

Welcome Families!



- Please enter your question in the chat – we will address them as possible during the presentation.
- There will be a Question and Answer session at the end of the presentation.
- Please turn off audio and video.
- The presentation will be recorded.
- Please complete the feedback form at the end of the session if you would like to receive an email with the link to the recording and a copy of this PowerPoint presentation.
- [Feedback form - Tips and Resources for Elementary Families for 2026-2027 school year – Fill out form](#)

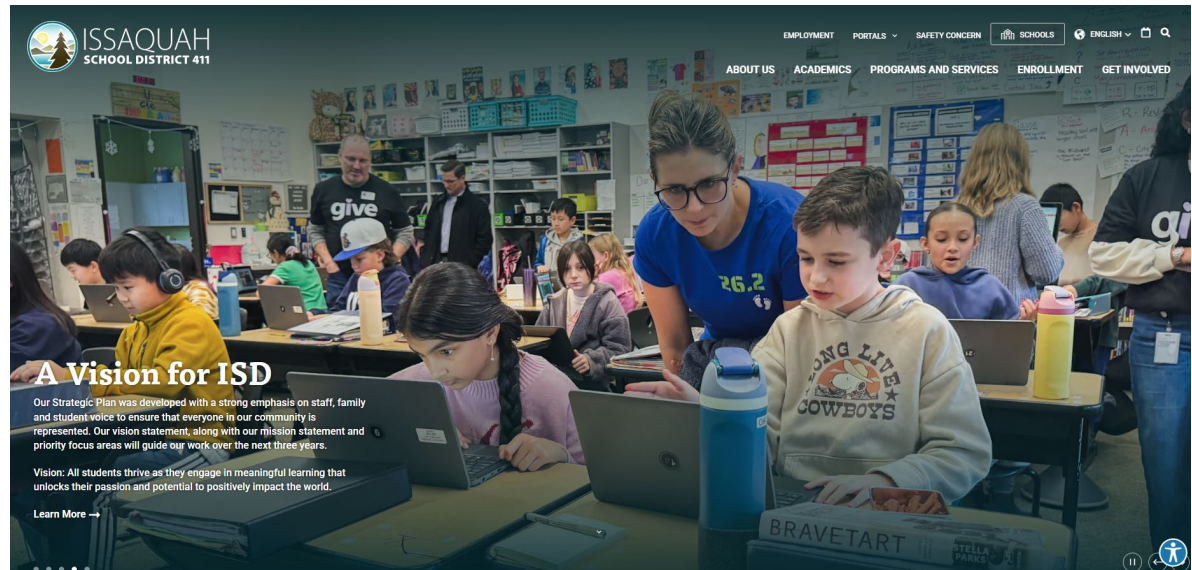
Tips and Resources for Elementary School Families



August 24, 2026
Family Partnership Team
Issaquah School District

Purpose of today's presentation

- Learn about elementary schools in the Issaquah School District
- Understand daily school procedures and schedules
- Find resources and people who can help you
- Ask questions and get support





Helpful Websites and Contacts

School and District Websites

- Issaquah School District - [Home - Issaquah School District 411](#)
- Specific school website

Family Resources and Support

- [Family Partnership](#) - Events and contacts
- Videos, recordings of information events - [Resources](#)
- [Community Resource Directory](#)
- [Financial Support for Families](#)

Getting Help

- [Who to Contact](#)
- [Issues, Questions or Concerns](#)



The screenshot shows the Issaquah School District 411 website. The header includes the district logo and navigation links: ABOUT US, ACADEMICS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, ENROLLMENT, and GET INVOLVED. The main content area is titled 'Cultural and Family Partnerships' and features a sub-header 'The Issaquah School District supports students' success by supporting families.' Below this, there is a section for 'Accessing Information in Other Languages' and a grid of six images with captions: 'Our Work', 'Family Liaisons', 'Parent Events and Workshops', 'Resources', 'Equity Mission and Work', and 'Religion and Culture'.

