

Evergreen Middle School FAQ

2026-2027

Transportation, Activities, Schedules, Supplies and Student Support

Purpose & Context

This FAQ is designed to be responsive to questions from parents/guardians and families from our Evergreen Middle School community. Questions were collected through survey from the Evergreen PTSA and responses come from Principal Devin Engledew. The goal is to provide families with responsive, clear and practical answers to common questions. All responses include both a summary of bullet pointed key information and a more detailed answer. Please also note that some information and details is still being finalized by district departments.

1. Transportation and After-School Logistics

When will bus route numbers, pickup/drop-off times and bus stops be available?

Key points

- Bus route details are finalized by the LWSD Transportation Department.
- Bus routes and stop information for the 2026-27 school year will be available during the week prior to the start of school.
- Link: <https://www.lwsd.org/services/transportation>

Long Version

Bus route numbers, pickup and drop-off times, and stop locations are finalized by the LWSD Transportation Department before the start of school. Families should look for district communication and check the transportation section of the district website for the most current information.

Evergreen will share reminders and links when information becomes available, but the official source for routes, stops and timing is district transportation. If families have questions about eligibility, route assignment or a specific stop, they should contact district transportation directly.

How does transportation work for Quest students?

Key points

- Quest transportation may depend on program assignment, home address and district eligibility.
- Quest or Choice School transportation details should be listed in Skyward / Skyward Family Access (<https://www.q.wa-k12.net/lkwashSTS>).
- Link: <https://www.lwsd.org/services/transportation>

Long version

Transportation for Quest students may vary based on the student's assigned program, home address and district transportation eligibility. Please check your student's Skyward account and/or your Skyward Family Access for details about Quest transportation. Because these details are determined centrally, families should review district transportation information or contact the LWSD Transportation Department directly with questions.

Do 6th graders have a bus home after activities?

Key points

- Unfortunately, no, Evergreen is not able to provide an activity bus that provides transportation home for students participating in after-school activities.
- Families provide students transportation when they participate in after-school activities.

What after-school options exist for working families if transportation is not available?

- Some families make use of carpooling in order to support their child's participation in an after-school activity.

2. Clubs, Enrichment and Athletics

When will club, sport and enrichment enrollment details and schedules be published?

Key points

- Activities, Athletic and Club opportunities are posted here: <https://ems.lwsd.org/activities>. Also stay connected to information provided by the EMS PTSA at: <https://www.evergreenptsa.org/enrichmentnews#>
- The list of opportunities will be updated by the end of September 2026
- Please stay connected to school newsletters, as well as the EMS website and EMS PTSA website for the most current information.

Long version

Club, sport and enrichment information will be shared with families as programs are finalized. Information about Activities, Athletic and Club opportunities are posted here: <https://ems.lwsd.org/activities>, and here: [Evergreen Middle School PTSA - Enrichment News](#). Additionally, parents/guardians and families should read weekly EMS News Updates published on Fridays by Principal Devin Engledew and stay connected to class newsletters published by teachers/staff as well as the Evergreen website to stay current with news and updates.

How do participation or team-selection processes work for specific programs?

Key points

- Participation processes vary by activity.
- Many programs and opportunities are open enrollment, while some (like athletics for example) may involve tryouts, auditions, applications or limited space.

Long version

Participation and team-selection processes may vary by activity. Some programs may be open enrollment, while others may have tryouts, limited space, auditions, applications or selection criteria based on the nature of the activity.

When program details are published, Evergreen will include information about how students participate, what steps are required and whom to contact with questions. The intent is for students and families to understand expectations in order to make an informed decision about participation/trying out/etc. for any activity.

3. Schedules, Academics and Student Support

When will class schedules and teacher information be shared?

Key points

- Schedules will be available to view in [Skyward Family Access](#) on Friday August 28th.
- Our priority for schedule changes during the week of Aug. 31 – Sept. 4 will be for students with scheduling conflicts (does *not* include elective placement).
- If your student or family have questions or concerns about a student schedule, please have your student stop by the Counseling Office (in the main office) during the school day.

Long version

We know there can be a lot of anxiety about starting a new school year, particularly for incoming 6th graders new to middle school. Every year scheduling is an enormous task. Our priority on the first day of school will be to focus on core classes and making sure students have a complete schedule. Please be aware that in some cases schedules might be adjusted prior to the first day of school. **Please check Skyward the evening before the first day of school.**

If your student wants to bring a scheduling issue to our attention, they need to do so between August 31st and September 4th (first week of school).

If your student is scheduled for an elective they want to change, we will review their registration form from last spring. If your student indicated a class on that form – even if it is an alternate – your student will be ***required*** to keep that elective.

