

Parent Student Handbook

Northwood Elementary

Everything you need to know, all in one place.

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This document has been put together to help Northwood families find their way around quickly and easily. If you have questions about items not included in this document, please let us know so we can incorporate that information for future families! We encourage you to keep this guide handy for your entire elementary school stay.

The Mercer Island 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, marital status, 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 Mercer Island School District offers classes in many College and Career Readiness programs, admission to which is non-discriminatory. Lack of English-language proficiency will not be a barrier to admission and participation in those programs.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Compliance Officer:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs, (206) 230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Title IX Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs, (206) 230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Section 504 & ADA Coordinator:

Nova Williams, Assistant Director, (206) 236-4510
nova.williams@mercerislandschools.org

Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs, (206) 230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Welcome to Northwood Elementary!

From the Principal

Dear Northwood Families,

Northwood is one of four elementary schools in the Mercer Island School District. It is the newest elementary school in the district, having opened its doors for the first time during the 2016-17 school year.

Northwood houses a Kindergarten through 5th Grade elementary school program, as well as an Early Childhood Program. We have approximately 370 students in our K-5 learning community this year and 20 students in our Early Childhood Program. Within our continuum of services for our K-5 population, we provide Special Education, as well as Code 32 services. Teachers differentiate instruction as appropriate in the classroom to support all our learners, and the Primary Enrichment Services support our K- 2 learners who qualify for enriched instruction in mathematics.

I lead a staff of about 70 professionals who support our learners in various ways. Our talented staff continually take part in professional development to ensure our students are provided engaging, rigorous instruction through research-based instructional strategies. In alignment within our district mission, we are committed to inspiring our students to be lifelong learners as they create their futures.

Our Mercer Island community provides an exceptional level of support for our schools through the PTA, the Mercer Island Schools Foundation, volunteering in classrooms or on field trips, and lending their talents to support school through various programs. We value and encourage parent involvement in our learning community in whatever way your schedules permit. Please talk to your teacher or contact the PTA to find out how to get involved.

This handbook contains a wealth of information about the school, the district, and the community. Please take some time to peruse it and keep it on hand as a resource throughout the year.

On behalf of the staff of Northwood, welcome. We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Sincerely,

Julie Newcomer
Principal

Mercer Island School District

The Mercer Island School District consists of four elementary schools: Island Park, Lakeridge, Northwood, and West Mercer. We have one middle school, Islander Middle School, and two high schools, Mercer Island High School and Crest Learning Center.

Information about the Mercer Island School District can be found on the district website at: <http://www.mercerislandschools.org> .

Impetus for Change

Mercer Island students are top performers on state standardized test scores but we've realized that's not enough. Therefore, our schools are preparing students for the future by teaching our students how to think, collaborate, and be creative and effective in the interconnected world. We're keeping our standards high while connecting with students through a more personalized style of learning.

OUR MISSION

At Northwood, we will foster learning by engaging students in thinking critically, solving problems creatively, and working collaboratively.

OUR VISION

Inspiring students to be lifelong learners as they create their futures.

OUR VALUES

Students are the priority. We believe in:

- Supporting the whole child
- Creating inclusive and equitable learning settings
- Ensuring our school communities are safe and supportive
- Providing rigorous and challenging learning

Privacy Policy

“FERPA ”stands for:Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act which outlines information collected by the school and its scope of use . As a part of that form, parents and/or guardians of children can submit an annual exception request*. Our Mercer Island School District forms and payment information are ONLINE! A postcard and email were sent in mid-August to explain the District Back-to-School forms and how to complete these forms online through Skyward for your child. Please read these documents for information about critical Mercer Island School District Information. Do not hesitate to contact the school if you have difficulties logging into your Skyward account for the district forms/information.

*Please note that if you determine that signing this form is best for your family, your child’s name and/or work will NOT appear in the directory, on 5th grade sweatshirts, in the yearbook, on websites or in other public contexts.This means that you will not receive any PTA communications either. You will also not be receiving key pieces of information including the monthly newsletters unless you sign up with the PTA directly.

Title I

TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

A. The District recognizes that parent and family engagement contributes to the achievement of academic standards by students participating in district programs. The District views the education of students as a cooperative effort among school, families and community. The board expects that its schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with the statutory definition of parental involvement. Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that parents:

1. Play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
2. Are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; and
3. Are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child and other District activities.

B. The District will:

1. Involve parents and family members in the development of District and school improvement plans by seeking feedback through committees such as the Principal/School Advisory Councils, Learning Services Advisory Council, and or Superintendent’s Advisory Council.

2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in the planning and implementing of effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance by utilizing resources offered through OSPI and/or the Puget Sound ESD and working in partnership with schools to implement appropriate engagement strategies.
3. Coordinate and integrate Title I parent and family engagement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs, including WaKIDS, Home Instruction, LSP, and ELD, by utilizing resources offered through OSPI and/or the Puget Sound ESD and working in partnership with schools to implement appropriate engagement strategies.
4. Conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served with Title I funds including identifying:
 - a. barriers to greater participation of parents in Title I related activities, with particular attention to participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children;
 - b. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
 - c. strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
5. Use the findings of the above evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement.
6. Involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools by hosting annual parent meetings, encouraging families to attend conferences, and providing formal feedback on progress during the year.

The “Nuts and Bolts” of Northwood

Here’s the place to find the basic information you’ll need. From school hours to dropping things off, your most common questions will probably be answered here!

General Contact Information

Northwood Main Office:206-275-5800

Absentee Alert Line: 206-275-5879

Transportation Office (Bus):206-236-3338

District Emergency Number:206-236.3366

<http://www.mercerislandschools.org>

Current contact information for:

Staff, PTA, and Administrators can be found in the Northwood Directory or on our website at:

<https://nw.mercerislandschools.org/>

Daily Schedule

Classrooms Open 9:10 am (First Bell)

School Begins 9:15 am (Tardy Bell)

AM Recess

Grades 3-5 10:25 - 10:40

Grades K-2 10:40 - 10:55

Lunch/Recess

Lunch (3-5) 11:55 - 12:15

Recess (3-5) 12:15 - 12:35

Lunch (K-2) 12:25 - 12:45

Recess (K-2) 12:45 - 1:05

PM Recess

Grades K-2 2:15 - 2:30

Grades 3-5 2:30 - 2:45

School Dismisses 3:45 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

2:05 (Wednesday)

12:15 (1/2 day)

Office Closes 4:00

New Family Programs

If you're new to Northwood, welcome!

Our teachers and staff have wonderful ways of helping children and parents alike get used to their new environment - they are a GREAT resource! We know you'll feel a part of the caring Northwood Owl community very soon .

