



**PRESCHOOL
PARENT & STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2024-2025**

C O M M I T T E D T O E X C E L L E N C E



Home of the
Cougars

Rainier Elementary Preschool

PO Box 98 202 Second Street Rainier, WA 98576

Phone: 360-446-9150 Web: <https://elementary.rainier.education/preschool>



Rainier Preschool Calendar

Check Preschool Newsletters for Updates

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|---|
| September | 6 17 | First Day of School for Preschool School Pictures |
| November | 1-4 11 28-29 | Schedule for Conferences to be determined No School, Veterans Day No School, Thanksgiving |
| December | 16 23-31 | No PM Preschool, Early Release for Grades K-12 No School, Winter Break |
| January | 1-3 6 20 24 | No School, Winter Break School Resumes No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day No PM Preschool (Early release for end of semester) |
| February | 14 17 | No School, Possible Snow Make up Day No School, President's Day |
| April | 1-4 7-11 | Schedule for Conferences to be determined Spring Break, no school |
| May | 23 26 | No School, Possible Snow Make Up Day No School, Memorial Day |
| June | TBA TBA | Last day for Preschool Preschool Graduation/Last day for Pre-K |

All Dates subject to change.

Please check the website and notes sent home for updates.

2024 – 2025 Rainier Preschool Staff

Rainier Elementary School is committed to excellence in teaching and learning. We will provide a safe child-centered learning environment in which diversity is celebrated, success is maximized and lifelong learning is promoted. The Rainier Preschool provides an early learning opportunity for children who are 3 ½ -5 years of age. We value children of all abilities and strive to meet their educational and social needs by:

- Providing appropriate curriculum
- Offering a variety of effective instructional techniques
- Accommodating diverse learning styles
- Maintaining a positive, friendly environment

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|
| Special Services Director | Justin Gurnsey | gurnseyj@rainier.wednet.edu |
| Principal: | Rita Meldrum | meldrumr@rainier.wednet.edu |
| Secretaries: | Debra Sutton | suttond@rainier.wednet.edu |
| | Debbie Ortmyer | ortmayerd@rainier.wednet.edu |
| Preschool: | Chris Rearden | reardenc@rainier.wednet.edu |

Preschool ParaEducator Staff: Kristina Craig, Ashley McKitrick

Goals and Objectives:

1. To encourage in each child, self-confidence, concern for others, and cooperation in work and play.
2. To further develop in each child the skills in listening, self-discipline, independence, positive social skills, and self-regulation.
3. To provide enough variety to stimulate each child and enough routine to give each child a sense of stability.
4. To introduce each child to various materials, people, and experiences to aid them in their abilities to accept and deal effectively with differences and change.
5. To give each child the opportunity to solve problems and make appropriate decisions within the realm of their own choices for activities.
6. To encourage and develop in each child a love for life-long learning, focusing on **pre-writing**, **pre-reading**, and **pre-math** skills.
7. To modify the curriculum to meet the current needs of the students, using research-based information and strategies.

School Cancellation

The Rainier Preschool follows the Rainier School District calendar. If the school is closed due to weather or an emergency, Preschool will also close. This information will be on the TV and Radio Stations. If the Rainier School District is on a 1-2 hour late start, there will be no AM Preschool, but the PM Preschool will still be on schedule.

Schedule of Arrival & Dismissal Times

Students should not arrive at school before 8:05 AM or remain after 2:45 PM as there is no supervision. Preschool is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday on school days.

AM Preschool: 8:05 AM – 11:05 AM

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 8:05 – 8:20 | Arrival routine |
| 8:20 – 8:25 | Clean up, go to circle rug |
| 8:25 – 8:45 | Circle Time |
| 8:45 – 9:05 | Small Group |
| 9:05 – 9:20 | Outside or Large Motor Movement |
| 9:20 – 9:25 | Wash up |
| 9:25 – 9:45 | Yoga and story |
| 9:45 – 10:00 | Snack |
| 10:00 – 10:45 | Stations |
| 10:45 – 10:55 | Clean up |
| 10:55 – 11:05 | Closing Circle |
| 11:05 | Depart |

PM Preschool: 11:45 AM – 2:45 PM

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 11:45 – 12:00 | Arrival routine |
| 12:00 – 12:05 | Clean up, go to circle rug |
| 12:05 – 12:25 | Circle Time |
| 12:25 – 12:45 | Small Group |
| 12:45 – 1:00 | Outside or Large Motor Movement |
| 1:00 – 1:05 | Wash up |
| 1:05 – 1:20 | Yoga and story |
| 1:20 – 1:35 | Snack |
| 1:35 – 2:20 | Stations |
| 2:20 – 2:30 | Clean up |
| 2:30 – 2:45 | Closing Circle |
| 2:45 | Depart |

Arrivals & Departures at school

1. Preschool is located in the portable between the Middle School and the District Office (old grade school building).
2. If someone else is picking up your child other than his/her normal person, please either call the office or talk to the preschool staff, even though that person may be on your child's pick-up list. We will not release your child to anyone without your authorization. It is also best if you also let your child know about the change in plans. **Preschool Room Phone: 360-446-9150**
3. We have arrival and departure routines for each child. On our way to the classroom, they use the restroom and wash their hands. When they enter the classroom, they are to hang up their coats, store their personal items in their cubby, and then sign in. The departure routine is the arrival routine backward.

