

Countdown to Kindergarten!

Challenger Kindergarten
Information Night
01/29/26





Welcome to Challenger!

Valerie Li - Principal
Tabitha Dorn - Dean of Students
Assistant to the Principal -
Heather Wolter
Registrar - Monika MacDonald
Nurse - Shelby Boehm
HRA - Maria Sandoval
Counselor - Shine Lingenbrink

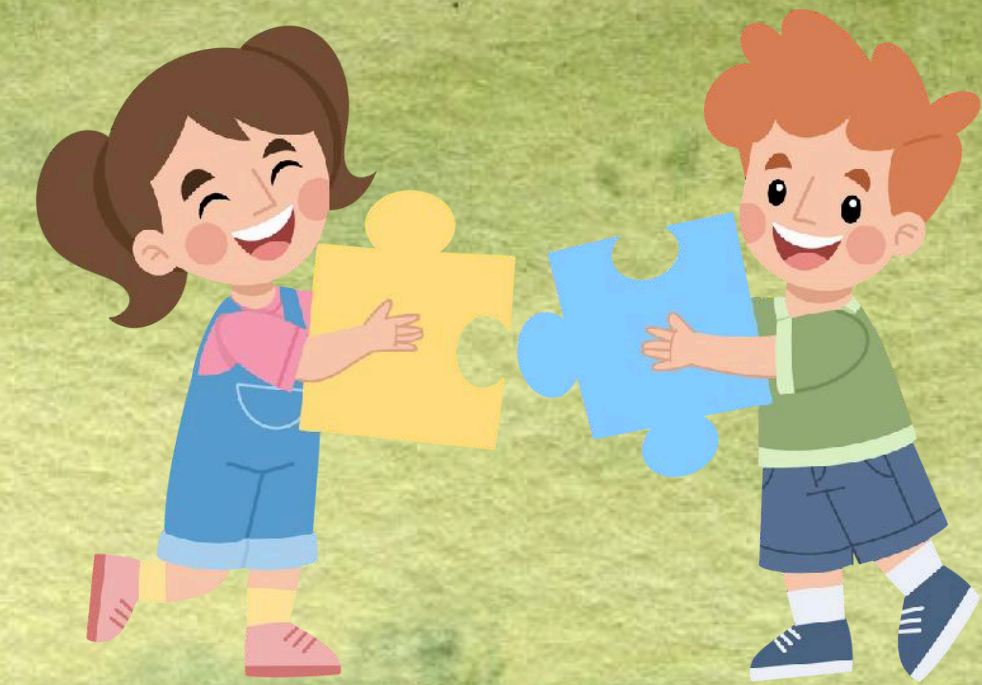
Who is Challenger's next Kindergarten class?

Class of
2039



Attendance Map

- Your child must be 5 by August 31, 2026
(Early entrance information for students who are 5 by November 2026 is on the ISD website)
- You must live in the Challenger attendance area.
- Check the ISD website attendance map to verify or email transportation department your address.





A Little about Challenger Elementary

- Built in 1988
- Home to 350 Challenger Comets
- Walking community school
- The Comet Way
 - Be Respectful
 - Be Responsible
 - Be Resourceful
 - Be Safe



State Funded Full Day Kindergarten

- No cost to families
- Provides maximum learning opportunity for students
- Offers full access to specialists (PE, Music, Library)
- Developmentally appropriate and student centered
- Integrated content with rich, hands-on experiences
- Based on rigorous standards



What does the Kindergarten day look like?

School hours

- Gates open at 9:05
- M, Tu, Th, F - 9:15-3:45
- W - 9:15-1:30

During the school day

- Reading, writing, math, science and social studies
- Purposeful play learning centers
- Every week - 2 classes each of PE and music, and 1 library class
- Lunch around noon



Can my student attend half day?

