

SBLSD News

September 2, 2021

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KEY DATES

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 - FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN
- SEPT. 15
 - SCHOOL BOARD STUDY SESSION
- SEPT. 22
 - SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

[SPANISH](#)

Video message from Superintendent Dent

School starts next week! Please watch this welcome back video from Superintendent Laurie Dent, who shares her excitement for in-person learning five days a week and outlines our safety measures to keep students and staff safe.

2021-22 Welcome Video: Superintendent Laurie Dent



School schedules

First day schedules

Grades 1-12

There will be special school start times for students in grades 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 on the first day of school, Sept. 7.

- **Grades 7, 8, 10, 11, 12:** School start time will be 12:25 p.m. School lunch will not be served. Bus transportation will be five hours later than the regular weekday bus schedule.*
- **Grades 1-6 and 9:** Follow the [regular Tuesday school day schedule](#). Breakfast and lunch will be served to students in these grades. Buses will operate on the regular weekday bus schedule.

**For example, if your regular morning bus pickup time is 7:10 a.m., your bus will pick you up at 12:10 p.m.*

Kindergarten

The first day of kindergarten is Sept. 10. All schools operate on the regular school day schedule, which varies by school.

- **Early Start Elementary Schools:** 8:25 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
Crestwood, Daffodil Valley, Liberty Ridge, Maple Lawn, Victor Falls
- **Late Start Elementary Schools:** 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
Bonney Lake, Donald Eismann, Emerald Hills, Tehaleh Heights
- **Sumner Early Learning Center:** 8:35 a.m.-3:20 p.m.

Regular bell schedules

Bell schedules vary by school. Elementary schools will continue to be defined by “early start” and “late start.” [Here's the 2021-22 bell schedule for each school.](#)

Late-start Mondays

This will have a weekly late-start day on Mondays for the 2021-22 school year. Referred to as “Late Start Monday,” these are days when students will catch the bus and begin school about 90 minutes later than other days. This late start schedule one day a week allows teachers to participate in professional learning groups to collaboratively plan, learn and share instructional practices, which increases school performance and student achievement.

Bus route information now available online

Our [bus stop lookup tool](#) is now available for you to view your child's route for the 2021-22 school year. **Important:** Please read below for ways your child's bus transportation may be affected due to a severe bus driver shortage.



- **Different buses:** It's possible your child will ride two different buses — one bus in the morning and a different one in the afternoon. This means a different bus number and a different bus driver.
- **Bus times:** Pick-up and drop-off times could vary and may not always align exactly with school start and dismissal times. Because of the need to double-up on bus runs, your child could be picked up earlier or later than when school begins. Another possibility is that your child might need to wait (supervised) at school for a bus to pick them up. As soon as we know if your child's route is affected, we will send a robocall to families with as much advance notice we can give.
- **No transportation:** As a last resort, when no bus drivers are available, it's possible we may not be able to provide bus transportation for some routes on any given day. We encourage families to have a back-up plan with an alternative way to get your child to school. This is a very unfortunate reality that will likely affect routes on a daily basis. If your child is unable to make it to school, it will be an excused absence. We will notify affected families as soon as we possibly can. We will continue to provide transportation for special education students who have special transportation in their IEP.

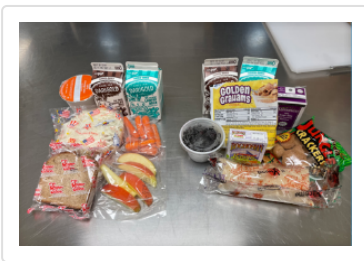
This bus driver shortage also affects:

- **Waivers:** While a condition of waivers is that District transportation is not provided, we have made exceptions in the past if a bus is not full. This year, however, our buses will be full and we are unable to accommodate students on waivers. Families will need to provide their own transportation to and from school.
- **Bus passes:** We are unable to allow students to ride a different bus when wanting to, for example, go home with a friend or be dropped off at a grandparent's house.

COVID-19 health & safety measures

The District will continue to follow requirements and guidance provided by the governor and state and local health authorities. View required health and safety measures as outlined in the state Department of Health's [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for the 2021-22 School Year](#). Learn details about:

- Masks
- Physical distancing
- Ventilation
- Handwashing/respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning/disinfecting
- Testing
- Contact tracing/quarantine/isolation
- Responding to cases of COVID-19



School meals

School meals will continue to be provided to all students at no cost throughout the 2021-22 school year. We still strongly encourage eligible families to complete the Free & Reduced-Price Meals application as they may also qualify to have fees waived or reduced for ASB cards, sports participation and other extracurricular activities. [Learn more](#). You can also [view the menus for September online here](#).

Directory information withholding

Parents and guardians may choose whether their child's name, photos and other [directory information](#) is used in district and school publications (print and electronic), social media, websites, videos or by the news media.

If you would like to opt your child out, complete the [Directory Information Withholding Form](#) and return it to your child's school. Please think carefully before restricting this information as your child's name and photo cannot be included in yearbooks or be part of classroom, team or club photos. [Learn more about keeping directory information private](#).

Some immunizations required for students

A COVID-19 vaccine is not required for students to attend school at this time, however, there are [some required vaccines for school attendance](#). The state Department of Health requires students to show proof of required vaccines. View a list of [free immunization opportunities](#) for children. [Learn more](#).

Medication at school

If your child has a health condition that requires treatment or medication at school, written permission from the parent/guardian and healthcare provider must be provided before medications can be administered at school. Renewal of written permission must be completed at the beginning of each school year and whenever the health care provider adjusts a medication. [Learn more](#).

School supplies

Elementary

In order to provide some relief from back-to-school shopping, most elementary schools* are asking families to contribute a \$20 donation per child to cover the cost of school supplies. Families may [pay online](#) or at their child's school.



**Liberty Ridge Elementary: School supplies for students attending Liberty Ridge have already been purchased by both the school and Open Life Church. Students will receive their supplies on the first day of school, but should plan to bring their own backpack.*

Middle school

[Lakeridge](#)

[Mountain View](#)

[Sumner](#)

High school

Please bring a small binder, paper, and a pen/pencil the first day of school. Specific school supply lists will be given out for each class by teachers during the first days of school. 10th – 12th graders should plan on bringing their Chromebooks.

Quicklinks

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