If your child has come to Northwood from another school, we hope you find our environment warm and inviting to new children and families. If you're new to the school, please watch for information about our New Family Coffee. If you've come mid-year, please join us at one of our Principal's Coffees. As you'll soon see, Northwood has plenty of activities that will help you and your child get to know the other kids and families quickly.

School Hours

Normal school hours are 9:15 am to 3:45 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9:15 am to 2:05 pm on Wednesdays. The school office is open from 8am to 4pm. The playground and school grounds are unsupervised before and after normal school hours (9:10 am - 3:45 pm). Children playing on school grounds during non-school hours must be under the supervision of a parent or guardian .

Teachers are often in their classrooms before and after school preparing for the school day, grading papers, collaborating with their peers, attending meetings and working through curriculum. In consideration of their busy schedules, please schedule an appointment if you would like to meet with them during these times.

Visitors

When you visit Northwood Elementary, please check in at the front office window to sign in and receive a badge. You will need to bring your Driver's License/Identification Card with you to check in. Thank you for limiting cell phone usage while at school.

If you are volunteering in a classroom, please silence or turn off your phone . If you must text or take a call, please ensure students are supervised and remove yourself from the learning environment before you do so. All volunteers must complete the volunteer training and paperwork, which can be found on the district website (<https://www.mercerislandschools.org/connect/volunteer-in-our-schools>).

School Calendar

The calendar for the school year is available online on the Northwood website at: <https://www.mercerislandschools.org/about-us/calendar>. Important events will also be included in the principal's monthly letter, in the Northwood PTA's Parliament Press newsletters, and on the PTA website at <http://www.northwoodowlspta.org/>

Dropping Off Forgotten Items

It seems that kids are constantly forgetting something! If you need to bring something to your child at school, please drop off the items in the front office, so as to not disturb the teaching and learning environment.

Lost and Found

The Lost-and-Found fills up quickly with coats, sweatshirts and other misplaced items. Located in the main hall, please check it regularly for your child's lost items. Please label all removable clothing worn to school. Items left unclaimed will be donated to local charities on a monthly basis.

School Supplies

Parents have the option to purchase school supplies through the vendor 'SchoolKidz' in the spring or parents can purchase their own school supplies. School supply lists by grade will be posted on the Northwood Website by late spring.

Library Books

All classrooms have a scheduled 30 minute library period each week during which children are able to check out and return library books. Guidelines for the number of books and length of borrowing time varies by grade. Remember our wonderful Teacher-Librarian is here to help if you need reading suggestions.

School Map

There is a school map available at the front office.

School Lunch and Snacks

It is each student's responsibility to have either a lunch from home, a valid lunch account, or the appropriate money for lunch. We cannot loan money for lunch. Additionally, students may want to bring a healthy snack for a classroom snack break. Students are encouraged to eat their own lunches, and trading food items is not allowed as a precaution against food allergens. You can help your child learn the value of nutritious meal planning for and/or preparing good lunches with healthy drinks together. When packing a lunch, please help your child learn to open any containers or packaged food items independently so that they can manage their own lunch at school. If you have a child with serious food allergies, please consult the school nurse or your child's teacher to get information on establishing a Health 504 plan with the school. Unless directed by staff, all food is to be consumed inside the building during the school day.

School Lunch Program

Information about the school lunch program can be found on the Food Services Homepage at <https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/nutrition-services/nutrition-services-news>. Hot lunches are served daily. A menu is sent home with students each month and is also available on the Northwood website. The cost of a school lunch is \$3.95 which includes milk.

Lunch Accounts

Families have several ways to pay for student meals. Students can bring a check (payable to: Mercer Island School District - Food Services) to school to be put in their food services account. Families can also add money to their food service accounts online with the QR Code Below or through Family Access. There are instructions on [our website](#) for how to add funds to Family Access.

Rev-trak online payment



Free and Reduced Lunches

Under provisions of the National School Lunch Act, free and reduced price lunches are available to children of families who qualify. In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. Occasionally, a change in family income or size during the school year may qualify youngsters who were previously not eligible. Should this be your situation, please contact the school office. We encourage all families who might qualify to submit the application. Our Mercer Island School District forms and payment information are ONLINE! A postcard and email were sent in mid-August to explain the District Back-to-School forms and how to complete these forms online through Skyward for your child. Please read these documents for information. Do not hesitate to contact the school if you have difficulties logging into your Skyward account for the district forms/information.

Healthy Foods Focus

Here at Northwood, we are doing all that we can to foster a healthy and nutritious school environment. At the school, we focus on non-food incentives and rewards. As a parent, we encourage you to support this effort by: sending your child to school with healthy snacks and lunches if you don't participate in the school lunch program.

Birthdays

All our Northwood teachers take time to thoughtfully acknowledge and celebrate children on their birthdays while maintaining a full and purposeful instructional day. Methods for acknowledging birthdays will vary somewhat from teacher to teacher, but all our classrooms will adhere to guidelines designed to promote a safe and orderly learning environment. Balloons, flowers, and birthday surprises are disruptive in the school setting, so please save them for home. If your child has a birthday party planned outside of school, please deliver invitations through the U.S. mail; not receiving an invitation can make children feel left out, and teachers are asked not to support or facilitate their distribution at school.

Additionally, please note the following guidelines for school birthdays: due to the many allergy risks that may be present in our classrooms, birthday treats are not part of our K-5 celebrations. It is our preference to foster celebration of the person through experiences rather than things. Please connect with your teacher if you have questions about how they celebrate student birthdays in their classroom.

Attendance

Students develop attendance patterns early in their school careers. By keeping students home from school only when absolutely necessary, parents can help their youngsters develop good attendance patterns. As soon as you know your student will be absent, please call the school Absentee Alert number at 206-275-5879. Leave the name of your child, his/her teacher, and the dates and reason for the absence on the recording. As a safety protocol, if your child is not in school and you have not reported his/her absence on this Absentee Alert line, a school staff member will call you to verify your child's location.

Student Sign-In/Sign-Out

Students must be signed in and out from the office whenever their arrival or departure is not at the normal time, regardless of the reason. For security reasons, please follow proper school check-out procedures.

Illness

If your child is ill to the extent that it will be difficult to participate in the activities of a normal school day, please keep him/her home. We do not have adequate facilities to care for ill children. When children become ill at school, the parent/designated person is called to pick them up. It is extremely important to keep the office up to date with any telephone, address, or work contact changes. It is important to provide a local Mercer Island phone number for emergency contacts. The school nurse recommends that a child with a fever be kept home for 24 hours after a normal temperature is reached without the aid of fever-reducing medications. A child who has vomited should also be kept home for 24 hours after the last vomiting incident.