If your student was placed in an elective they did not request, they will be given a “schedule change request form” to bring home for your signature. This form will be due to us Thursday, September 4. We will do our best to place them in electives they chose, but we cannot make a guarantee. This process can take several days. Our goal is to complete schedule changes by Friday, ***September 4***.

Lastly, we do not accept requests for specific teachers.

How are class placements determined?

Key points

- Placement is based on multiple factors, not a single request or preference.
- Factors may include course needs, program placement, staffing, class size and balanced learning environments.
- Families may share important information that helps staff support a student.

Long version

Class placement is based on multiple factors, including student course needs, program placement, staffing, class size and efforts to create balanced learning environments. The school works carefully to support individual students while also building schedules that serve the full student body.

While Evergreen may not be able to accommodate every individual request, families are encouraged to share important information that may help staff support a student’s transition and learning needs.

Is there flexibility in student schedules?

Key points

- Schedule flexibility depends on availability, staffing, class size and student need.
- Some changes may be possible, while others may not be feasible.

Long version

Schedule flexibility depends on course availability, staffing, class size, student needs and the overall master schedule. Some changes may be possible, while others may not be feasible once schedules are built.

If a family has a concern about a student's schedule, the student and/or parent/guardian should contact the student's school counselor for support.

How does Evergreen support transitions for students entering middle school?

Key points

- Evergreen staff and students are committed to supporting all students transition to middle school with care, support, connection and confidence.
- A variety of opportunities at the beginning of the year and throughout the year support students in the transition.
- Staff focus on relationship-building and connection with adults and peers.
- Students may feel both excited and nervous about starting middle school – this is normal.

Long version

Evergreen supports student transitions by helping students learn routines, understand expectations, build relationships and develop connection and trust with adults and peers at school. Here are some of the ways that we support all students in their transition to middle school:

- 6th grade Orientation is August 27th: Three hours of dedicated time led by WEB Leaders and supporting staff welcoming incoming 6th grade students, helping them feel connected and comfortable for their first day, week and month of middle school.
- WEB Leaders: Evergreen operates a program called WEB ("Where Everyone Belongs") that structures opportunities for 8th grade students to serve as leaders to incoming 6th grade students. WEB Leaders welcome 6th grade students at 6th grade Orientation and stay connected to them throughout the year to develop connection and support.
- Foundations class: All 6th grade students at Evergreen take a class called Foundations either in their 1st or 2nd semester of 6th grade. In Foundations class students engage in a variety of opportunities to build connection with their peers, develop organizational and executive functioning skills and learn productive routines for school success.
- Evergreen staff excel in prioritizing the building of positive relationships with students to begin the school year. Staff work to create a welcoming environment where students can ask questions, learn how the school works and develop confidence as middle school learners.

The transition to middle school is a significant step, and it is normal for students to feel both excited and nervous.

How are movement breaks and different learning needs supported?

Key points

- Students learn in different ways and may need different supports.

- Supports may include classroom strategies, accommodations, check-ins, routines or collaboration with support staff.
- Students, parents/guardians with specific concerns should connect directly with the classroom teacher and/or case manager.

Long version

Evergreen staff recognize that students learn in different ways and may need different types of support during the school day. Supports may include classroom strategies, movement opportunities, adult check-ins, structured routines, accommodations or collaboration with families and support staff.

Families who have specific questions concerns about their student's learning needs should connect directly with the classroom teacher and/or case manager to partner with school staff in order to determine appropriate supports.

How does the school support student belonging?

Key points

- Belonging is central to student success.
- Students are supported through relationships, inclusive practices, activities and connections with adults and peers.
- Our goal is always for students to feel known, included, respected and valued throughout our school.

Long version

Belonging is an important part of student success. Evergreen works to create a school environment where students feel known, included, respected and connected to the school community.

This happens through classroom relationships, community-building routines, student activities, inclusive practices and staff efforts to help students build positive peer and adult connections.

How does Evergreen support student safety?

Key points

- Student safety is a shared priority.
- Safety is supported through expectations, supervision, procedures, communication and support systems.
- Families should report concerns promptly to school staff so they can be reviewed. Additionally, an anonymous tip line is available at: <https://lwsd-wa.safeschoolsalert.com/>

Long version

Student safety is a shared priority. Evergreen supports safety through clear expectations, adult supervision, responsive communication, emergency procedures, student support systems and collaboration with families.

At Evergreen we teach and practice emergency preparedness on a regular and ongoing basis.