Contacts

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ISD Family Partnership Liaisons

➤ **What Family Liaisons Do:**

- Help families understand how schools work
- Connect families with school staff and teachers
- Support families from elementary school through high school
- Help families and schools understand each other's cultures

➤ **Each elementary school has a Family Liaison.**

➤ **How to Contact a Family Liaison:**

- Contact your school's Family Liaison with questions. [Family Liaisons - Issaquah School District 411](#)
- You can also ask them to contact you on the feedback form.

General School Calendar

- [District and school calendars](#) are available online – [\(Printable calendar\)](#)
- Check the "**Upcoming Events**" section on your school's website for important dates such as Meet the Teacher night, Curriculum night, and other events.
- **Note all no-school dates** (district-specific)
- **Last day of school:** Monday, June 14 (this date may change if school closes for weather).
- The school year has two grading periods.
 - First semester ends in late January (you will receive an email when report cards are available).
 - Second semester ends on the last day of school (report cards are available at the end of the day).

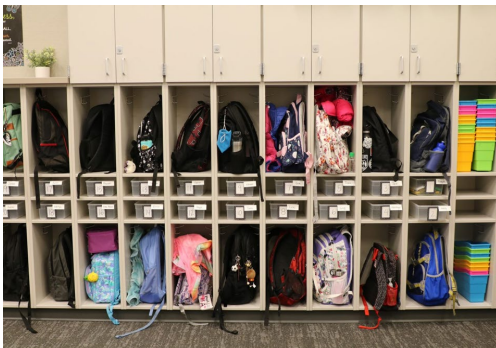
Save the Date: August 26th

Meet The Teacher – Whole School Event

- The event will take place on Wednesday, August 26 at all elementary schools.
- Teacher assignments will be available in Family Access by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, August 25.
- Kindergarten through 5th grade students and their families are invited.
- Details about event times will be shared on your school's website or by email.
- A great opportunity for your child and you to:
 - See the classroom
 - Meet the teacher
 - Students meet classmates
 - Parents meet other parents
 - Drop off school supplies in the classroom

School Supplies

- The supply list is available on your school website (Academics – Supply List).
- Example: Grand Ridge
- Some supplies are dropped off at Meet the Teacher. Other supplies are stored in the student's space at school (check with your teacher).
- Example: [Grand Ridge](#)



Save the Date:

Family Connections - Kindergarten Families Only

- Family Connections Meeting:
Held between August 27, 28, and 31 for Kindergarten students and their families only.
- First Day of School for Kindergarten: September 1
- Kindergarten families will also participate in the November Parent-Teacher Conferences (another opportunity to meet with the classroom teacher one-on-one).

Save the Date:

Curriculum Night

What to expect:

- This event is important to learn about teacher expectations, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and classroom routines.
- Get helpful tips and information from your child's teacher about the school year.
- This event is for general questions about the school system only—schedule a separate meeting with the teacher for questions about your specific child.
- Families have opportunities to sign up to volunteer or/and to bring snacks for the class.
- **Look for the school bulletin with more information or check your school calendar for the specific date and time.**

Save the Date

Parent-Teacher Conferences (K–5)

- Held on Wednesday, November 4 and Thursday, November 5.
- Students do not attend school on these days.
- Conferences for grades K-3 are for parents only.
- 4th and 5th grade students are invited to attend their conferences because they are Student-Led Conferences (check with your teacher).
- This is the only scheduled conference for all families to meet one-on-one with teachers.
- Conference sign-up opens in October—check the school bulletin for information.

Helpful Information on Each School Website

Our School

- The website can be translated into multiple languages.
- Upcoming Events are listed on the homepage—check for important dates.
- School Announcements are posted online if you miss the email.
- Weekly School Bulletins are sent every Thursday by 6:00 PM—check your email and read them each week.
- Bell Schedules show school start time, end time, and early release times.
- Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures explain where to park and how to keep students safe in the parking area.
- District Handbook has important policies and procedures.
[\(Example: Sunset\)](#)
- Emergency Information provides updates during weather or safety events.