Tardiness

Doors are opened and the school day begins at 9:10 am. Students are expected to be at school by 9:10 am and seated in the classroom by 9:15 am or they will be considered tardy. Instruction begins promptly at 9:15 . Tardy students must check in at the front office. Frequent tardiness is disruptive to a child's learning and the classroom environment; please help your child arrive at school on time.

Excused Absences

Excused absences include: illness, medical or dental appointments, bereavement, and unforeseen emergencies. All absences must be reported on the Absentee Alert number at 206-275-5879.

Early Dismissals

If your child needs to leave early from the classroom for any reason, please go to the Main Office and request your child to be called out of the classroom. Allow 10 minutes for your child to gather belongings and walk to the front office. You need to sign the student out at the Main Office. For security reasons, please follow school check-out procedures.

Pre-Arranged Absences & Vacations

It is challenging for the Mercer Island Elementary School administration and teachers when students miss school for prolonged periods of time associated with family vacations. It is likely that parents are not aware of the impact such absences have on their child's education and on the ability of the school to function in a manner that serves the children best, particularly with the cumulative impact of several children missing school during the same time period, for example pre-Thanksgiving holiday. Northwood elementary will follow the guidelines below for non-illness or non-emergency absences lasting three consecutive days or more.

- Families are asked to advise their child's teacher of the dates of the prolonged absence in advance, and complete the following [Elementary Notification of Absence Form](#). This form can be dropped off at the office, or emailed to your child's teacher.

- Teachers will not prepare special homework packets in advance for families to take with them on vacation - Whenever possible, teachers will save classwork from instruction that occurred during the child's absence. This work should be completed at home when the child returns to school.
- Upon a student's return from an absence, parents are asked to review their child/children's work that was missed.
- Children will miss some learning that cannot be made up; some instructional experiences cannot be replicated via make-up work.
- It is recognized that there is educational value to travel. Parents are encouraged to promote learning connections during travel. Examples include keeping a journal or scrapbook, developing digital records of trips, and reading related books, maps, or other educational material. At the discretion of the teacher some make-up work may be substituted by evidence of these types of educational endeavors related to travel experiences.

Communication

Northwood is a busy place with a lot going on. To ensure clear and open communication, each teacher maintains his or her own classroom communication plan which he or she will share with you at Curriculum Night. Both parents and teachers have busy schedules, so be sure to note the best form of communication for your particular teacher. If you would like to meet with your teacher in person, please make an appointment ahead of time. This allows the teacher time to focus and prepare for your meeting. As a general rule, telephone calls and email messages will be returned within 48 hours. Please note that while teaching teachers are not able to access and read email so time-sensitive information, such as a request to inform your child of a change in his/her after school plans, are unlikely to be read by the teacher prior to dismissal. Please send a note with your child or contact the front office for these types of time- sensitive messages.

Northwood Website

Lots of good information is on the Northwood website at: <http://www.mercerislandschools.org>. You will find Northwood under the "our schools" tab, located at the top of the page.

Northwood Directory

Annually, a Northwood Student and Staff Directory will be published by the PTA and distributed to PTA members. Please contact the PTA if you are interested in joining and to get your directory copy. In the directory, you will find current contact information for students, staff, administrators, Parent Advisory Council, PTA, and district offices all together in one convenient location. This is the only published information provided with contacts for students in your children's class or any other class or grade at Northwood.

Newsletters

- The principal sends a newsletter to families each month via email. To ensure you receive this communication, please make sure we have your correct contact information in Skyward. Should any contact information change, please notify the main office using the Student Change of Information Form:
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1682549681/mercerislandschoolsorg/mlrpcgdrvw0aexzt8ist/20230426StudentChangeofInformationForm.pdf>
- The Northwood PTA distributes their newsletter, the Parliament Press, via Constant Contact. You Can Sign Up for Constant Contact through the Northwood PTA website:
<http://www.northwoodowlspta.org/>
- Teachers also send newsletters home to families on a regular basis. Your teacher will inform you of his/her communication plan at Curriculum Night.

District Announcement Emails

The email address that you provide in your parent pack will be added to the district Skyward listserv. The listserv will post the school newsletter and will be used for all other district informational (non-emergency) announcements. Emergency communication, such as weather closures, is communicated via:

- **FlashAlert-** FlashAlert is the platform School Districts use to communicate school closure information to local TV and radio stations. You can sign up to receive a FlashAlert notification here: <https://www.flashalert.net/id/MercerIslandSD>.
- **Text Messaging-** Families can opt-in to receive text notifications from our School Messenger system about school closures. To receive text notifications, first, we recommend you login to your Skyward account (<https://www.g.wa-k12.net/mercer>), select "Family Access", and click on the "Skylert" link to verify your cell phone number is listed correctly to receive text notifications.
- **Email-** Our School Messenger system will send an email to District families and students about closures.
- **Website-** The MISD website will show information at www.mercerislandschools.org.
- **Social Media-** MISD social media platforms will be updated with information. [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)
- **Local Media-** Local radio and TV stations also will provide information regarding school closures.

Backpack Mail

Notices, communications, homework, and completed student work will come home regularly from your child's teacher. Check your child's backpack daily.

Classroom Email Lists

Each classroom teacher uses email addresses found in Skyward for classroom communication. Classroom emails might include information about classroom activities, special events, and teacher questions. Teachers use the “blind cc” feature so that your email privacy is protected.

Parent Advisory Council

The Parent Advisory Council is an advisory team of collaborative partners, school staff and the parent community, who meet during the year to discuss school-focused topics of importance for Northwood. If you have a question or concerns about the school community, ask your Parent Advisory Council Representative; Parent Advisory Council contact information can be found in the school Directory.

PTA Website

You can find out more information about Northwood’s very active PTA at <http://www.northwoodowlspta.org/>.

Emergency Contact Information

Each fall, you are requested to fill out forms which give information to the school about who to contact in an emergency and who is authorized to pick up your child from school. It is essential that this information be kept up to date as it is vitally important we be able to reach when your child is ill, in need of something, or in an emergency. Please keep us informed of any changes. It is important to have at least two (2) current emergency contacts. It is strongly preferred that these be Mercer Island contacts for ease of access.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The parent of each child will have one formal parent/teacher conference scheduled in the fall. If you want to discuss your child’s school work or progress at another time, please schedule an appointment in advance with your child’s teacher. This allows your child’s teacher adequate time to prepare for a meaningful exchange of information. “Drop- in” conferences tend to be non-productive and take away valuable learning time from all students.