If any student or family has a safety concern, they should report it to school staff promptly so it can be reviewed and addressed. There is also an anonymous tip line available 24/7 at <https://lwsd-wa.safeschoolsalert.com/>.

How does the school support digital citizenship?

Key points

- Digital citizenship includes responsible, respectful and safe technology use.
- Students learn expectations for devices, online behavior, privacy and communication.
- Parents/guardians and families can reinforce these skills through regular conversations at home.

- For more information, please visit: <https://www.lwsd.org/services/technology> and/or a recommended resource to explore is: <https://www.common sense media.org/>

Long version

Evergreen supports digital citizenship by helping students understand responsible, respectful and safe use of technology. This includes expectations for school devices, online behavior, privacy, communication and appropriate use of digital tools.

Families can support digital citizenship by having regular conversations with students about technology use, online choices and how digital behavior affects others.

For much more information please visit: <https://www.lwsd.org/services/technology> and/or a recommended resource to explore is: <https://www.common sense media.org/>

How does Evergreen support executive functioning skills?

Key points

- Middle school is a key time to build organization, planning and self-advocacy.
- Teachers support these skills through routines, reminders and classroom structures.
- Families can help by reinforcing routines for assignments, materials and asking for help.

Long version

Middle school is an important time for students to develop executive functioning skills such as organization, planning, time management, task initiation and self-advocacy. Teachers and staff support these skills through routines, reminders, classroom structures and opportunities for students to practice independence.

Families can partner with the school by helping students develop consistent routines for checking assignments, organizing materials and asking for help when needed. The student's growth through middle school is a great time for them to gradually be taking on more of the responsibility for self-advocating, organizing and completing tasks as they are able.

How does Evergreen include student voice?

Key points

- Student voice helps students feel heard and invested.
- Voice may be gathered through discussions, surveys, leadership opportunities, clubs and informal feedback.
- Students are encouraged to share ideas with trusted adults.

Long version

Evergreen values student voice and wants students to feel that their experiences, ideas and perspectives matter. Student voice may be included through classroom discussions, surveys, leadership opportunities, clubs, activities and informal feedback with trusted adults.

4. Supplies, Backpacks and Bag Rules

Where and when can families obtain the 2026-2027 school supply list?

Key points

- Here it is: <https://ems.lwsd.org/students-and-families/back-to-school>

What are the expectations for backpacks?

Key points

- Students may use backpacks unless school guidance says otherwise.
- Families should review expectations for storage and what students carry during the school day.
- Any updates to bag expectations should be communicated clearly.

Long version

We want to remind you of the importance of locker use and, specifically, keeping backpacks in lockers throughout the school day. This policy helps us manage our growing student enrollment and alleviate space constraints in our hallways and classrooms. We are continuing our “no backpack” policy in classrooms this year. This includes shoulder bags and string bags. We need your support to encourage students to carry only what they need for class, not everything they own.

Why This Policy Matters:

1. **Ensure Safety:** Backpacks in classrooms can be a tripping hazard, posing a significant safety concern. By keeping backpacks in lockers, we can ensure a safer environment for everyone.
2. **Improve Movement:** Our hallways are tight, and eliminating backpacks has helped students move more freely between classes.
3. **Enhance Organization:** Without the clutter of backpacks, students can better prioritize and organize their materials for their first three periods and their last three periods. This will help prevent backpacks from becoming a repository for papers, old lunches, and snacks.
4. **Reduce Weight:** Some student backpacks are excessively heavy. By using lockers, we can help reduce the physical burden on our students.

Supporting the Transition:

- **Locker Assignments:** Lockers will be assigned by 6th period teachers. Students can drop off their belongings in the morning and retrieve what they need for periods 1-3. They can then exchange materials during the transition to and from lunch for periods 4-6.
- **Locker Distribution:** Lockers will be distributed during Back 2 Business Days and the first days of school to help students develop the habit of using their lockers from the start.
- **Teacher Support:** Teachers will review locker expectations with students during the first days of school and communicate the necessary items and materials that are needed for each class.
- **Organizational Tools:** Our student supply list includes optional organizational binders that can help students manage their materials as they move throughout the school. These binders were tested last year and proved effective in keeping all class materials organized.

Are particular binders required?

Key points

- Yes, this type of binder is recommended: [Example](#)

Is the Student Handbook changing?

Key points

- Updates are made to the student handbook from year-to-year (based on updated guidance, district policy, etc.)
- While there are expected to be some changes and updates to the EMS student handbook this year, there are not expected to be any large scale changes.
- Students and parents/guardians/families can review the EMS Student Handbook here:
<https://ems.lwsd.org/students-and-families/student-handbook>