

North Star Elementary

Student & Parent Guide



Our mission is to collectively give all children what they need, academically and emotionally, to ensure they become proficient learners.

North Star Elementary

Home of the Huskies



School Information

North Star Office	253-800-8800	
Attendance/Health Room	253-800-8893	
Fax	253-800-8898	
PTA	253-800-8858	
	Start	End
Regular Student Day	8:45	3:15
Early Dismissal		11:15
Late Start	9:45	3:50
Office Hours	8:05	3:45

North Star Website <https://nse.bethelsd.org>

Newsletter <https://nse.bethelsd.org/resources/husky-highlights>

District Information

District Office	253-800-2000
Transportation	253-800-5900
Child Nutrition	253-800-8894

School District Website www.bethelsd.org

School Meals. <https://www.bethelsd.org/programs-departments/meals>

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Who we are



Our School

North Star Elementary opened its doors in 1999. We have an average enrollment of 490 students each year. 73 staff members serve students and parents. Bethel School District is a dynamic district that covers over 200 square miles in southeast Pierce County. It is the 16th largest district in the state with an estimated enrollment of over 20,000 students.

Schools in Bethel School District

Bethel has 18 elementary schools (K-5), six middle schools (6-8), three comprehensive senior high schools (9-12), an alternative middle and high school, an online virtual academy, an Acceleration Academy, and a K-8 school of choice. Bethel is also the host district for the Pierce County Skills Center which serves district and county students.

Acknowledgement

"We acknowledge that the Bethel School District resides on the traditional lands of the Nisqually and Puyallup Tribes. These lands are also known as "Incommon Lands" because they were shared lands. The Nisqually and Puyallup have lived on and cared for these lands and these waterways Since Time Immemorial, and continue to do so today. We make this acknowledgement to open a space of recognition, inclusion, and respect for our sovereign tribal partners and all indigenous students, families, and staff in our Bethel Community."

Nondiscrimination Statement in English and Spanish

Bethel School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX Coordinator, Director of Athletics and Security: 253.800.4303; Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Executive Director of Special Education: 253.800.2300; Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Director of Equity and Achievement: 253.800.2019. All individuals may be reached at this address: 516 176th Street East, Spanaway, WA 98387.

El Distrito Escolar de Bethel no discrimina en sus programas o actividades por motivos de sexo, raza, credo, religión, color, nacionalidad, edad, condición de veterano de guerra o grado militar, orientación sexual, expresión de género o identidad, discapacidad o uso de perro guía entrenado o animal de servicio, además ofrece igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y a otros grupos de jóvenes especificados. El empleado mencionado a continuación ha sido designado para atender consultas y quejas de supuesta discriminación: Coordinador del Título IX, Director de Atletismo y Seguridad: 253.800.4303; Coordinadora de Sección 504/ADA, Directora Ejecutiva de Educación Especial: 253.800.2300; Coordinadora de Cumplimiento de Derechos Civiles Directora de Equidad y Logro: 253.800.2019. Todas las personas pueden ser contactadas en esta dirección: 516 176th Street East, Spanaway, WA 98387.

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Why we are here

Our mission is to collectively give all children what they need, academically and emotionally, to ensure they become proficient learners.

North Star is a place where staff, students, parents, and visitors are viewed as partners in the most important endeavor of children's lives - building a foundation of essential skills that will open doors for them in the future. We believe our purpose is to provide rigorous academic experiences for all students at all levels and that students are at their best when they develop learning, behavior, and social skills for school success.

We value and support creating a positive school culture, free of bias, that emphasizes relationships, belonging, and equity. To that end, staff are committed to creating and building a culture where respect and caring are the norm rather than the exception. We believe students and staff must feel safe, emotionally and physically, in order to be and do their best. Therefore, at North Star we teach, model, practice, and recognize behaviors that help everyone in our learning community grow and achieve great things.

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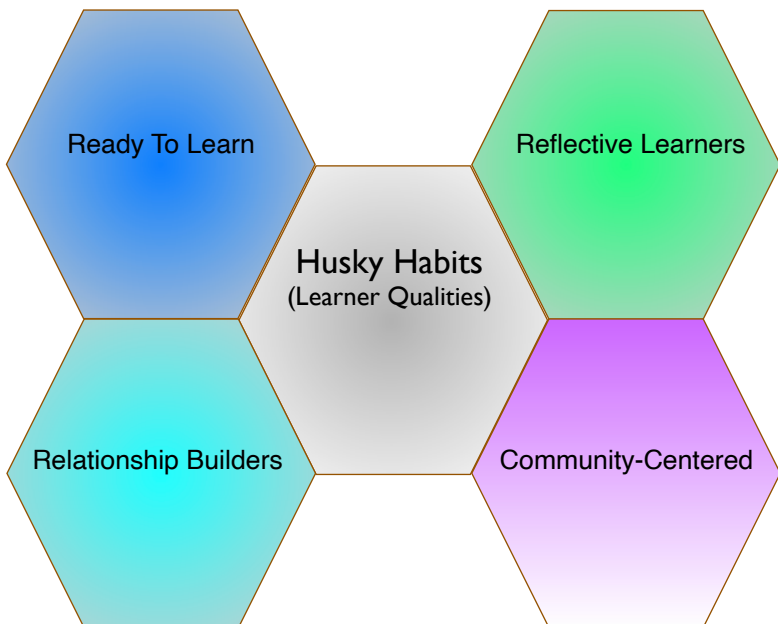
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How we approach academics, teaching and learning