Signs

There is an announcement board on the southside of the covered patio near the main entrance to share information about school and PTA events. You’ll also see signs posted on our fences to remind you of upcoming events.

RSVP

Our Mercer Island School District and PTA Back-to-School forms and payment information are ONLINE! A postcard and email are sent in mid-August to explain the District Back-to-School forms and how to complete these forms online through Skyward for your child. Do not hesitate to contact the school if you have difficulties accessing your Skyward account for the district forms/information. You can find more information here:

<https://www.mercerislandschools.org/connect/back-to-school-resources-23-24>.

Transportation

At Northwood the safety of all students is paramount . Our busy location will always be a challenge. If your child 's neighborhood is provided bus service, the safest and most socially conscious way to get him or her to school is to send your children on the bus. If you are in a walking zone, please review the designated safe walk routes and teach your children to walk to school safely. We strongly encourage it!

Buses/District Transportation

Bus service is available for many students based on their home location in the Northwood boundaries. Students in a bus zone are highly encouraged to use bus transportation to and from school in order to keep traffic in and around the parking lot to a minimum. There is a separate lot for bus use only and students will be dropped off there in the morning and will line up by bus number after school in the same place. You can find information about bus transportation through the district website at

<https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/buses>.

Note that Kindergarteners will not be dropped off at their bus stop without an adult meeting them unless a release form has been signed.

Bus service is available to some of the places frequented by students for after school activities. Contact the transportation department for details, 206-236-3335.

If your child needs to ride a different bus than is typical, please send a signed and dated note to school with your child. Your child will present this note to the main office early in the day, at which time your child will be issued a temporary bus pass to show the driver.

Please contact the transportation department if any schedule/location changes need to be made to your child's bus schedule.

Walking

If your child will be walking to and from school without an adult, please see our Northwood Website Safe Walking page for designated safe walk routes and information about helping your student walk to and from school safely

<https://nw.mercerlandschools.org/about-us/safe-walking-route>. We recommend you do a practice walk both to and from school so that your child is familiar and comfortable with the route you have chosen and safe walking procedures. When approaching the school, students should use designated crosswalks with Safety Patrol personnel present. These crosswalks are located at:

- 86thAveSEandSE40thSt
- 88thAveSEandSE40thSt

Kiss-and-Go Zone (Parking Lot Pick-up and Drop-off)

The Kiss-and-Go Zone and parking lot is at the front of the building, with access on the south end of the lot from 86th AveSE. (NOTE:The bus lot at the rear of the school cannot be used for parent drop-off or pick-up). We highly recommend parents take the clockwise route around the North Mercer Complex block to facilitate a smooth process. There is a car queuing lane northbound on 86th Ave SE to access the Northwood lot. There is not a queuing lane southbound, making access from that direction challenging.

Our Kiss-and-Go Zone can accommodate an efficient drop-off and pick up process if all parents and students follow these guidelines:

- Use the school bus or walk whenever possible.
- Never leave your vehicle at the curb, even for “a minute.”
- Use the inside curb lane for picking up or dropping off your children. Do not allow your children to walk across the lot to find you.
- Children should enter/exit cars on the curbside for safety.
- As you enter the lot, pull up as far as you can before stopping to drop off or pick up your child.
- Be ready. Please have backpacks ready, coats on, breakfast eaten BEFORE you enter the drop-off line so your child is ready to “Kiss-and-Go” when you stop the car.
- Please exercise patience at all times.
- Refrain from cell phone use while operating your vehicle in the parking lot.
- If your child care provider or other family member will be dropping off or picking up your children, it is your responsibility to make sure that those designated persons are also familiar with the policies and routines.
- If you need to park, please use a designated parking spot, get out of your car, use the crosswalk to meet your children, and use the crosswalk to escort them back to your car.
- Please do not use the parking area as a secondary “pick -up lane”. Children will not be allowed to cross from the curb to get to your car in that area of the lot. Please only use the designated pick-up loop.

- There are parking lot “attendants” present at the drop off and pick up. Their primary responsibility is student safety.
- The parking lot layout can be busy and confusing. Our goal is to get the children to school safely and keep the cars moving. Please follow the parking attendants directions when in the parking lot.

Bikes and Scooters

A student must be in 3rd grade to ride a bike or scooter to school without parent/adult supervision. Bikes and scooters must be walked at the crossings and while on school grounds. Students are required to wear helmets while riding to and from school. During the school day bikes and scooters must be locked to the bike racks which are provided on the school grounds. The racks are located in front of the building at the south end of the sidewalk and at the back of the building at the north and south ends of the sidewalk.

Going Home with a Friend / Play Date

Your student’s day will follow a routine, and we require a written note if you request a schedule change (e.g. riding a different bus, being picked up by someone else, walking home/riding a bus when not routine). This note must be dated and signed by the parent or guardian. In the absence of a note, we will proceed with your child’s typical routine. For a change in routine, please do not rely on an email sent to a teacher during the teaching day; teachers are often unable to check email until after students are dismissed at the end of the day.

Field Trips

Field trips are taken both on buses and in private cars. Permission slips must be signed by parents and/or guardians before the trip. Parents are frequently asked to chaperone. Siblings cannot attend field trips with chaperones.

Health Services

A Mercer Island School District Nurse is part of our Northwood staff in emergencies. Because of the limited facilities for the care of ill or injured children, it is important for the school to have up to date information about what parents would like us to do in case of emergency. Please be sure we have a local Mercer Island emergency telephone number where you, or a person you designate, may be reached (see communications) to pick-up a sick child. All of the district’s policies and procedures on health and immunizations may be found at <https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/student-health-and-wellnes/health>.

Food Allergies

If your child has serious food allergies, please contact the school nurse about your child’s plan.

Health Information

Each new school year parents are requested to fill out forms which give information about student health. Please keep us informed of any change in your child's health status and activity restriction.

Medication

We are unable to dispense any medication at school without a written request from a doctor or dentist. This ruling applies to all over-the-counter medications including aspirin, vitamins, cough drops, throat lozenges, etc., as well as prescription medication. Inhalers and Epi-pens are categorized as medication and will require written instruction. Forms for "Medication Authorization" are available in our school office or at <https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/student-health-and-wellnes/health/health-forms>.

Health Screening

Vision screening for near-sightedness and hearing screening are given at the school. Parents are advised if the results show a need for additional follow up. These are screening services only and do not take the place of regular examinations performed by your eye specialist or family physician.