Behavior Guidelines

1. We have one basic rule in the classroom:

A child cannot hurt another person, cannot hurt themselves, and cannot hurt the school property. This relates not only to physically hurting but also verbally hurting. Children at our preschool need to feel safe and to learn to respect themselves, others, and property.

2. Changing Behavior:

The book, 'The Power of Guidance' by Dan Gartrell, uses the term mistaken behavior instead of misbehavior. When a teacher looks into a situation with understanding, they can figure out the reason why the child behaved in a certain way and what they could teach so that the child could behave differently the next time. The preschool staff will use positive statements as our first step in correcting behavior. We will let a child know what he/she can do instead of telling him/her what not to do. Unless it is a matter of safety, we try not to use "no" or "don't" when instructing a child. A time-out can be used to help the child regain a safe body.

3. Discipline Procedure:

- a. We give gentle reminders and are consistent with expectations, follow through, choices, and consequences. We acknowledge appropriate behavior and do not draw attention to the negative whenever possible. What you pay attention to is the behavior you will encourage.
- b. Children will be encouraged to solve their problems with teacher supervision and come to an agreeable solution. Learning to get along and work out disagreements in positive ways is important to lifelong relationships.
- c. "Time Out" will be used as a last resort. The child will have a timer and the time-out will last for less than five minutes. Redirection and withdrawing from the situation are the main ideas for time out. In any problem situation, we will listen to each child involved and help them work out a suitable solution. Again, it is never OK to hurt another child.
- d. Chronic or serious problems will be discussed with the parents. We find working as a team benefits your child.
- e. If you have concerns about your child's behavior, consult Preschool Staff about what is age-appropriate and what could be a possible problem.

Health & Safety of your child: We are following the Thurston County Health Dept Guidelines

Your child's health and safety is a matter of major importance to us. Your child may be sent home if he/she appears to have symptoms of illness during school. In such cases, he/she is immediately isolated from others or sent to the nurse's office to wait while a parent or responsible person is contacted.

Please keep your child at home if he/she:

- Has a fever or had one in the previous 24 hours
- Has had a bad cold that is less than four days old
- Has a heavy nasal discharge
- Has a constant cough
- Is fussy, cranky, and generally not him/herself
- Is just tired (rest at such times may prevent the development of serious illnesses)
- Has symptoms of a possible communicable disease such as sniffles, reddened eyes, sore throat, headache or abdominal pain, and fever. (Please notify the school at once if the child does have an infectious disease.)
- Has an unchecked rash or pink eyes. Please don't send your child into the classroom leaving us wondering what has caused a rash or pink eyes. We then have to take time to call you and find out if it has been checked or medication given.

Child Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

We, as school employees, are mandated by law to report to CPS any concerns of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.

Children's Privacy

Many pictures and videos are taken throughout the year. We will use these in gifts, projects, end-of-year programs, school yearbooks, and to post on the school's website. Please notify us if you DO NOT want pictures of your child released to others. You can mark to not have your child's photo posted through Skyward Family Access at any time, or on the paper Emergency Form.

Show & Share

Show and share items will be kept in their cubby until the time to share. The preschool staff will not be responsible for lost items. Toys brought from home may be shown but not played with at school. The toys can cause a distraction in the classroom setting. Toys that are or can be made into pretend weapons are not allowed at school.

Other

- Please send your child with an extra set of clothes in his/her backpack.
- Please check your child's backpack for papers and school notices.
- Your child may share a special treat on his/her birthday. Please notify the Preschool Staff in advance.

Tuition Reminder

There is a **\$75.00 registration fee** that is due once a year upon enrollment. All preschool money for the year can be received starting in September at the Elementary office or through the InTouch Online portal. No refunds will be given for an absent child as space is reserved for him or her whether her/she is in attendance. If there is a special circumstance, please be quick to inform us.

Tuition is as follows and is due on the first school day of the month:

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|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----|----------|
| September | \$250.00 | January | \$250.00 | May | \$250.00 |
| October | \$250.00 | February | \$250.00 | | |
| November | \$250.00 | March | \$250.00 | | |
| December | \$250.00 | April | \$250.00 | | |

Statements will be sent out on the first day of the month. Reminders and emails will be sent out in the second week. If payment is not made by the last week of the month, the student will be dropped and his/her spot will be made available to the next family.

If your family qualifies for Free/Reduced Lunches, please fill out the paperwork (online through Family Access or paper copies available in the office) and the monthly tuition will be charged at half price.

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying of Students or Staff (HIB)

Rainier School District is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, volunteers and patrons, free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by any characteristic race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, or other distinguishing characteristics, when the intentional written, verbal, or physical act:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with the 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 a school.

*Any person wishing to report harassment, intimidation or bullying may do so using the Rainier School District HIB reporting form available in all school offices and the counselors' offices.

Non-Discrimination

Rainier 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 employee(s) have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX Coordinator
Kristin Robinson
P.O. Box 98 Rainier, WA 98576
360-446-2205
robinsonk@rainier.wednet.edu

Section 504/ADA Coordinator
John Beckman
P.O. Box 98 Rainier, WA 98576
360-446-2205
beckmanj@rainier.wednet.edu

Bilingual Programs
Bryon Bahr
P.O. Box 98 Rainier, WA 98576
360-446-2205
bahrb@rainier.wednet.edu