Classroom Teachers

Classroom Interactions



Small group instruction



Whole class instruction

Classroom Interactions



One-on-one



Student choice

Specialist Teachers

- All students have one classroom teacher who is their primary teacher, but they will work with other teachers throughout the week.
- These are certified teachers who provide instruction in specific subject areas:
 - Music
 - Physical Education (PE)
 - Library

- Your child will rotate through these classes during the week.

Reminder: Please make sure your child wears athletic shoes or sneakers on PE days for safety and participation.

- Other specialist teachers may include:
 - Multilingual teachers (help students learning English)
 - Special Education teachers (help students with disabilities)
 - Other teachers who support specific learning needs

Elementary Weekly Schedule (K–5)

- Teachers will share more details during Curriculum Night.
- A visual schedule is posted in classrooms to help students understand their daily routine.
- Each day, students typically have:
 - Two recesses (one recess on Wednesdays)
 - One lunch period
 - One specialist class (for example: PE, music, or art)
- Wednesdays are early release days:
 - Students are dismissed early
 - Students have one recess on Wednesdays
- Kindergarten students also have daily time for purposeful play.

Specialist Days:

Monday: Music 3:05 – 3:35

Tuesday: PE 3:05-3:35

Wednesday: Music 10:05-10:35

Thursday: Library 3:05-3:35

Friday: PE 3:05-3:35

Paraprofessionals

- These are trained school staff members who support the school in many ways
- They help ensure a safe and supportive environment throughout the school day
- Supervise students during lunch and recess
 - Sometimes called the "lunch teacher" or "recess teacher" by students
- May help with individual or small group instruction as directed by the classroom teacher
- All Kindergarten classes have a paraeducator assigned to assist the classroom teacher for part of the day.

Recess Procedures

- Teachers walk their class to the playground and review playground rules and procedures on the first day of school.
- Paraprofessionals supervise students during recess to help ensure safety and positive play.
- When the bell rings, students line up at their assigned location.
- The teacher meets the class and walks them back to the classroom.
- Teachers will practice these routines with students to help them feel comfortable and confident.



Lunch Information Resources

- **Lunch Costs:**
 - Lunch: \$4.50 (meal and milk)
 - Milk only: \$0.75
- If you need help covering lunch costs, please complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application.
- **Menus and Meal Planning:**
 - Review or print the lunch menu at home to help your child make meal choices more easily at school.
- Menus include ingredient lists and allergen information and are available in multiple languages.
- Digital menus can be found online with detailed nutrition information.
- **Payment Options:**
 - Add money to your child's lunch account at MySchoolApps.com using a credit or debit card.
 - You can also send a check or cash with your child to give to the front office, teacher or lunch cashier.



How to prepare for lunch and snack time at school

- Lunch bags should be sturdy (a reusable lunch bag is best).
 - If you need help getting a lunch bag, please contact the school for assistance.
- Keep snacks and lunch packed separately—lunch bags go to the lunchroom on a cart, while snacks stay in the classroom.
- Include containers that your child can easily open on their own.
- Pack utensils and napkins.
- Send a refillable water bottle for use in the classroom. You may also include a small drink for lunch.
- Label your child's lunch bag and water bottle with their name and teacher's name.
- Schools provide separate seating areas for students with food allergies, if needed.



Lunch Time Procedures

- Students will place their lunch bags in a cart at the start of the day.
- The cart is taken to the lunchroom by a student helper or the teacher.
- An assigned student or teacher rolls the cart back to class.
- Teachers or specialist teachers will walk students to the lunchroom.
- Students are not allowed to walk unsupervised in hallways, except when going to the bathroom during class.
- Lunch times vary by grade level.
- In the lunchroom, students sit with their class at assigned tables.