Our approach is grounded in the belief that all students can learn at high levels when the school and home work collaboratively, students see themselves as capable of learning rigorous content, and all stakeholders understand that excellence is a result of everyone consistently putting forth effort in strategic ways.

Successful students are...



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Academic Goals

Academic Success is the primary reason we come together each day. Our goal is that students master critical foundational skills and meet high standards of performance in reading, writing, math, science, social studies, arts, and technology.

Academic goals include:

- **Students will read on or above grade level texts.**
- Students will understand and use what they read.
- **Students will write with proficiency in response to questions using evidence from what they read and discuss.**
- Students will write clearly, coherently, and with purpose to communicate about learned information, as well as share original ideas.
- **Students will understand the foundational math concepts of counting, base ten, operations, and equivalence.**
- Students will use strategies effectively to understand and answer single and multi-step math problems.
- **Students will consistently put forth effort to complete assignments, productively participate in class, and approach school as reflective learners.**

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Husky Learning Habits

Mindsets inform adult and student beliefs and attitudes about what we are capable of achieving. The following dispositions are emphasized in our learning community:

Ready to Learn

- Your desk and area are neat and organized.
- You have the correct materials and tools for learning.
- Your eyes and ears are focused on the teacher and the work.
- You let others have time to think.
- You raise your hand to speak.
- You notice how your behavior helps or hinders your learning.
- You notice how your behavior helps or hinders others' learning.
- You follow directions promptly.
- Your assignments are clean, legible, properly formatted, and turned in on time.



Reflective Learners

- You know the learning targets and how grades are decided.
- You know how close you are to meeting each target.
- You ask yourself, "What can I do to get better?" and make a plan.
- You approach challenges with a Growth Mindset: trying different ways, learning from others, accepting mistakes as part of learning, taking steps to practice more, being persistent and not giving up, understanding that it takes time to learn new things.
- You use problem-solving strategies when challenged.
- You ask for feedback, listen to feedback, and give feedback.

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Academics in Action

Academic Success is accomplished through a combination of engaging with rigorous curricula, being a strategic and deep thinker, and checking your understanding through daily work and assessments. At North Star students do this in the following ways:

Reading & Writing (ELA)

Core Curricula

ReadyGen

Extra Support Curricula

Read Well reading intervention (K)

Phonics for Reading Intervention

95% Group foundational skills

Read Naturally Live

Step Up to Writing

The Writing Revolution

Math

Core Curricula

Eureka Math 2

Extra Support Curricula

Zearn

Focus Math

Science

Core Curricula

TCI Science

Social Studies

Core Curricula

HM Social Studies

Washington State History

Since Time In Memorial

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Behavior and Social Emotional Goals

Behavior and SEL success happens when we see ourselves as part of a shared community. By intentionally taking care of our school and the people within it, we set the stage for success in everything else we do at North Star.

Behavior goals include:

- **Students will know and show Husky Learner & Behavior Habits on a daily basis.**
- Students will know and follow the North Star Way behavior expectations on a daily basis.
- **Students will learn, practice, and use strategies for productively working through challenges including the Calm Down and Problem-Solving Steps strategies.**
- Students will learn how to seek out help from peers and adults when having difficulties with work and/or relationships.
- **Students will learn how to actively monitor their own behavior and use that information to make positive/productive choices for school success.**

Students will be recognized for effort and accomplishment as it relates to following school expectations for behavior.

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Husky Behavior Habits

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Community-Minded

- You show goodwill - be kind, be friendly, and hope for good things to happen to others.
- You show generosity - share with others.
- You show pride - show your best work and behavior so that everyone is successful together.
- You celebrate your achievements.
- You celebrate others' achievements.
- You give to the community through classroom and school-wide events.
- You know and follow the North Star Way.

Relationship Builders

- You know and understand that students have rights to be physically and emotionally safe on the way to school, at school, and on the way home from school.
- You use good manners.
- You share and include others.
- You know and follow the North Star Way.
- You know and use problem-solving and conflict resolution strategies when issues come up.
- You know how to make and keep friends.
- You know how to and you show empathy for others.
- You know and understand that everyone matters.
- You know and use social skills that help you work with adults and other students.



