents of the Board of Trustees. The assurances afforded by District policy will be provided to you by District administration and staff. Both rules and assurances are contained in the District's Student/Parent Handbook.

The following policies and procedures are found in the District's Student/Parent Handbook which can be located by accessing the district's website at www.billings.k12.mt.us and clicking on the Parent site, or by accessing the Rose Park website and clicking on the District Handbook link at the bottom of the Home Page.

Contents of Student/Parent Handbook of Board Policies and Procedures

Policy 3120 Attendance Policy and Removal of Student during School Day

Procedure 3120-P1 Compulsory Attendance

Procedure 3120-P2 Student Attendance

Form 3210-F1 Equal Educational Opportunity

Policy 3200 Student Rights & Responsibilities

Procedure 3200-P1 Student Due Process Rights

Procedure 3200-P2 Freedom of Expression

Procedure 3200-P3 Student Publications

Policy 3205 District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services & Networks Procedure 3205-P1 Acceptable Use Procedure Procedure 3224-P1

Student Dress - Gang Activity or Association Policy 3225 Sexual Harassment

Policy 3235 Video Surveillance

Procedure 3235-P1 Video Surveillance Policy 3250 Student Discipline

Procedure 3250-P1 Hazing

Procedure 3250-P2 Student Conduct

Procedure 3250-P5 Gun-Free Schools

Procedure 3250-P6 Detention

Procedure 3340-P1 Chemical Use Policy Form 3600-F1 FERPA Annual Notification SD #2 Weapon's contract Student Dress Code established at each individual school