Immunizations

Washington State law requires that all students K-12 must be immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus (DPT), polio, measles (rubella), Hep B, Varicella and rubella (three day/German measles). Mumps vaccine is required for kindergarten students only. The law states that parents must fill out and sign a certificate of immunization status form giving the month and year of each dose of vaccine; or evidence of initiation of a schedule of immunizations; or an exemption for medical, personal or religious reasons.

Beginning September of 1991, Washington State Immunization Regulations were changed to require proof of a second dose of measles vaccine for all children entering sixth grade. Since September 1997 Hepatitis B* vaccination has been required for all children entering daycare, preschool or kindergarten.

The immunization form must be turned into the school by the student's first day of attendance at school. Forms are available in each school office or here: https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1671943826/mercerislandschoolsorg/hrwxh6tvyc1v64dax050/348-013_CertificateImmunizationStatusForm20-21.pdf. Required immunizations may be obtained from your doctor. Be sure to keep a record so you will be able to supply the necessary information.

*Hepatitis B series (all three shots required)

Volunteering

Parents are the first teachers of their children. The public schools extend a cooperative and professional hand to foster life-long learning skills and interests. We welcome your involvement at school and your attention to the program at home. There are many ways we invite parents to participate. Mercer Island Schools have a great tradition of volunteerism. It's easy to get involved and you will find welcoming volunteer veterans around every corner ready to show you the way.

PTA

The Parent and Teacher Association is a vital part of Northwood Elementary. Your membership dues support the school program and your active involvement keeps you more informed, as well as offering more to the students. Many one-time and on-going activities need your help; if you can offer, please do! Watch for requests for volunteers in the Northwood PTA Parliament Press Newsletter and at the Northwood Newsletter and on the Northwood PTA website.

Opening Day Coffee

Volunteer opportunities abound at our "Opening Day" coffee. Held on the first day of school, the coffee is a great place to meet other parents, see all of the volunteer opportunities available to you and talk to others about what might work best for you. Parents of Kindergarteners who don't start school on the first day, should also plan on attending. Supervised children are welcome.

Mandatory Volunteer Orientation

All volunteers at MISD elementary schools are required to watch the volunteer training video through this link: <https://www.mercerislandschools.org/enrollment/classroom-volunteers>.

Once you have viewed the video, print the quiz page, complete the quiz, sign it and return it to the office, along with the other required documents found on the webpage. Only those who have a signed form and completed background check will be allowed to volunteer in the classroom or in school activities. A new volunteer packet needs to be completed every school year.

Background Checks

All school volunteers must undergo a background check, found on the Volunteer web page above, on the PTA website, or in the school office.

Volunteer Opportunities:

PTA Events and Activities

There are literally hundreds of volunteer jobs available for you. Do you like working with the kids? Maybe you'd like to be a regular classroom volunteer to support learning centers or other classroom routines. Like to be in the background? Help organize a family event, or do the finances for the PTA. Maybe you'd like to be room parent, or help with the night time family events. Come to the opening day coffee to see all of the choices, or contact anyone on the PTA Executive staff, and they will help you get rolling.

In-Classroom help

Our teachers love help in the classroom. At Curriculum Night, they will outline volunteer opportunities in their classroom and will offer a sign-up sheet. Contact the teacher if you need additional information about how to get involved in your child's classroom. As a reminder, please turn off your cell phone during classroom visits.

Field Trip Chaperones

Classes may go on field trips during the year and often need parent chaperones. Your child's teacher will inform you when a chaperone opportunity is available

Library help

Library volunteers assist the library staff with book check out, reshelving, and anything else that is needed.

Northwood Support Services

We are fortunate at Northwood to have a broad range of support and specialists on staff to aid in the education, development, and welfare of the entire student body.

Counselor

The elementary school counselor works with students, teachers, and parents in order to provide students with the best available learning environment. This position is funded and staffed by Mercer Island Youth and Family Services. To help students, the counselor provides guidance and counseling in the areas of educational and social-personal behavioral concerns. In working with teachers, the counselor helps identify and provide appropriate programs for students with special learning difficulties. The counselor also works closely with parents to help them better understand the school environment, the way their children function, and provide referrals to parents who need further support.

English Language Developers (ELD)

The ELD program brings a rich cultural diversity to our school. Our ELD programs serve students in their school using instructional strategies and frameworks based on the level of language proficiency they demonstrate. The instruction emphasizes oral language development as well as reading, spelling, and some writing. Students are included in the general education classroom with program adaptation done by the teacher in conjunction with the ELD teacher.

Special Education

Special Education services are available to students who qualify for specially designed instruction. Northwood serves children with mild to moderate learning challenges. We also serve children with moderate to severe cognitive challenges.

Learning Support

Northwood students benefit from additional support inside and outside the classroom. State and Federally funded programs provide early intervention which is essential to the success of our students. The goal of the Learning Support Program (LSP) is to improve educational opportunities for students by helping them: 1) succeed in the regular classroom; 2) obtain grade-level proficiency; 3) improve achievement in basic and more advanced skills that all students are expected to master. The purpose of Learning Support services is to provide a problem-solving forum for school personnel working with struggling or at-risk students as identified by teachers, parents, and/or counselors.

Occupational Therapist

Northwood has an Occupational Therapist for students who qualify for help with daily living functions to support well-being. OT's use self-care, work, and play activities to increase independent function, enhance development, and prevent disability. In the school setting, this means helping students with their main occupation, being students.

Speech Therapist

Also known as Speech Language Pathologist, this professional is available, for students who qualify, to provide individual speech and language therapy for students who have difficulty pronouncing some speech sounds and/or correctly putting words together into sentences. Parents who are concerned about their child's speech, language, or hearing should contact the Speech Therapist or their child's teacher.

School Psychologist

School psychologists are assigned to all elementary schools within the district. They work cooperatively with the elementary school counselor to aid teachers and parents in understanding their children's learning and social abilities. Children are referred to the Psychologist through the Building Guidance Team (see below) which is managed by the building principal.

PALS

PALS coaching is available for students who are having difficulty with the school structures in the classroom or on the playground. Our coach works directly with students to help them develop skills to successfully manage rules and routines at school. PALS coaching is a referral process initiated by the classroom teacher, a parent or the school counselor.

Instruction and Assessment

Curriculum

Adopted curriculum and district targets can be found on the district website at:

<https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/student-learning-services/curriculum/elementary-school-curriculum> .

Curriculum Nights

In the fall of each school year, the school holds "Curriculum Night" in each classroom. The teacher presents the curriculum for the year, their teaching philosophy, operational guidelines and policies, answers questions and has classroom volunteer sign-up sheets available.

Attending Curriculum Night will give you a great sense of what to expect in your child's classroom for the year. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for volunteer spots in your child's classroom at Curriculum Night.