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Behaviors in Action

Behavior Success is accomplished through a combination of learning about behaviors that help/hurt, practicing positive actions, and using those skills in real situations when they are needed. At North Star students do this in the following ways:

Instruction

Core Curricula

Second Step
BSD Harassment, Bullying, &
Intimidation Lessons

Extra Support Curricula

Social Stories
Panorama Playbook

Encouragement & Recognition

School-Wide

Husky Star Student Slips (being caught following the North Star Way, weekly)

Character Awards (monthly)

Classroom

Zones Check-In

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North Star Way

School rules are in place to help students experience success at school. Success happens when students can focus their attention on the challenging and rigorous work and play that bring us together each day.

We teach the North Star Way as a reminder of “how you should be treated AND how you should treat others.” Great things can happen when students feel safe, physically and emotionally, and when they make an effort to ensure others feel the same.

Ssafety First

Teamwork

Always Respectful

Ready to Learn

Sharing and Caring

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A Caring and Inclusive School Culture

School-Wide Success is best accomplished when students and adults work together towards a common goal AND everyone feels safe and respected.

Definition:

Community: a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

At North Star we strive to create a true community where we have fun, learn together, help one another, and celebrate accomplishments. We have developed a variety of ways to encourage a positive and productive school culture.

Goals, activities, and awards are planned for grade level and cross-grade teams.

Grade Level Teams

Kindergarten
Miniture Huskies



1st Grade
Labrador Huskies



2nd Grade
Greenland Huskies



3rd Grade
Chinook Huskies



4th Grade
Alaskan Huskies



5th Grade
Siberian Huskies



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Cross - Grade Teams

Team Anchorage



Team Yukon



Team Fairbanks



Team Kodiak



School Practices & Procedures

The following pages describe general school expectations and operations.



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Entrance Requirements

Registration information is available online and questions can be directed to the office during regular office hours. The following documentation is required:

- a state-issued birth certificate*
Note: Kindergarten students must be five by August 31.
- an up-to-date immunization record.
- proof of residency, such as a current utility bill with your name and address.
- students with life threatening conditions may not attend school until 1) all forms are completed, 2) medication is at school, and 3) a nursing plan is in place. Additionally, students who are not current on their immunizations may not be allowed to attend.

Students enrolling during the year will normally begin class one to two days after their registration is complete. Only complete registration packets will be accepted.

* The name and birthdate of your child in our student records system must match what is on the birth certificate. Occasionally we receive requests to have a student's name changed (nickname, middle name as first name, dropping hyphenated names, etc) Please note that name changes require legal documentation.

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Attendance

Attending school every day and arriving on time are the first steps to school success. Adult supervision is available beginning at **8:35 a.m.** Students should not arrive at school earlier. Many times it is impossible to make up “missed” experiences since active participation and group involvement during the regular class day is an important part of the learning experience. Bethel Public Schools accepts the following reasons as excused absences: physical health or mental health symptoms, illness, medical or dental appointments, bereavement, and unforeseen emergencies. Additional reasons for excused absences are listed in Bethel School Board Policy 3122. Planned absences of four days or more must be pre-approved by the principal. Ask for a pre-approved absence form from the office.

The school will notify a student's parent or guardian in writing or by telephone whenever a student has an unexcused absence. A conference with the parent or guardian shall be held after two unexcused absences within any month to determine what corrective measures should be taken to ensure better attendance. Not later than the student's fifth unexcused absence in a month the school shall enter into an agreement with the student to establish attendance requirements. If this step is unsuccessful, a petition will be filed with the juvenile court. Students who miss ten school days or more in the year will be required to supply a doctor's note to excuse any further absences. For a complete explanation of the District's attendance policy, see Board Policy 3122.

Please do your best to encourage your child to attend school daily. However, when an absence occurs, parents should provide electronic notes through ParentVue. If you cannot enter an absence online, please call our office at (253)800-8800 or (253)800-8893 to let us know that your child will not be attending school and the reason for the absence. For details about ParentVue and to get log in credentials, please contact the school office.

Absences that are not reported are marked unexcused by default until a parent makes contact with the office.

Students returning from an absence will be expected to make up missed schoolwork.

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Harassment, Bullying, & Intimidation

(Board Policy 3206 and 3207)

The district is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, parents/legal guardians, volunteers and patrons that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any intentional written message or image – including those that are electronically transmitted – verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, mental or physical disability, or other distinguishing characteristics, when an act:

- physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or
- is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Sexual Harassment—Students and staff are protected against sexual harassment by anyone in any school program or activity, including on the school campus, on the school bus, or of-campus, such as at school-sponsored field trips.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome behavior or communication that is sexual in nature when:

a student or employee is led to believe that he or she must submit to unwelcome sexual conduct or communications in order to gain something in return, such as a grade, a promotion, a place on a sports team, or any educational or employment decision, or

the conduct substantially interferes with a student's educational performance, or creates an intimidating or hostile educational or employment environment.