Bathrooms

- Teachers will teach students when and how to ask to use the bathroom during class, recess, and lunch.
- Each classroom teacher will show students where the bathrooms are located.
- If accidents happen, schools have a change of clothes available.
- Teachers can provide more details during Curriculum Night or at the Meet the Teacher event.



Transportation

- Bus routes are available on the website
 - Find Your Bus Route:
- **Wednesday bus pick-up times are different due to early release**—check carefully.
- Bus service may not be available if you live within about one mile of the school and there is a safe walking route.
- Tips for Kindergarten students, please:
 - Attach a tag to your child's backpack with:
 - Student's name
 - Teacher's name
 - Bus number (if known)

Transportation

Route number (make sure students are not looking at number printed on the bus. Route number is different – in first window on bus by front door.

Pick up address

Drop off time and location

Note – Wednesday pickup time is different

Transportation Information

Transportation Information

Request Information:		Type: IN Status: Ride From: 190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE				9:05 AM
		Days: All	To: SUNSET ELEM			
From	Time	Route	Days	To	Time	
190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE	8:56 AM	47 SU	MTWHF	SUNSET ES	9:05 AM	
Request Information:		Type: OUT Status: Ride From: SUNSET ELEM				3:47 PM
		Days: All	To: 190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE			
From	Time	Route	Days	To	Time	
SUNSET ES	3:47 PM	47 PSU	MTWHF	190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE	3:59 PM	
SUNSET ES	1:37 PM	47 PSU	W	190th Ave SE@192nd Ave SE@191st Pl SE	1:49 PM	

Show Basic Information

School Dismissal

- This information is usually collected at Meet the Teacher or through the first-day packet.
- Teachers will ask how each student will be going home (dismissal plan)—options include:
 - Afterschool BASC care
 - Bus
 - Parent pick-up (walkers or by car)
- Teachers escort students to the bus or to parents at pick-up.
- Afterschool care staff either pick up students from the classroom, or the teacher will walk them out.
- Students will have plenty of time to pack up and start lining up before the end of the day.
- Dismissal procedures may vary by school, but students are always supervised and only released to:
 - Approved parents or guardians
 - Bus drivers
 - Afterschool care staff



Kindergarten Dismissal

- Kindergarten (and often 1st grade early in the year) students dismiss before the rest of the school to allow extra time for walking and safe pick-up.
- On the bus, Kindergarten students will be seated in the front or with a sibling for safety.
- Please be sure you have completed the [Transportation Release Form for Kindergarten](#) students.
- Please be sure you have shared a photo of your Kindergarten child with Transportation before school starts. (Photo can be emailed to Transportation)

Important Transportation & Dismissal Reminders for Parents

- Always **notify both the teacher and attendance office by email as early as possible** if your child's dismissal plan changes.
- Students may need a **bus pass** if riding a different bus or getting off at a stop not listed on district registration paperwork.
- For **Kindergarten students**, a parent or designated adult (listed on district paperwork) **must be at the bus stop to pick up the child**.
- If no one is present, the child will be **returned to the school for safety**.
- Stay updated with the **Emergency Transportation Bulletin** for changes during snow days, power outages, or other emergencies.
- **Wednesday bus schedules are different** due to early release—please check accordingly.
- For safety:
 - Stay **at least 10 feet away from the bus door** when picking up your child.
 - Your child will come to you—**do not cross behind the bus**.
 - **Always cross in front of the bus when the driver has the STOP sign out**.
- For parents driving to school, watch for **school-specific pick-up policy information** sent by the school.

Homework

- Most students have little to no homework—check with your teacher for details.
- Homework is for practice only and is not graded.
- Teachers may send packets or individual assignments in folders—please help your child by returning them in the folder when complete.
- Workbooks will be sent home at times.
- Daily reading is encouraged.
- Some math practice may be assigned.
- Teachers will review homework expectations at Curriculum Night.