Assessment

State mandated assessments include:

- 2nd grade: Reading Assessment to determine at-risk students
- 3rd grade: Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Math Assessments
- 4th grade: Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Math Assessments
- 5th grade: Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Math Assessments .
- 5th grade: Science MSP Assessment

District Assessments include Aimsweb Universal Screening for reading development and other curriculum based assessments. A Mercer Island School District test is given to all students in 4th grade to determine math class placement. For more information on district assessment tests go to

<https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/student-learning-services/assessment>.

Placement

All of the elementary schools use the same process for class formation. Balanced class groupings are created that accommodate individual needs by distributing student abilities, behaviors and interests evenly among the classes. Teachers are then randomly assigned to the balanced class groupings. This process achieves a learning environment that will enable all children to grow to the maximum of their abilities. Please be aware that we are unable to accommodate parent requests for specific teachers. It is the principal's responsibility to assure that all teachers are qualified and work hard to meet the needs of all children. Notification of placement for the next school year will be available through Skyward at the end of August, just prior to school opening.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports are given each trimester (November, March and June). They are distributed via Skyward. Information about Skyward can be found at <https://www.mercerislandschools.org/connect/skyward>.

Teacher Conferences

The parent of each child will have one formal parent/teacher conference scheduled in the fall. If you want to discuss your child's schoolwork or progress at any other time, please schedule an appointment in advance with your child's teacher. This allows your child's teacher adequate time to prepare for a meaningful exchange of information. "Drop-in" conferences tend to be non-productive and take away valuable learning time from all students.

English Language Developers

Eligibility:

At the time of registration, the parents/guardians of each student shall be asked to complete a home language survey which identifies the child's primary language. Students that indicate on the home language survey a primary language other than English, will be assessed within ten school days of enrollment and attendance using a Washington State Language Proficiency placement test to determine eligibility for the ELD program. Staff will determine the appropriate instructional program for each eligible student.

Parent/Guardian Notification:

Parents/guardians will be notified, in writing, of their child's initial eligibility and notified annually of their child's continuing eligibility for ELD services. At a minimum the parent/guardian notification will contain:

- How the child's eligibility was determined and the child's current level of English proficiency;
- A description of the district's services and how it will meet the child's educational needs;
- The specific exit requirements for the services; and
- Information on the parent's right to refuse services.

Communication with parents/guardians will be provided, when feasible, in the parents' primary language.

Continued Eligibility/Annual Assessment:

Each eligible English language developer must be assessed annually, using the state-approved language proficiency test to determine continued eligibility. Students remain eligible until they reach level four (transitional) on the annual state-approved language proficiency test.

Highly Capable Program

In accordance with the philosophy to develop the special abilities of each student, the Mercer Island School District offers appropriate instructional services to meet the needs of highly capable students of school age. The framework for such programs shall encompass, but not be limited to the following objectives:

- Expansion of academic attainment and intellectual skill;
- Stimulation of intellectual curiosity, independence and responsibility;
- Acceleration of specific content to meet student learning needs;
- Development of a positive attitude toward self and others;and
- Development of originality and creativity.

Program Design

Primary Enrichment Program K-2: The Primary Enrichment Program (PEP) is an enrichment program for identified K, 1, and 2 students. Students who qualify for this program remain in their general education classrooms. This program is separate from the Highly Capable Program and qualification for PEP does not guarantee qualification for the 3-8 Highly Capable Program.

Highly Capable 3-8: The grades 3-8 Highly Capable Program is self-contained in grades 3 through 5 at Lakeridge Elementary. Students in the Highly Capable Program remain with their class throughout the day and move to their elective studies (PE, art, music, and library) with their class.

Code 32: For students entering third or fourth grade who qualify in one area (either math or reading). Services are provided in the regular classroom.

1:1 iPads - Grades 1 through 5

All students grades 1 through 5 are issued an iPad for use in their classrooms. iPads are for in class use only as directed by teachers and may not be taken home unless the teacher designates otherwise.

Each class will introduce the iPads with the Intermediate Student iPad Agreement and cover key points for successful use of iPads in the classroom environment in the first few weeks of school. Students are expected to follow the guidelines found here:

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1671900298/mercerislandschoolsorg/lpkgatgbrczg9yt8o127/IntermediateGradeAgreement2019PBIS_1.pdf.

Mercer Island School District uses Google products and additional learning applications.

As an instructional tool, through the student advantage program, Microsoft allows students to install office on their home computers. You can find more information here:

<https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/student-learning-services/technology-services/student-advantage>.

Additionally, an extensive list of apps aligned to the curriculum needs and Common Core Standards is available at no cost to students through the app catalog. Note that teachers select the apps that best align to their current learning styles of their students.

School Policies

Code of Conduct - School-wide Rules

The Northwood School-wide rules incorporate the belief that our students are capable of making positive choices and taking responsibility for their choices. We work to help students become consciously aware that they can choose positive thoughts, actions, and feelings. We believe in our students. The development of personal responsibility will empower them to become successful learners and productive citizens. Board Policy 3200 addresses student conduct, rights, and responsibilities.

Northwood Be the Three

This Code of Conduct sets behavior standards. At Northwood, we encompass these rules for students using our Be the Three school-wide rules:

Be safe

Be respectful

Be responsible

Classroom Preparedness

Students are expected to make choices in preparation for their day, and we believe they can take responsibility for these choices. Preparation for the day includes supplies, homework, lunch, musical instruments, and appropriate clothing.

Dress

Dress for the school day should reflect good choices. We ask that students dress for safety, comfort, weather conditions, and the job. If clothing is substantially distracting to the student himself/herself or to others, it is inappropriate. Clothing that promotes or contains references to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco use, or poses a serious threat to school safety through pictures, messages, innuendo, or slogans—is prohibited. Please help your child with these choices for their own well-being. Please label all items of clothing with your child's first and last name.

Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, and Headphones

Electronic toys and music listening devices—including (but not limited to): cell phones, gaming devices, smart watches and headphones are not to be used on school grounds.

Toys

Toys at school can be lost, broken and, above all, a major distraction to learning and supervision. Accordingly, personal toys, sports equipment, electronic games, and other like play items should remain at home.

Food/Gum/Beverage

We appreciate clean hallways, classrooms, and classroom equipment. Students are expected to be responsible for making appropriate use of trash cans and drinking fountains. Gum chewing is not permitted at the school.

Pets

In order to maintain an environment that is healthy for everyone, including those with allergies, please do not bring pets to school. No pets are allowed on school grounds at any time.

District Policies and Procedures

This section of the handbook provides general guidelines for the operation of MISD elementary schools. To view District policies and procedures applicable to our school, please see Appendix A, Mercer Island School District Board Policies.