Sexual harassment as defined below includes conduct and communication of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. It is a violation of district policy for a student to harass any other student, employee, volunteer, or agent of the District. Violations will be subject to discipline. (Policy 3206)

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Harassment, Bullying, & Intimidation

Student to Staff Sexual Harassment—Sexually harassing behaviors may include, but are not limited to, the following actions: remarks to or about a person with a sexual or demeaning implication, spreading sexual rumors, cornering or blocking a person's movement, using the telephone to harass, following, stalking, or any other conduct that creates a hostile environment for staff. Violations will be subject to discipline. (Policy 3206)

Student to Student Sexual Harassment—Student to student sexual harassment is defined as any unwanted sexual behavior, such as sexually explicit gestures with hands or through body movements, sexual teasing or jokes, pressure for dates, sexually demeaning comments, deliberate touching or pinching, cornering or blocking a student's movement, pulling at clothing, attempts to fondle or kiss, pressure for sex or any other conduct designed to embarrass or to intimidate whenever such harassment occurs on school property or at a school-sponsored event. Sexual assault and/or rape is also a form of sexual harassment and is a criminal act that will be reported to law enforcement immediately for investigation and possible prosecution. Violations will be subject to discipline. (Policy 3206)

Racial Harassment—Slurs are the most common form of discrimination. A slur is defined as an insulting or disparaging remark or innuendo such as a word, phrase, or joke directed at or to any individual or group(s) which is based on perceived differences within our diverse population. Students should be taught to appreciate individual differences and staff should model appropriate behaviors. It is appropriate for public schools to teach these values not only as part of the curriculum but also by precluding slurs which demean others. Slurs, in the context of a school setting, constitute a disruptive influence and students or staff who make a slur shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. (Policy 5013)

How do I report harassment or sexual harassment? You can report harassment or sexual harassment to any school staff member or to the district Title IX Compliance Officer- Bryan Streleski, Director of Athletics & Security at [253-800-6056](tel:253-800-6056) or bstreleski@bethelsd.org

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Personal Items At School

Personal items such as electronic devices or toys should not be brought to school for any reason, unless approved by the teacher. This includes, but is not limited to, cameras, music players, hand-held electronic games, trading cards, collectables, stuffed animals, action figures, Legos, and other general toys that are typically made for home use.

Students may bring playground balls to school as long as they are not a hard ball. Other sports and play equipment such as a frisbee, hard baseball bat, hard baseball, skateboard, skates, tennis rackets, etc. are not permitted at school.

Selling or trading of personal items is not allowed at school.

The school is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage of personal items brought to school.

Students will be directed to take personal items home in the event the item is creating a disruption or is unsafe. Students will first be directed to not bring the item to school. If the item returns, a parent will be notified to assist.

Phones and Phone Watches at School

We recognize the benefits of phones for safety and communication between parents and their children. Once at school, students are expected to put their phones and smart watches away and not use them until they have been dismissed for the day.

Students should not make phone calls, email, text, play with, or engage in social media from personal devices while at school. If a student wishes to contact their parent, they are to get permission from an adult to make a call using a school phone.

Calls/texting/email/social media posting from personal devices will result in automatic recess detention. Students that violate the above expectations multiple times will be required to check in their devices with an adult upon arrival and check them out at dismissal.

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Dress Expectations

Preserving a beneficial learning environment and assuring the safety and well-being of all students are primary concerns of the Board of Directors.

Students' choices in matters of dress should be made in consultation with their parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s). It is the policy of the Bethel School Board that the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) hold the primary responsibility in determining the student's personal attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items. It is the responsibility of schools to ensure that student attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal belongings do not pose a health or safety risk to any student and do not create a hostile or intimidating environment that disrupts learning for any student.

In relation to student dress, the district's values include the following:

- Students should be able to dress and style their hair for school in a manner that expresses their individuality without fear of unnecessary discipline or body shaming;
- Students have the right to be treated equitably. Dress code enforcement will not create disparities, reinforce or increase the marginalization of any group, nor will it be more strictly enforced against students because of racial identity, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity, sexual orientation, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity;
- Students and staff are responsible for managing their personal distractions; and
- Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.

UNIVERSAL DRESS CODE

Students must wear:

- Top (shirt, blouse, sweater, sweatshirt, tank, etc.);
- Bottom (pants, shorts, skirt, dress, etc.); and
- Footwear.

This policy permits additional student attire requirements when

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Dress Expectations

necessary to ensure safety in certain academic settings (e.g. physical activity, science, or CTE courses). Additionally, this policy allows for reasonable variation in required student attire for participation in activities such as swimming or gymnastics.

Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, or personal items that:

- Displays obscene or sexual words, pictures, messages, innuendoes, etc.;
- Displays drug or alcohol-related words, pictures, messages, innuendoes, etc.;
- Displays threats, violent conduct, weapons, etc.;
- Demonstrates hate group association/affiliation and/or use hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, other protected groups, or gang association/affiliation, etc.;
- Shows private parts (clothing must cover private parts in opaque - not able to be seen-through material);
- Covers the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable (except clothing/headgear worn for a religious or medical purpose);
- Attire worn in observance of a student's religion is not subject to this policy.

School Supplies

A district-wide supply list is posted on the district website and also available in the office throughout the year. Individual classroom projects may require supplies that are not on the list, and listed items may need to be replenished during the year. Donations of supplies are always welcome!

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Animals at School

Parents and students should not bring animals into the school without prior arrangements with the teacher and principal/assistant principal. Health and safety issues involving students and staff shall be addressed before permission is given. This policy does not apply to service animals. Animals that are part of an instructional program shall be under the control of their adult owner, the teacher or designated students at all times.

Student Information Access

ParentVue allows parents and guardians to view and, in some cases, edit student contact information, address, and phone numbers. You will also have access to other information such as student grades, attendance, and health information. Passwords may be obtained from the school office during office hours.

The district shall maintain student records necessary for the educational guidance and/or welfare of students, for orderly and efficient operations of schools, and as required by law. All information related to individual students shall be treated in a confidential and professional manner. Student records are the property of the district but shall be available in an orderly and timely manner to parents/guardians. A parent, legal guardian, or adult student may challenge any information in a student record that is believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student.

Student records will be forwarded to other school agencies upon request. Parental consent is required before the district may release student records other than to a school agency or organization, except as otherwise provided by law.

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Highly Capable Program

A gifted program is provided for students in first through fifth grades, one day a week, at Camas Prairie Elementary School. Students must qualify for this program. Applications and testing are done in the winter of each year. For further information, please contact the Assessment Office at 253-800-2090.

Internet Use

Elementary students have access to computers and Internet resources in the Bethel School District. The use of these electronic information resources is for educational purposes. The use of the district's network is a privilege. The district's network is not a first amendment forum for free expression purposes. Although the district has initiated reasonable safeguards, students are accountable to an Appropriate Use Policy that is outlined in Bethel School District Policy 2022. Students who abuse this policy are subject to school discipline.

Students entering Bethel Schools will be required to turn in an Informed Consent form to gain network access. Parents may choose to "Opt Out" of having Internet access for their children. Please see the office for further details.

Lost and Found

Please mark all jackets, hats, sweaters, gloves, boots, umbrellas, and lunchboxes with your child's name. Properly identified articles can be returned to students. A lost-and-found area is maintained by the lunchroom. Please check for lost items periodically. Unclaimed items are donated to charitable organizations at least twice a year.

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Field Trips

Field trips are an extension of classroom learning and are offered as a supplement to enrich the curriculum.

Parents are always notified in advance of each field trip and all students must have a signed permission slip to attend.

Because of limited space and school policy, siblings are not invited to join field trips. School district transportation is the only means of student transport. Students must ride on the bus to the destination with the class. Exceptions to this rule for unusual circumstances may be addressed with the school principal.

Parents are frequently needed to assist with field trip supervision and must be registered volunteers with the school district.

Safety and order are essential during field trips so it is expected that students follow school rules while off campus on field trips.

Any student whose behavior patterns at school demonstrate an inability to be safe and orderly may have their field trip privileges rescinded. We do not take such steps lightly and parents will be given advance notice if a student is close to losing a significant privilege. In the event that a student is not permitted to attend a field trip, they will still be expected to come to school where an alternative learning opportunity will be arranged.

Refunds for field trips are limited to expenses that are paid on the spot such as on-site purchases for gate entry to a park where each student pays for their own ticket. Group payments to venues and/or transportation cannot be refunded as they are paid as a lump sum to vendors.

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School Meals

Breakfast and Lunch Program

Our schools operate food service as part of the educational program. Parents/guardians may send cash or check to school in order to purchase meal credits. Money can be delivered directly to the kitchen staff prior to the start of school or given to the child's homeroom teacher during morning attendance. Parents may also sign up online and add credits to their child's lunch account. To register online, go to www.paypams.com. Students who bring lunch may purchase milk.

Please mark student lunch boxes and lunch sacks with the student's name. For safety purposes, we ask that you do not send glass containers or knives of any type in a child's lunch.

If a child forgets lunch or there is no money in the child's account, one emergency lunch per year will be provided free of charge. If the same situation occurs again, the child will be given juice and a small snack at lunch. Reminders will be sent home with students who have a negative balance in their account. Call 253-800-8894 for questions about school meals.

Students use their student district identification number on the kitchen keypad, and in the library. It is important for students to memorize this number.

