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H A N D B O O K
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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 98 300 Third Street West, Rainier, WA 98576

Phone: 360-446-4020 Website: <https://elementary.rainier.education/preschool>



RAINIER PRESCHOOL

2026–2027 FAMILY HANDBOOK

Rainier Elementary School

Respect Others • Encourage Good Decisions • Solve Problems

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Welcome to Rainier Preschool!

Rainier Preschool is a place where children are encouraged to learn, play, explore, and grow. We are committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and child-centered environment where every child is known, valued, and supported.

We recognize that each child enters preschool with unique strengths, interests, experiences, and needs. Our staff works together with families to provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences that build confidence, independence, friendships, curiosity, and a strong foundation for future learning.

**We are excited to partner with you
during this important first step in your child's school journey!**

2026–2027 Rainier Preschool Staff

Special Services Director: Justin Gurnsey
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Preschool Teacher: Maura Stockton – stocktonm@rainier.wedne.edu

Preschool Paraeducators: Kristina Craig & Ashley McKitrick

Our Goals for Every Preschooler

Our goal is to provide a safe, welcoming, and engaging environment where every child feels valued, develops confidence, and grows as a learner. Through purposeful play, exploration, consistent routines, and positive relationships, we work to help each child:

- Build **self-confidence, independence, and a positive sense of self.**
- Develop **social-emotional skills**, including cooperation, self-regulation, listening, communicating needs, and caring for others.
- Feel secure through **consistent routines** while having opportunities to explore, create, move, play, and make choices.
- Learn to **solve problems, make decisions, and work through challenges** with support from caring adults.
- Develop curiosity and an excitement for learning through a variety of **materials, people, experiences, and ideas.**
- Build a strong foundation for future learning through developmentally appropriate experiences in **early literacy, language, math, fine and gross motor skills, and cognitive development.**
- Receive instruction and support that responds to each child's **individual strengths, needs, and developmental level.**

Rainier Preschool Calendar

September

- 11** — First Day of School for Preschool
- 22** — School Pictures

November

- 3** — AM Preschool Option A
- 4** — PM Preschool at 8:30 AM
- 5** — AM Preschool Option B
- 6** — PM Preschool at 8:30 AM
- 11** — No School, Veterans Day
- 25** — AM Preschool Option A
- 26–27** — No School, Thanksgiving

December

- 18** — PM Preschool at 8:30 AM
- 23–31** — No School, Winter Break

January

- 1** — No School, Winter Break
- 4** — School Resumes
- 18** — No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 29** — AM Preschool Option B

February

- 12** — No School, Possible Snow Make-Up Day
- 15** — No School, Presidents' Day

March

- 30** — PM Preschool at 8:30 AM
- 31** — AM Preschool Option A

April

- 1** — PM Preschool at 8:30 AM
- 2** — AM Preschool Option B
- 5–9** — Spring Break, No School

May

- 28** — No School, Possible Snow Make-Up Day
- 31** — No School, Memorial Day

June

- TBA** — Last Day for Preschool
- TBA** — Preschool Graduation/Last Day for Pre-K

Staying Up to Date

We know family schedules are busy! If a date or event changes during the school year, we will communicate updates with families as soon as possible. Please watch for school communications and check the Rainier Elementary website for the most current information.

School Cancellations & Late Starts

Rainier Preschool follows the Rainier School District calendar. If Rainier School District schools are closed due to weather or an emergency, preschool will also be closed.

If the district operates on a delayed start, **AM Preschool will be canceled. PM Preschool will remain on its regular schedule unless otherwise communicated.** Families will be notified of schedule changes through district and school communications.

Preschool Schedule

Rainier Preschool offers both morning and afternoon preschool sessions.

AM Preschool

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM, Wednesday Early Release 8:30 AM – 10:45 AM

PM Preschool

12:15 PM – 2:45 PM, Wednesday Early Release 11:30 AM – 1:45 PM

Our preschool day is designed to provide children with a balance of learning, play, movement, and opportunities to build independence and relationships with others.

Throughout the day, children may participate in a variety of developmentally appropriate experiences, including:

- Circle and community-building activities
- Early literacy and language experiences
- Early math and problem-solving activities
- Small-group learning
- Learning centers and purposeful play
- Art, music, and creative experiences
- Fine and gross motor activities
- Outdoor play and movement
- Snack
- Social-emotional learning
- Opportunities to practice independence, communication, and problem-solving

Classroom routines and activities may vary throughout the year based on the needs and interests of the children. Your child's preschool teacher will share additional information about classroom routines and schedules with families.

Arrival & Dismissal

Rainier Preschool is located inside Rainier Elementary School. To help keep all students safe, please follow the arrival and dismissal procedures below.

Arrival

AM Preschool

- Drop-off begins at **8:25 AM**.
- Class begins at **8:30 AM**.

PM Preschool

Drop-off begins at **12:10 PM**.
Class begins at **12:15 PM**.