- State requires full day Kindergarten be available to all students
- We recommend all students attend full day
- Parents may opt for half-day: Student will be placed in full-day classroom in the morning for 3 hours



Full-Day Kindergarten

Every student, every classroom, every day

High Quality Instruction

Student centered, hands-on learning experiences promoting creativity

Deep knowledge of child development	Rich learning environments	Balanced and aligned curriculum	Assessment of and for learning
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Engaging Interactions and Integrated Content



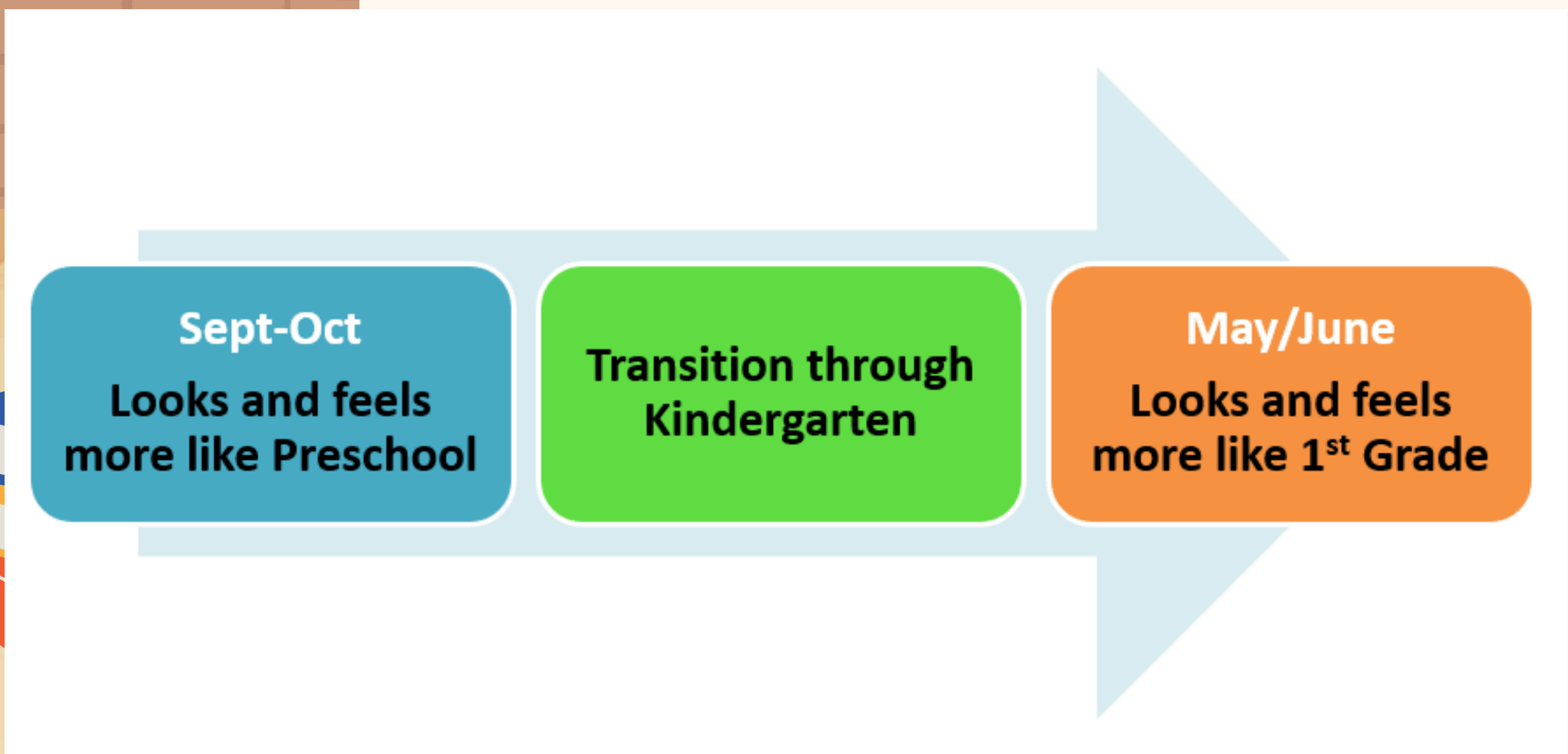
Washington Learning Standards for Kindergarten

Emotional Skills	Math	Communication Skills	World Language	Science	Large Motor Skills	Arts
Health	Approaches to Learning	Social Skills	Physical Education	Social Studies	Literacy	Small Motor Skills

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE AND ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS



Kindergarten is a transition year



WaKIDS

Washington
Kindergarten Inventory
of Developing Skills

The Three Parts of WaKIDS



How is the transition to FDK supported?

- A required component of State-funded Full Day Kindergarten
- A transition process that helps to ensure a successful start to Kindergarten and beyond

What can we expect at the beginning of the year?

Meet the Teacher - August 26th

Family Connection Meeting

- Classroom teacher meets with each family for 30 minutes
- First day of school for grades 1-5 is August 27th
- Family Connection Meetings on August 27, August 28, August 31
- First Day of Kindergarten is on September 1



What can we expect at the beginning of the year?