Occasionally we encounter health concerns that are so severe that we have to ban certain items from specific classrooms. Should that be the case, your child's teacher will inform parents of the restriction. We ask for your cooperation and request that you refrain from sending/bringing the hazardous foods or substances to school when directed.

On Early Dismissals breakfast will be served. Lunch will not be served.

On Late Arrivals Lunch will be served. Breakfast will not be served.

Free and Reduced Meals

Free and reduced meal prices are available through federally funded programs. To apply for free or reduced meals, visit the Bethel website at bethelsd.org and click on Child Nutrition to find the online form. Since the introduction of COVID-19, breakfast and/or lunch meals may be offered free to all students making this application step unnecessary. Parents will be informed when the free status is in place or when applications are required. More information on school meals can be found at www.bethelsd.org/programs-departments/meals.

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Health & Safety

Healthroom Staff

Our school has a registered nurse who is on site two days a week. A health clerk is present on a daily basis. Screening tests are given to students each year for hearing, and vision. Other screenings may occur during the school year, as needed. The health of your child is important to us as a health condition can sometimes impair a student's ability to learn.

Emergencies and First Aid

State law limits the first aid that we can give your child at school. In case your child becomes seriously ill or receives an injury, you will be notified as soon as possible. If your child appears to be ill in the morning, please do not send him or her to school. Symptoms common to many illnesses include runny nose, cough, sore throat, fevers above 100 degrees, headaches and other significant aches and pains. Students that have a fever or are vomitting should stay home. Students with a fever or are vomitting may return after they have been fever free/not vomitting for 24 hours WITHOUT THE USE OF MEDICATION. Please contact our school nurse or health clerk if you have questions. 253-800-8893.

Emergency Drills

Our school practices regular emergency drills including fire, earthquake, and lock down drills. During these drills your child will learn the correct procedures for staying safe and assure that students will respond correctly should a real emergency occur. Visitors that arrive during drills will be required to wait until the drill has concluded before being served.

Life Threatening Conditions

In compliance with state law, students with a life threatening condition may not attend school until 1) all forms are completed, 2) medication is at school, and 3) a nursing plan is in place. The school nurse will assist in forming a plan.

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Health & Safety Cont'd

Lice Policy

To protect our confined school population from pediculosis (lice) infestation and to assist the parent to eliminate head lice infestation from the child.

The Bethel School District policy regarding head lice (Pediculosis Capitus), is based on the recommended guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of School Nurses, and Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. All of these organizations support a “No Live Lice” policy. Head lice is a nuisance. They do not spread disease. Most cases of head lice are acquired outside of school. A “no-nit” policy places students at risk for unnecessary exposure to toxins, leads to increased absence from school and places stigma on students.

1. A student suspected of having lice will be examined by someone who is familiar with the symptoms of pediculosis infestations. Other children from the same household will be checked for lice. If live lice are confirmed, the student's parents will be notified of the infestation. The student will be able to finish the school day and ride the bus home.
2. Parents will be given verbal instructions for removal of pediculosis and nits from the hair. Parents will be requested to use a pediculocide product. The Lice Notification Letter will be sent home with the student along with information on the treatment and prevention of lice from the Washington Department of Health. They will be informed that lice must be completely removed from the student's hair before the student will be readmitted to class.
3. The class of the infested student will be checked for further infestation if there are three or more cases of pediculosis in a classroom, letters of possible exposure will be sent to the parents of the students in the classroom at this time.
4. The school nurse and teacher will be notified of the incidence of infestation.
5. Upon readmission, the student will report to the health room for an examination by the school nurse or health clerk prior to returning to class.
 - a. The student can return to school if there are no live lice in the hair and a letter from the parent indicating the student has been treated for lice should be submitted through ParentVue or hardcopy note.
 - b. The student can return to school if there are eggs (nits) in the hair.
 - c. The student must go home if there are still live lice in the hair.

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Health & Safety Cont'd

6. Appropriate school staff will make follow-up parent contacts for extended absences.
7. If an absence for pediculosis has extended for longer than one week, the school nurse, school counselor/social worker, and principal will meet to discuss solutions to the situation and develop a plan for follow-up appropriate to the individual.

The Bethel School District will provide communication annually to parents and staff regarding diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice, along with the District lice policy.

Medications

Medications may be administered to a student only if the child is under the care of a physician and the physician indicates in writing that it is necessary for the child to receive medication during the school day. Students may not take "over-the-counter medication" at school unless the parent administers it in the health room. Parents or care givers who wish to arrange for the administration of prescription medication at school should contact the school nurse. Please be aware that the nurse will ask for/inform you of the following:

- 1 Only medications prescribed by a physician are to be administered at school.
- 2 A consent form must be signed before the student receives medication at school.
- 3 Medications are to be brought to the health clerk by an adult. The health clerk will keep medication in a locked cupboard.
- 4 Medications must be in a properly labeled container from the pharmacy and contain the following information: a) name of student, b) name of medication and dosage, c) directions for giving medication at school, d) name of physician prescribing medication, and e) date medication was prescribed.