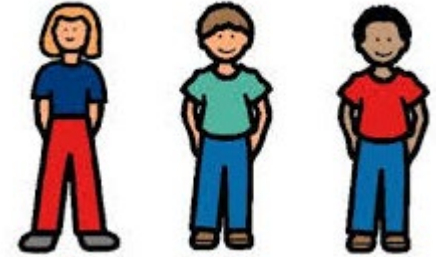
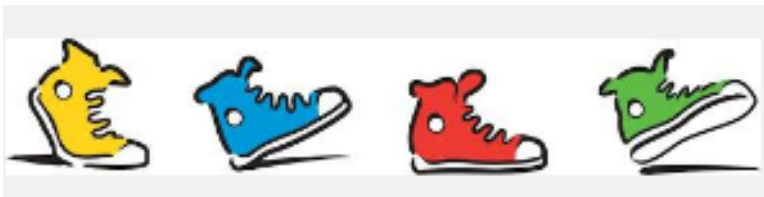
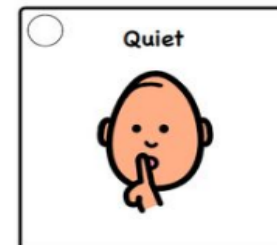
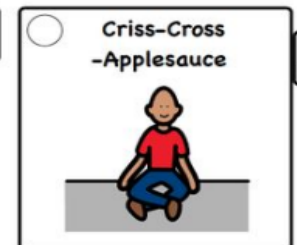
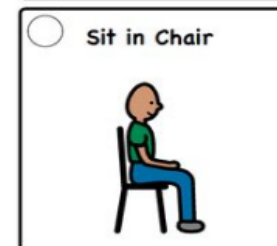
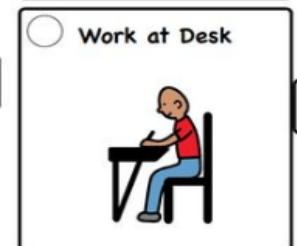
Assessments - Overview

- Designed to help identify what your child knows and guide teachers on how to best support their learning.
- Report card grades are based on students meeting standards.
- District assessments: [i-Ready](#) is used for grades K-8.
- Teachers use assessment results to group students for targeted support in small groups.
- Students in grades 3–5 will review and prepare for tests with their teacher at school.
- [Smarter Balanced Assessment \(SBA\)](#): State test given to grades 3-8 in spring.
- No studying or "cramming" is expected for tests or assessments.

School Behaviors

Soft Skills – taught at school, please reinforce at home

- ❖ Space bubble
- ❖ Voice level
- ❖ Hands and feet to self
- ❖ Walking feet



Elementary School Curriculum Resources

- [Elementary School Learning - Issaquah School District 411 \(isd411.org\)](http://isd411.org)
- Few or no textbooks are sent home; the best way to learn about learning goals is through teacher communication.
- Teachers will share detailed curriculum information during **Curriculum Night** in September—an important event for families to attend.
- Additional resources on early literacy, dyslexia, gifted programs, and more are available on the school website.

Other Academic Programs

- [Dual Language Program \(Spanish and English\)](#)
- [Science and Technology Magnet Program](#)
- [Highly Capable \(MERLIN, SAGE, PEP\)](#)
 - Highly capable – Application deadline September 12 for new students in grades 1, 3 through 12.
 - (All students in Kindergarten and 2nd grade will be screened this year.)
- Title 1 – to help students meet literacy needs (and in some schools also math needs).
- [MLL/ELL – an additional teacher will support them during class time.](#)

School Counselors

- Every elementary school has a full-time counselor.
- Counselors are an important resource for parents and students.
- It is not a stigma for a student to talk to a school counselor—counselors support all students.
- Parents should communicate with the school counselor if their student needs help:
 - With academic achievement
 - With social, emotional, and personal development

Kids learn best when...