Whole-Child Assessment: September/October

- Kindergarten teacher observes children during everyday classroom activities
- Helps teachers find out what each child knows and can do at the beginning of the year
- Inventory taken of each child's developing skills in six areas
 - Social-emotional
 - Physical
 - Cognitive
 - Language
 - Literacy
 - Mathematics

What can we do to prepare?

Practice the following:

- Put on/take off coat
- Put on Velcro shoes unless independent at tying laces
- Wash hands with soap and water
- Snap, button, zip and buckle clothes (change their own clothing)
- Zip and unzip backpacks
- Use the public restroom independently (use, flush, wash)
- Open their snack and lunchbox containers
- Pick things up off the floor



Other helpful ideas:

- Set up playdates
- Read to your child
- Give your child jobs around the house



Spring into Kindergarten!

5/20/26 at 2 pm

Mark your calendars for
Wednesday, 5/20 at 2 pm

- Meet this year's K teachers
- Tour the building
- Meet with our school nurse
- Children will
 - experience learning centers
 - complete a brief assessment to help with class placement

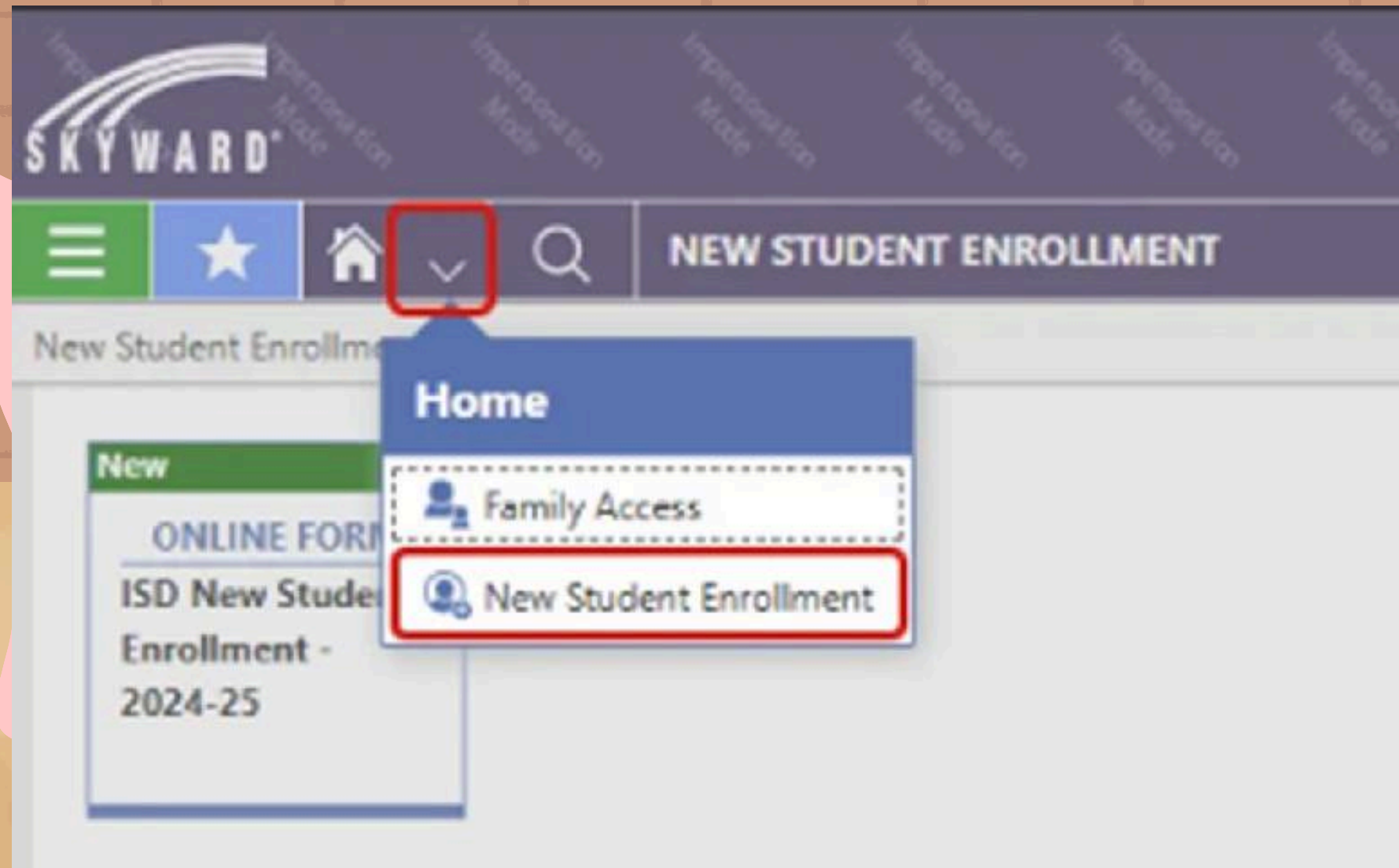


Registration

- Complete online enrollment on the ISD website - www.ISD411.org
- Registration opens on February 2 and is due by February 27.

The enrollment process can be completed in many other languages.

Please do not register before February 2nd as the application will be denied and you'll have to complete a new one.



Information Required to Register

- Proof of Birth Date: A copy of student's birth certificate or passport.
- Proof of Residency – 1 item: Property tax statement, mortgage statement, homeowners' insurance, unexpired lease agreement, renters' insurance policy, documents from public agencies, current utility or cable bill.
- A copy of a utility bill no more than 30 days old.

(more on next page)



Information Required to Register



- Photo ID: The person registering the child must be the legal parent/guardian listed on the registration form.
- Immunizations: A complete record of shots verified by a physician.
- All documents are uploaded during the registration process



Information from
Nurse Shelby



Welcome Families, My name is Wenli Mithal, your Family Liaison.

I am part of the ISD Equity, Belonging and Family Partnership Department. We host information sessions for families with a wide variety of topics throughout the school year.

[Family Partnerships - Issaquah School District 411](#)

If you need interpretation, we arrange to host these sessions in your preferred language.



Feel free to contact me.

mithalw@issaquah.wednet.edu

Office - (425) 837-7106

Cell - (425) 651-5205

Text - (978) 252-3686

Languages spoken: English, 普通話, 閩南話

Schools I support:

Cascade Ridge, Cedar Trails ,Challenger,