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Health and Safety Cont'd

Emergency Dismissals/Evacuations

In the event of a sustained power failure, snowy weather, or other unusual circumstances, it may be necessary to dismiss school early. If possible, bus transportation will be provided. Parents or caregivers should discuss an emergency plan with their children in the event that school closes early and there is no adult at home. Parents will want to make sure their child knows what to do and where to go in advance.

In the case of an earthquake, fire, or any other circumstance that requires a building evacuation, our procedure is to have parents and guardians check-in at the main entrance, request their child, and a runner will be sent for the child. Children will only be released to individuals listed on our emergency contacts list. Please ensure that your emergency contact information is always up to date. ID will be required for release.

Leaving During School Hours

When possible, please let us know in advance if a student will be leaving during the school day. If a child becomes ill during the day, a parent or guardian will be contacted.

When parents or guardians pick their children up before the end of the school day, they will be asked to present picture identification and sign the children out at the front desk. Students will only be released to an authorized person. Prior written notice or phone contact from the parent will be required if someone else will be picking up the student during the day.

As a rule, we do not call students to the office until the parent arrives in the office so keep that in mind when calculating how much time you need to get to your scheduled appointments. No child will be released by the teacher to a parent or guardian in the hallway or outside the classroom. These rules exist for your child's safety.

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Bus Transportation

Bus Safety

Your child should receive a copy of the Bus Riding Safety and Conduct Procedures. Please read it carefully and review the rules with your child. It is important that these rules be followed to ensure a safe bus ride. Bus drivers are in charge of student discipline and subsequent consequences for students. Our school administration works with transportation personnel to solve bus transportation issues. However, questions and concerns should initially be directed to the Transportation Department at 253-800-5900.

For the rules and other information, please visit

www.bethelsd.org/programs-departments/transportation.

Bus Stops

Bus stops are communicated in the fall of each year by the Transportation Department. We encourage parents to supervise their children at the bus stop each morning and afternoon. Discipline incidents at the bus stop should be reported to the school for further investigation. While we will work to resolve these issues, the bus stop is not school property and there are limitations on what we can do to correct certain issues, particularly without parental assistance. Discipline incidents on the bus should be reported to Transportation at 253-800-5900.

Alternate Transportation Arrangements

If a child will be taking a different bus or riding home with another student, please inform us of the change by sending a note to school that morning or by calling the office no later than 2:30 p.m. that day.

Students with written permission may ride a different bus to a friend's home or be picked up by another student's parent or guardian. Students are required to follow their normal release plan unless the office is notified in advance.

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Parent Transportation

If you provide your child's transportation, please use the parent pick-up/drop-off area only. Student safety is our number one concern, and our parking lot rules exist to keep our students safe. Use the following procedures for parent pick-up and drop-off:

- 1 Do not leave your car unattended along the yellow curb. If you have business in the building, please find a parking spot and sign in at the office.
- 2 During afternoon dismissal, parent pick-up students are sent to the pick-up area located in the gym and loaded into cars from the curbside by school staff. We load the front four cars in the line. The parking lot at the south end of the building by the kindergarten wing is reserved for daycare vans and cars directed to wait because there is a delay with their child. Please do not use these areas as a turnaround or to park while waiting for your student.
- 3 Do not approach buses to remove a student. Request assistance from a staff member to get a student off the bus.
- 4 Keep your speed below 10 m.p.h.
- 5 Use the crosswalks when walking.
- 6 Do not block the disabled parking spots.
- 7 Be vigilant and pay attention as there are people walking in the parking lot.
- 8 The school asks that you do not hire limos for birthdays or other celebrations as they present a distraction at pick-up time.
- 9 If someone else will be picking up your child, either at parent pick-up or at the bus stop, please provide written notice or call the office to let the teacher and office staff know.

Please be patient and courteous, with the understanding that this process has been implemented for the safety of our students. It literally takes 10 minutes. If you will be late, call the office at 253-800-8800. If your student is still at school when the office closes it creates an inconvenience for staff to get to their families and after work activities/appointments. Please be on time.

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Visitors & Volunteers

Volunteers

Parents are encouraged to become active participants in their child's education. At times we have parents assisting in classrooms, the library, office, and with after-school activities and special programs.

Volunteers must pass a Washington State Patrol background check before volunteering for the district. To become a volunteer, go online to our website nse.bethelsd.org and find the Volunteer link to complete a volunteer application. If you do not have a computer you can get help in our office to access the form.

Volunteers should report to the office to sign in and receive a volunteer badge and return to the office to sign out when leaving. School badges are required at all times when you are inside the building. Please note that you may be stopped in the hallway and asked if you checked in. Make your badge visible to help in this process.