....an environment is:

- ✓ Predictable
- ✓ Consistent
- ✓ Stable
- ✓ Positive



Health

- Each school has a Health Room Paraprofessional or School Nurse.
- Students are expected to come to school. However, if your student is at risk of getting others sick, they should recover at home.
- Students should stay home if:
 - They have a fever of 100 degrees F or higher for 24 hours (without medication)
 - They are vomiting or have diarrhea within 24 hours
 - They have symptoms such as a cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, diarrhea, or vomiting along with a fever
- Specific immunizations are required to attend school.

Parents – Are Your Kids Ready for School?

Required Immunizations for School in Washington State



Instructions: To see which vaccines are required for school, find your child's grade in the first column. Look at the matching row across the page to find the number of vaccines required for your child to enter school.

	DTaP/Tdap (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	Hepatitis B	Hib (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B)	MMR (Measles, mumps, rubella)	PCV (Pneumococcal Conjugate)	Polio	Varicella (Chickenpox)
Preschool Age 19 months to less than 4 years on September 1 st	4 doses DTaP	3 doses	3 or 4 doses* (depending on vaccine)	1 dose	4 doses*	3 doses	1 dose**
Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten 4 years of age or older on September 1 st	5 doses DTaP*	3 doses	3 or 4 doses* (depending on vaccine) Not required at 5 years of age or older	2 doses	4 doses* Not required at 5 years of age or older	4 doses*	2 doses**
Kindergarten through 6th grades	5 doses DTaP*	3 doses	Not Required	2 doses	Not Required	4 doses*	2 doses**
7th through 12th grades	5 doses DTaP* Plus Tdap at age 10 or older	3 doses	Not Required	2 doses	Not Required	4 doses*	2 doses**

*Vaccine doses may be acceptable with fewer than listed depending on when they were given.

**Healthcare provider verification of history of chickenpox disease is also acceptable.

Students must get vaccine doses at the correct timeframes to meet school requirements. Talk to your healthcare provider or school staff if you have questions.

Find information on other important vaccines not required for school at: <https://www.immunize.org/official-guidance/cdc/rec-schedules/>

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127.

Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh_information@doh.wa.gov DOH 348-295 March 2026

Support for Students with Disabilities or Medical Needs

- Schools provide programs to support students with disabilities or health conditions.
- 504 Plan: This plan offers accommodations for students with a physical or mental impairment that significantly limits one or more major life activities. For students with life-threatening health conditions only, an Individual Health Plan or Nursing Care Plan may serve as their 504 Plan.
- IEP (Individualized Education Plan): This plan provides specialized instruction and services for students with identified learning needs. If your child already has an IEP, it will transfer from their previous school, including preschool.
- If you have concerns: Talk with your child's pediatrician or the school counselor for guidance.

Classroom and School Celebrations

- Schools may have fun events like Seahawks Day, pajama day, or crazy hair day.
- Birthdays are usually acknowledged by the teacher. Students do not typically hand out treats—check with the teacher or the school handbook.
- If you are unsure about a celebration at school, ask your child's teacher.
- Celebration details are shared in school bulletins and teacher newsletters.
- Celebrations help build community and are part of U.S. culture.
- Teachers welcome learning about your family's cultural holidays and traditions—feel free to share!



Communication from the School

Teacher Communications:

- Weekly teacher newsletters usually come out Sundays or Mondays.
- Teachers send emails—be sure to provide the email you check most often.
- Teachers may call but typically not during class; interpreter services are available if needed.
- For specific questions, **email your child's teacher.**

School Communications:

- School bulletins arrive Thursdays between 4 – 6 pm—please read carefully, as they contain important updates.
- You can subscribe to school and district bulletins; district bulletins come on Mondays around 4 pm.
- **Please read all bulletins to stay informed!**

Tips for Families

Daily Routines and Communication

- Check your child's take-home folder every day. Even if there is no regular homework, important paperwork often comes home on Fridays.
- Label your child's belongings such as backpack, lunchbox, water bottle, jackets/coats with your child's name.
- Ask your child about lunch, recess, and their school day to stay connected.
- Help Kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd graders practice staying focused and eating during lunch to prepare for the school routine.
- Email teacher if you have questions. Communication is Key!!
- Ask for an interpreter if needed – no cost to the family.