School Safety

The safety of our children is of key concern and gets regular attention. The building and grounds are inspected and monitored consistently for repair needs and safe conditions.

Hours

Students are to be on campus only between 9:00am and 3:45pm, unless they are engaged in an approved after school club or activity. Please instruct your child that going straight home at dismissal is best for safety. Students will line up by classrooms before school and wait for buses and rides after school in designated areas, not on the playground. Students on the playground before 9:00am or after 3:45pm must have parent/adult supervision. There is no before or after school supervision provided by school personnel. Before and after school care is available on-site through Innovation Learning– see <https://innovationlearning.com/locations/northwood-elementary/>. In addition, there are approved before and after school activities such as choir, languages, chess club, etc. which do have supervision.

Visitors

We ask that all visitors (parent and community) come to the office when visiting or volunteering at school. Because safety and security is of the utmost importance at the school, it is important that we know who is in the building at all times. Please check in at the Main Office and obtain a badge. It is required that you wear a badge while in the school building or on campus during normal school hours. You will need your Driver's License/Identification Card to check-in at the office. Only pre-arranged volunteers or parents with appointments should go to the classrooms.

No children may be left unattended in the office while parents are in meetings or other activities at the school. Please do not bring siblings to wait in the office. You must find alternative childcare arrangements for meetings and activities.

Safety Drills

Safety drills are done during the year to practice for emergencies such as fire, earthquake, bus exiting, and incidents which require the school to lockdown. These are taken seriously and done on a routine basis.

Emergency Supplies

Our school is stocked with emergency supplies for our students. In the event of an emergency, we have backpacks and a large container to provide food, water, blankets and other supplies for our students.

Student Insurance

Optional student insurance is available to parents through the school district. Participation in this insurance program is strictly voluntary and your own insurance policy should be reviewed prior to your final decision regarding the purchase of school insurance. Please be aware that the school does not have accident insurance to cover parents' medical bills if your child is injured. More information can be found on the website.

Money and Valuables

Because of the danger of loss, students are requested not to bring money to school during the school day. Valuable jewelry, sporting goods, cameras, radios, video games, and toys are not to be brought to school. Personal items of any kind are brought at the student's own risk.

Emergency School Closure

It is the policy of the Mercer Island School District to hold school whenever possible. However, there may be days when school must be closed or start later than usual due to weather or emergency conditions. A School Closure message may be accessed by calling the District's information at 206-236-3366 or on the district website. The district also uses several local radio and TV stations and the **Flash Alert Network** to inform the community. Detailed explanations are published and distributed to all families prior to our winter weather season.

Emergency Email Lists

Northwood can inform parents by email of emergencies, school closures and other important administrative information through a third party organization. All you need to do is subscribe in order to obtain this valuable information. The Emergency listserv is housed by an outside organization and is tied directly to the school closure and late start media broadcast system. We will use this system to broadcast emergency or safety or safety related messages.

To activate your FlashAlert account, please go to <https://www.flashalert.net/id/MercerIslandSD> and follow the instructions to subscribe. By subscribing to a building, you will receive both Mercer Island School District messages as well as building specific messages.

Emergency Procedures

During any Emergency Procedure, we ask that the telephone inquiries be made to the Mercer Island School District Emergency number at 206-236-3366. The comfort, safety, and preparedness of our Northwood School community are our greatest priorities. Parents should know:

- The school has monthly drills
- The school interfaces with Fire, Police, and City of Mercer Island personnel as needed
- The school has a container with emergency supplies that provide for at least 48 hours of student and staff needs
- The school has a School SafetyTeam that meets regularly

Non-Evacuation Dismissal

(In the event of a power failure and certain weather conditions)

- Students remain in classrooms.
- All parents or designees go directly to classrooms to sign out children.
- Student Release Form must be signed.
- Departing students are checked off a master list.
- 3:45 pm dismissal, including bus transportation, if deemed safe.

Evacuation Dismissal

(In the event of a major fire or earthquake)

- Students vacate to the Black Top where they will remain under staff supervision until released to parent/designee.
- All parents line up in the Student Release area at the east end of the soccer field.
- Parent/designee signs student out and obtains Student Release Card.
- Parent/designee proceeds to the Will-Call Area.
- Staff member radios teacher to send up the student.
- Parent/designee waits in the Reunion Area for the student.
- Student and parent/designee leave campus.

Lock-Down

(In the event of an intruder on campus or in the school building, or a neighborhood incident) School alerted as to the location of intruder by Principal or designee. Emergency agencies will be notified.

- Students confined to locked classrooms, with students underneath their desks, lights off, blinds shut.
- Based upon the Principal's assessment, students may be allowed to participate in normal activities within the locked classroom.
- When the campus is secured, an all-clear signal is given by the Principal or designee. Above emergency dismissal procedures are implemented if needed.
- Parents should NOT come to the school in the event of a lock down. Authorities have asked that the area be kept clear and distractions kept to a minimum so that they can effectively handle the situation at hand.

Fundraising

The generosity of the Mercer Island Community is astounding. Fundraising efforts allow us to differentiate curriculum and resources and increase the enjoyment of learning for our children. Go to <http://www.northwoodowlspta.org/> to find information about the latest community fundraisers.

Mercer Island Schools Foundation

The Mercer Island Schools Foundation is an active and important part of our successful school system. Money raised by the foundation funds programs in every school. Their annual phone-a-thon takes place in the fall. Additionally, the Mercer Island Schools Foundation hosts community business fundraising breakfasts during the year. The Mercer Island School Foundation can be reached at 275-2550, or at <http://www.mercerislandschoolsfoundation.com/>.

Northwood Directory

This is a PTA-sponsored publication, including a listing of PTA committees, school staff, and students. A copy is provided with your PTA membership. Additional directories can be purchased at the office for a nominal fee.

Brunch and Browse at Island Books

A fun morning spent with other Northwood parents, Island Books donates a percentage of all Northwood identified purchases during that day to the Northwood PTA. The PTA organizes and sponsors the event.

Logo Spiritwear

Northwood Logo shirts and sweatshirts will be available for purchase through the PTA at the beginning of year. Contact the PTA for more information.

School Activities and Events

This section of the Ultimate Guide contains information on various school events. Some occur during school hours and some are after school extra-curricular activities.

Assemblies

Northwood plans assemblies each year that tie into the curriculum or citizenship focus of the school. Some assemblies are for the entire student body, while others are for specific grade levels.