Visitors

Our building is locked at all times. To gain entry, ring the buzzer and wait for our office staff to reply. You will be asked to explain the purpose of your visit and to show picture identification before you are admitted. Upon entry, check in with the office staff to get a visitor's badge BEFORE visiting any other area of the school.

Staff have been directed to stop visitors who do not have a visible visitor or volunteer badge. Should you be asked to show your badge, please do so promptly.

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PTA

The North Star Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA) exists for the benefit of our children at school, at home, and in our community. North Star's PTA is affiliated with the National and Washington State PTA. PTAs exist to offer volunteer assistance at school, work for improved school facilities, provide special programs for children, work for adequate laws for the care and welfare of our children at the national and state level, and develop parent enrichment programs. Our PTA seeks to work for the betterment of the North Star community. We also try to have some fun and help people to become better acquainted with the other parents in our school.

Membership in the PTA is open to all adult relatives of students attending North Star Elementary in addition to staff members and members of the community. Dues are \$20 per couple membership or \$11 for single membership. Dues paying members have a vote and a voice in the direction and activities of the North Star Elementary PTA. PTA membership also supports the State and National PTA in lobbying for legislation, positively affecting our children and our school.

All parents, guardians, and staff, regardless of whether annual dues have been paid, are invited and encouraged to help with or participate in PTA activities. We hope each of you will decide to become involved in the North Star Elementary PTA. If you would like further information about our programs and goals for the year, please call our PTA Office at 253-800-8858. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Family Support

Community and Crisis Resources

A comprehensive list of resources for parents can be found at www.bethelsd.org/resources/community-crisis-resources. Below are resources that we frequently questions about.

Child Find

Child Find is a component of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that requires districts to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities, aged birth to 21, who are in need of early intervention or special education services.

Early Intervention (0-3)

Pierce County Human Services offers a variety of services that benefit families with children under the age of three who are not developing as expected.

For more information, contact:

- P: 253-798-3790
- E: pcfrc@piercecounitywa.gov

Preschool (3-5)

If your child is between the ages of 3-5, and you have concerns about his or her development, the Bethel School District offers monthly screenings to provide information to parents on school related development. To request a Child Find screening contact 253-800-4178.

School age Children (5-21)

If your child is in school and you believe a disability may impair his or her educational performance, please contact the principal at your child's neighborhood school or the Special Services Department at 253-800-2300.

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Family Support

Parent Supports

Bethel Family Center

Parenting classes, WIC and other resources

Phone: 253-800-6850

Parent Trust of Washington

Parent support, coaching, information and referrals

Phone: 800-932-4673

Bethel School District Family Resource Coordinator

Problem solving and additional resources

Phone: 253-800-6862

Community Connections

BSD supports to access services and resources

Phone: 253-800-6862

Power Pack Program

Provides assistance with hunger needs on the weekend. A local food bank provides a bag of non-perishable food to take home on the last day of each week. Contact our school counselor for assistance.

Phone: 253-800-8870

Counseling Resources

Hazel Health

Mental health services offered by Bethel School District.

Phone: 253-215-8700

Pierce County Behavioral Health Services

A locator site that lets you search for health related services.

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/5859/Behavioral-Health>

Pierce County Crisis Line

1-800-576-7764 available 24/7

Greater Lakes Mental Health

Phone: 253-581-7020

<https://www.glmhc.org>

Good Samaritan/Multicare Behavioral

Phone: 253-445-8120

www.multicare.org/services

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Family Support

Clothing & Food Banks

Francis House - Clothing

253-770-6991 322 7th St SE Puyallup, WA 98372

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Call to verify that your zip code is included in their service area

<http://www.saintfrancishouse.net>

Rainier View Christian Church - Clothing & Food Bank

12305 Spanaway Loop Tacoma, WA 9844

253-531-0757 Hours: Most days, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.; call ahead of time

Spanaway Food Bank

253-531-7000 16001 A Street S, Spanaway

Wednesday & Friday 1-2pm

Harvest House - Food Bank

360-893-6842 25713 70th Ave E, Graham

Saturday 9:30-12pm

Life Center - Rainier Campus- Food Bank

253-846-3875 17708 28th Ave E, Tacoma

Tuesday 3:30-5:30pm & Saturday 10:00-12:00pm

Life Center - Rainier Campus- Clothing Bank

253-846-3875 17708 28th Ave E, Tacoma

Saturday 10:00-2:00pm & 1st Tuesday 3:30-5:30pm

St. Paul's - Food Bank

253-847-3084 22419 108th Ave E, Graham

Friday 10:30-12:30pm

Nourish - Food Bank

253.383.3164 (Several mobile locations in the area)

Community Connections- Clothing Bank

253-800-6050 17708 28th Ave E, Tacoma

Tuesday 3:30-5:30pm & Saturday 10:00-12:00