Creekside, Discovery, Endeavour, Sunny Hills
Beaver Lake Middle, Pine Lake Middle,
Skyline High

How can I help you?

- Help new families understand school systems, policies and procedures.
- Understand and use school tools such as Family Access, Clever and Canvas as you support your child.
- Navigate District and school website
- Support you to connect and communicate with school and district staff
- Connect you with community resources and program



♥ Welcome to Kindergarten



When: Monday, March 9, 2026 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. [Register here](#) or scan QR code

Where: Zoom – Presentations in English, Español, and 普通話

Who: All incoming Kindergarten families are invited to learn more about the Issaquah School District's Kindergarten program. While everyone is welcome, this session will be especially helpful for families who are new to the U.S. public school system.

What: Information will include:

- Kindergarten Preparedness
- General school day schedule (lunch and recess)
- Classroom general information
- Transportation
- Immunization
- On-Site Before- and After-School Care Program
- Differences between school systems in the U.S. vs. some other countries



Hosted by the **Issaquah School District Family Partnership Team**, we warmly welcome you to our community and look forward to supporting you as you navigate our schools.

If you have any questions or need interpretation in another language at the event (한국어, 日本語, Русский, or Tiếng Việt), please contact Lorna Gilmour at gilmourl@issaquah.wednet.edu.



SCHOOL AGE CARE

SERVING K-5 STUDENTS

The Before and After School Care Program (BASC) provides a positive environment for children to grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually under the guidance of our well-trained team. We offer diverse activities to meet the interests and skill levels of our participants, including STEM, cooperative games, community service learning, art, and cooking.

During out of school time, children will be able to access many areas of our schools, including the gym, playground, and multi-purpose room. In addition to our well stocked club rooms, we provide a designated homework time, morning and afternoon snacks, family nights, enrichment activities, school break care, and summer day camps.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

www.lsd411.org

Programs and Services ->
Before and After School Care ->
Registration Information

QUESTIONS?

Email Michelle Morrison
mmorrison@issaquah.wednet.edu



Comet Club

Before School Hours:
6:30 AM - 9:15 AM

After School Hours:
3:40 PM - 6:30 PM;
(W) 1:30 PM - 6:30 PM



Other Information in your K Packets

- Information from the nurse
- Before and After School Care (BASC) Information
- Challenger PTA Information
- Volunteer Application Process



Thank you for coming!