Band

Fifth grade students may participate in Band or Orchestra twice weekly before school at Islander Middle School. Specific information can be found through this link

<https://mercerislandschoolsorg-24-us-west1-01.preview.finalsitecdn.com/academicsprograms/fine-arts#fs-panel-9801>

Soaring Owls & Owls' Nest Event

Throughout the year, the students are eligible to receive Soaring Owl tickets for exhibiting positive behaviors and character traits. Each month, two students from each classroom who have shown themselves to be Soaring Owls will be invited to a 'Popsicles with the Principal' event to be acknowledged for their efforts. This is part of our Positive Behavior Intervention and community building support system at Northwood.

Field Trips & In-house Enrichment Events

All field trips are directly related to the current curriculum. Your teacher will provide information regarding specific field trips either by backpack mail, email, or both. The PTA graciously provides funding to support special enrichment activities in each classroom.

Fine Arts Showcase

The district-wide Fine Arts Showcase is a not-to-be-missed art extravaganza at the high school. All elementary students will have an art piece in the Showcase, and our 3rd graders perform in a very special choral program. Artwork is displayed from elementary through high school, and all of our school music programs perform over the course of this two-day event.

Multicultural Night

A night to celebrate our diverse, international population through family-created booths, foods, music, and information sharing. Students and parents can gather to celebrate with an evening of true international flair.

New Family Coffee

The first month of school there is a Principal's Coffee for all parents new to Northwood Elementary. More information will be available through school and PTA communications.

Opening Day Coffee/Volunteer Sign Up

A must attend event held the first day of school, the Opening Day Coffee is a time when parents can socialize with each other and learn how to get involved at school. Volunteer sign-up sheets are available, and parents familiar with the programs are available to answer any questions. The Principal and PTA president will also address the group. Parents of Kindergarteners who don't start on the first day of school should also attend. Supervised children are welcome to attend.

Parent Education Events

Parent education events are scheduled throughout the school year on a broad range of topics through the school and the PTA Parent Edge group. PTA members are automatically a member of Parent Edge. Find out more about upcoming Parent Edge events at www.miparentedge.org or go on Facebook at www.facebook.com/miparentedge.

Principal's Coffee

This informal and comfortable forum provides parents with direct two way communication with our principal. These meetings are typically held monthly or bimonthly during the year as well as at selected PTA meetings.

PTA Meetings

The PTA holds regular general membership meetings that are open to everyone. The PTA counts on you to help shape their programs for the year. A meeting calendar is published at the beginning of the year. Meetings are meant to be informative, participatory and fun. The meeting schedule can be found on the PTA website.

Reflections

Reflections is a great chance for children to express themselves through literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, film/video and choreography/dance. Reflections is a Washington State PTA-sponsored art show, held in the late fall, and open to all K-12 children. Entries are judged according to age and grade level. Watch for information about how students can participate in this program via PTA publications.

Safety Patrol

Open to fourth and fifth grade students who are at least 10 years old. The safety patrol student volunteers provide before and after school crossing help at supervised crosswalks and in the parking lot. All training is provided, and the program has a teacher coordinator. Information for how to become a part of the safety patrol will be shared at the start of the school year.

School Pictures

Each fall, arrangements are made for a photographer to take individual pictures and class pictures of all students for student records. As a service to the parents, these pictures may be purchased on a prepaid basis. The teacher will share that information in their messages to the families.

Student Council

Three representatives from each fourth and fifth grade class will be elected to the student council. Students wishing to participate will complete an application and an anonymous election will take place in each fourth and fifth grade classroom. A staff sponsor will facilitate regular meetings and facilitate student leadership within the school.

Yearbook

Northwood PTA puts out a yearbook at the end of the year which provides wonderful memories of classmates, teachers, and activities. Information about purchasing the book is available on the PTA website.

5th Grade Special Events

In their final year of Elementary school, Mercer Island fifth graders enjoy several unique events and activities:

- Outdoor Education Experience . Fifth-grade students at Northwood Elementary School have the opportunity to participate in a two day/one night program at an Outdoor Education School. This outdoor learning experience is designed to educate and inspire environmental and community stewardship with a focus on science and sustainability. Our students stay on site with parent chaperones and receive instruction from the site educators and staff. The curriculum ties into our state science and social studies standards.
- Fifth Grade Activity . This culminating event held at the end of the school year celebrates the culmination of the elementary school experience. The scope and type of event will change from year to year, with the objective being to give students a unique and memorable experience. The event is held towards the end of the year.

- Sweatshirts. The PTAs create sweatshirts each year that list all 5th graders across the district. The tradition of having sweatshirts with all of the names of the 5th graders in the district has come to mean a great deal to students. Specific ordering information is provided to students via email. Scholarships are available. **Please note:if you have signed the FERPA opt-out form with the district, indicating your child’s name is not to be included in directory requests, you will need to provide special permission for your child’s name to appear on the sweatshirt.
- Middle School Transition Day – Gator for a Night. A very special opportunity for 5th graders to spend time at Islander Middle School for orientation.We’ve had a few occurrences where parents have not ordered their child a sweatshirt or have chosen to not include their name on the shirt— resulting in disappointed children. So, carefully consider these choices.

Your Mercer Island Community

Happy kids are active in their community. Here on Mercer Island we are lucky to have a rich set of community resources to choose from for children and families. Here are some of the places and things Mercer Island kids (and their families) enjoy. While kids often do things off Island, we’ve limited this guide to Mercer Island-based resources.

Community Resources:

Mercer Island Parks and Recreation

The “Recreation Guide”, published seasonally by the City, contains listings of classes, camps, and activities for youth, adults and seniors.You can reach MI Parks & Rec at 206-236-3545 or at www.miparks.net.

Youth and Family Services

Another department of the City; Youth and Family Services is located in Luther Burbank Park. MIYFS provides family and community services to the MI community through collaboration with many groups, including the Mercer Island School District. <https://www.mercerisland.gov/yfs> or at 206-275-7611.

Mercer Island Library

Our local library, located at 4400 88th Ave SE, is part of the King County Library System.This local branch has an extensive youth section serving elementary students and even has a “teen area” for kids to do homework after school. Providing more than just great books, our library also sponsors a full calendar of activities for children and adults. See their website for the calendar, library hours and additional information at <https://kcls.org/locations/merc-island/> or reach them by phone at 206-236-3537.

Boys and Girls Club

The Mercer Island Boys and Girls Club of King County is a non-profit organization serving children ages 6-18 with a broad range of programs from arts and sports, to career development with a concentration on themes of citizenship and leadership. It's great to be on their email list, as they send reminders of sign-up periods and other notifications. You can contact the MI Boys and Girls Club at <https://positiveplace.org/clubs/mercer-island> or at 206-232-4548.