Tips for Families

Teaching School Expectations

- Talk about how to walk in line, take turns, sit quietly, and listen at school.
- Review school expectations with your child regularly.
- Learn about your child's teacher's expectations during Curriculum Night.
- Reinforce these expectations at home, especially regarding behavior at school.
- Help your child understand the difference between school and home behavior—for example, less physical contact, using quieter voices, and speaking up when needed.

When to communicate with school

- When your student is absent, late, or leaving early: Email both the teacher and the attendance secretary. Look for the Attendance tab under "Our School" on the school's website.

[Attendance - Apollo \(isd411.org\)](https://isd411.org)

- When your child will be changing how they go home: If changing the regular routine (taking the bus, going to afterschool care, or being picked up after school by a parent), notify the teacher.
- With concerns about academics: Email the teacher (preferred) or request a phone meeting (interpreter available if needed).
- Social or emotional concerns: Contact the school counselor or teacher.
- Behavior concerns: Contact the principal or assistant principal and teacher.

Parent Volunteers

- ❖ All parent volunteers need to complete an online application to be in the building during school hours when school is in session (classroom celebrations, recess visits, or other activities).
- ❖ The application can be found on the school and district website under Volunteers.
- ❖ Check with your classroom teacher during Curriculum Night or Meet the Teacher about volunteer opportunities.
- ❖ The [PTSA](#) has many opportunities for parents to volunteer in the classroom or at the school.
- ❖ You can also be a mentor for a student in the district through the VOICE mentor program.

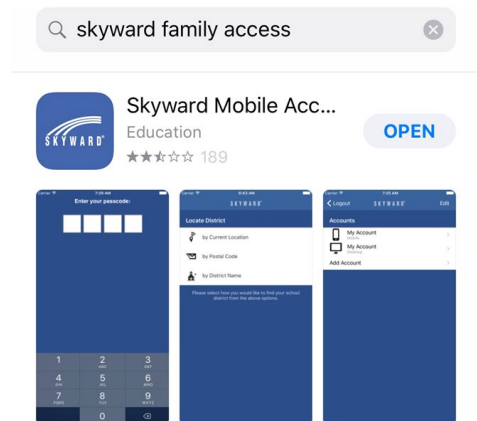
We highly encourage families to volunteer for at least one activity.

Safety

- School buildings are secure—visitors need to be buzzed in.
- Students are always supervised.
- Students are released based on contact information provided by families.
- Social and Emotional Learning is taught to help resolve conflicts and help students engage with each other appropriately.
- If there is a problem or incident at school, please report it to the teacher or school principal.
- The website has many links about drills, preparedness, procedures, and plans. Visit if you want to learn more.

Family Access/Skyward

- Families need to log into Family Access to view the report card.
- Report cards are not sent home unless a parent requests one.
- Attendance history is available in Family Access.
- i-Ready, SBA, and other assessment scores are posted in Family Access.



Important Websites – District and School

- [Before and After School Care](#)
- [Community Flyers \(Peachjar\)](#) - very few clubs or sports at schools

Thank you!

- **Issaquah Valley, Clark and Sunset**
 - Liliana Medina 425-837-7141
 - Cell 425-331-9555
 - MedinaL@issaquah.wednet.edu
- **Apollo, Briarwood, Cougar Ridge, Grand Ridge, Maple Valley, and Newcastle**
 - Lina Marin 425-837-7008
 - Cell – 425 651 9245
 - marinl@issaquah.wednet.edu
- **Cascade Ridge, Cedar Trails, Challenger, Creekside, Discovery, Endeavor, and Sunny Hills**
 - Wenli Mithal 425-837-7106
 - Text 978-252-3686
 - MithalW@issaquah.wednet.edu
- **Lorna Gilmour – Family Partnership Specialist, Issaquah School District**
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**Feedback form - Tips and
Resources for Elementary Families
for 2026-2027 school year**

