



# **BERKSHIRE**

## **Early Childhood Center**

### **Welcome Back to the 2026–2027 School Year!**

Dear BECC Families,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer and enjoying some special time with your families! While there is still some summer left to enjoy, we wanted to share a few important dates and reminders to help everyone prepare for a smooth and exciting start to the new school year.

We are so excited to welcome our youngest Badgers back to Berkshire Early Childhood Center! To our returning families, welcome back, and to our new families, we are so happy to have you joining the BECC community!

Early childhood is such a special time of learning, growing, playing, and discovering. At BECC, we want every child to feel safe, loved, included, supported, and excited to come to school each day. Our teachers and staff are looking forward to getting to know your children, celebrating their individual strengths, and helping them grow throughout the year.

Our work focuses on the whole child and Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Wellness, and Cognitive Development. Through purposeful play, engaging learning experiences, positive relationships, and individualized support, we work together to give our youngest learners a strong start.

Most importantly, we value our partnership with you! Families are a child's first and most important teachers, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you this year.

### **Important Back-to-School Dates**

**New Student Tours** – By Appointment Only | 8:30–10:30 a.m.

August 6, August 13, August 20 & August 27

**September 2 - 4** - No School – Fair

**September 7** - No School – Labor Day

**September 8** | 4:30–5:30 p.m. - BECC Open House

Come anytime during the one-hour window with your child to visit BECC, see the classroom, and help your little Badger get comfortable before the first day!

**\*Families are welcome to drop off school supplies at this time as well. School Supply List [HERE](#).**

**September 9** — First Day of School! 🎉

### **Save the Dates and District Calendar**

**[Berkshire Local School District Calendar](#)**

**\*October 23rd | No School for Preschool Students ONLY — K–12 Will Be in Session.** All preschool personnel are required to attend the Fall Regional Training as required by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) for preschool licensing.

**\*April 30th | No School for Preschool students ONLY - Spring Regional Training Required for All Preschool Personnel per Department of Children and Youth Licensing**

**November 17 & 19, 2026** | 4:00–7:00 p.m. — BECC Parent-Teacher Conferences

**April 13, 2027** | 4:00–7:00 p.m. — BECC New Student Open House/Spring Phone Conferences



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### A Few Important Forms

We know there is always paperwork at the beginning of a new school year! Please help us by reviewing the following and completing any forms that apply to your child:

- **Tuition-Paying Families:** You will receive an email from our Secretary Amy Dawson with information on how to make tuition payments and a tuition contract to sign and return.
- **Health Care Plans & Medication:** If your child has a health care plan and/or needs medication administered at school, please complete the first two pages of the new DCY 01236 – Health Care Plan Documentation and Permission to Administer Medication for Early Care and Education Programs. **This required documentation must be completed and on file before the school year begins so that we can safely and appropriately meet your child's needs.**
- **Volunteer Form:** If you would like to volunteer at the BECC you are required to complete the Volunteer Form. This form is required annually in order to be eligible for assisting with school activities. We thank you for offering your time to enhance the education of our students. The form is open until October 16th, 2026.
- **Student Immunization Records:** A copy of your child's immunization records is due within 30 days of school starting, and every 13 months while attending the preschool. This information can be emailed to our Secretary Amy Dawson; [amy.dawson@berkshireschools.org](mailto:amy.dawson@berkshireschools.org)

Thank you for helping us get everything in place before our students arrive!

### Family Engagement

One of our goals this year is to continue strengthening the connection between home, school, and our BECC community. We are working on some fun and meaningful family engagement opportunities for the upcoming year and will be sharing more information soon!

We hope these opportunities will give our families a chance to connect with one another, get to know our staff, and learn together as we support our children's growth and development.

### BECC Family Handbook

Please take some time to review our [BECC Family Handbook](#) before the school year begins. It contains important information about our programs, procedures, attendance, arrival and dismissal, health and safety, communication, and other expectations.

### Attendance

The Preschool School Day runs from 8:00 a.m. - 3:10 p.m. If your child will be absent from school or arriving late/leaving early, please call, email, or send a message via Class Dojo Messenger APP to the preschool secretary Amy Dawson prior to the start of the school day (440) 834-3380 X1163; [amy.dawson@berkshireschools.org](mailto:amy.dawson@berkshireschools.org). Your child's attendance will be recorded on a daily basis. It is important that your child is not tardy which can make your child's transition harder on them, and be disruptive to class.

\*If your child has van transportation please notify the Berkshire Transportation Department (440-834-3380 X2111).

### Meals and Snack

Families should send a **daily lunch, morning snack, and afternoon snack** for their child. Lunch should include **all 5 food groups**, and each snack should include **2 food groups**. Please label food containers with your child's name, follow any classroom allergy restrictions, and do not send food to be shared. Children will be offered food at least every four hours. Water is available throughout the day, and families should send a **spill-proof water bottle**. More information is available in the [BECC Family Handbook](#).



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### **Birthdays & Celebrations** 🎉

We love celebrating our little Badgers! To help keep celebrations safe and inclusive for all children, we encourage families to choose non-food options for birthdays and holidays. **Young children may have known and unknown food allergies, dietary restrictions, or may not have previously been exposed to certain foods or ingredients.** Fun alternatives include books, stickers, pencils, bubbles, crafts, games, or other small non-food items. For choking-hazard prevention, **any items sent for children must be larger than a paper towel roll.** Please coordinate all classroom celebrations and items with your child's teacher in advance.

### **Before and After School Care**

BECC offers **Before and After School Care** for families who need care outside of the regular school day. Preschool care is available **6:30–8:00 a.m.** and **3:10–5:30 p.m.** We also offer care for **school-age children K - 4th grade**, beginning as early as **6:30 a.m.** and continuing after school until **5:30 p.m.**, providing a convenient option for families with older children attending Berkshire. Please refer to the **website** [HERE](#) for registration, fees, and program procedures.

### **Parent/Guardian Communication**

Ongoing communication and strong family partnerships are important to us at BECC. Families can expect regular communication throughout the school year, including:

- **Weekly Director Updates:** A weekly update will be sent every Friday via email and Class Dojo from the Director with important reminders, upcoming dates, announcements, and BECC information.
- **Monthly Program Newsletters:** At the beginning of each month, families will receive a newsletter via email and Class Dojo highlighting curriculum and learning goals, vocabulary, classroom activities, upcoming themes, and ways families can support learning at home.
- **Teacher Communication:** Classroom teachers will communicate with families regarding classroom-specific information and individual student needs, celebrations, and progress via Class Dojo and email.

Our goal is to keep families **informed, connected, and actively engaged** in their child's preschool experience.

We know starting preschool—or even returning after a long summer—can bring a mix of excitement and a few butterflies for children and families alike. Our team is here to help make the transition as welcoming and positive as possible.

We truly appreciate the trust you place in us to care for, teach, and support your children. We cannot wait to see their smiling faces, hear their stories, and fill BECC with learning and laughter again!

Here's to a wonderful 2026–2027 school year together. Welcome back, little Badgers! 🧡

Warmly,

Dr. Vanessa Povozaev

440-834-3380 X2115; [vanessa.povozaev@berkshireschools.org](mailto:vanessa.povozaev@berkshireschools.org)

Director of Early Childhood and Workforce

Mrs. Amy Dawson

440-834-3380 X1163; [amy.dawson@berkshireschools.org](mailto:amy.dawson@berkshireschools.org)

BECC Secretary

\*You can visit our school website at <https://www.berkshireschools.org/>  
Under the “**Schools**” section, you will find [Berkshire Early Childhood Center](#).  
All updated information is added to this section.