For All Families

- Please park in the parking lot and use the **crosswalk** when walking to and from the building.
- Preschool staff will meet students at the designated preschool drop-off area.
- Please do not drop students off early, as supervision is not available before the designated drop-off time.
- If you arrive after class has begun, please use the **buzzer at the front entrance**. The buzzer is connected to the office through a camera and intercom as part of our building safety procedures.

Dismissal

- **AM Preschool:** Pick-up is at **11:00 AM**. Wednesday:
- **PM Preschool:** Pick-up is at **2:45 PM**.
- Please park in the parking lot, use the crosswalk, and come to the **front entrance** for pick-up.
- Please arrive on time, as preschool staff have other responsibilities immediately following dismissal.
- Children will only be released to an **authorized adult**.
- Adults picking up a child may be asked to show **photo identification**, particularly if they are not familiar to staff.
- If someone other than your child's usual parent/guardian will be picking up, please **notify the school in advance**.

What to Bring to Preschool

A few simple things will help your child be ready for a successful preschool day:

- **Backpack:** Please send a backpack each day that is large enough to carry your child's belongings and school communications.
- **Extra Clothing:** Please keep a complete change of clothes in your child's backpack. Preschool can be messy, and accidents happen!
- **Weather-Appropriate Clothing:** Children may participate in outdoor activities throughout the year, so please dress your child for the weather.
- **Label Belongings:** Please label coats, sweatshirts, backpacks, water bottles, and other personal items with your child's name.
- **Check Backpacks:** Please check your child's backpack regularly for classroom work and school communications.

Items from Home & Show and Share

Children are encouraged to leave toys and other special belongings at home unless the preschool teacher has invited students to bring an item for **Show and Share** or another classroom activity.

When Show and Share is planned, items will remain safely stored until it is time to share. Please avoid sending valuable or irreplaceable items, as the school cannot be responsible for lost or damaged belongings.

Toy or pretend weapons are not permitted at school.

Birthdays & Celebrations

We enjoy recognizing our preschoolers on their special days! If you would like to send a treat for your child's birthday or another classroom celebration, please **contact the preschool teacher in advance for approval**.

For the health and safety of all students:

- Treats must be **store packaged**. Please do not send homemade treats.
- Please check with the preschool teacher **before sending any food or treats to school**.
- Due to concerns regarding severe food allergies, please **do not send products containing peanuts or peanut oils**.
- Additional food restrictions may be necessary based on the allergies or health needs of students in the classroom.

Positive Behavior & Social-Emotional Learning

At Rainier Preschool, we believe learning how to manage emotions, solve problems, make friends, and be part of a classroom community is an important part of preschool.

Just as we teach early literacy and math skills, we **teach, model, practice, and reinforce positive behavior**. Young children are still learning how to communicate their needs, manage big feelings, take turns, solve conflicts, and make safe choices. Our role is to help children develop these skills in a positive, supportive, and developmentally appropriate way.

The Cougar Code

Rainier Preschool is part of Rainier Elementary School, and our preschoolers begin learning the same school-wide expectations as our K–5 students:

- **Respect Others**
- **Encourage Good Decisions**
- **Solve Problems**

Preschoolers learn what these expectations look like through everyday experiences such as using kind words, keeping their bodies safe, listening to others, taking turns, caring for classroom materials, asking for help, and solving problems with support from an adult.

Teaching Positive Behavior

Preschool staff support children by:

- Providing **clear and consistent routines and expectations**.
- Teaching and modeling what expected behavior looks and sounds like.
- Giving children opportunities to **practice** new social and behavioral skills.
- Recognizing and encouraging positive choices.
- Using positive language, reminders, choices, and redirection.
- Helping children identify and communicate their **feelings and needs**.
- Teaching strategies to **calm their bodies and regulate emotions**.
- Helping children learn to **solve problems and work through disagreements**.

When Children Need Additional Support

Preschoolers are learning, and mistakes are an expected part of that process. When challenging behavior occurs, our first priority is keeping everyone safe while helping the child learn what to do differently next time.

Staff may use modeling, redirection, choices, a change in activity or environment, **access to a quiet or calming space**, calming and regulation strategies, or adult-supported problem solving. These supports are used to help children regain control of their bodies and emotions so they are ready to return to learning and play.

Some children may need additional practice, individualized strategies, or more support as they develop these skills.

Our goal is not simply to stop a behavior; our goal is to teach the skills children need to be successful.

If a child demonstrates ongoing or significant behavioral needs, preschool staff will communicate with the family so we can work together to understand the child's needs and provide consistent support.

Families Are Our Partners

Families know their children best. We encourage families to share information that may help us better understand and support their child. Preschool staff will also communicate with families about successes, patterns, or concerns we observe at school.

Health & Safety

Your child's health and safety are very important to us. Healthy children are better able to participate, learn, play, and enjoy their preschool day. We ask families to help us maintain a healthy school environment by keeping children home when they are ill.

When Your Child Is Sick

Please keep your child home if they are experiencing symptoms of illness that may prevent them from comfortably participating in the school day or may be contagious to others.

Children should remain home if they:

- Have a **fever of 100.4°F or higher** or have had a fever within the previous 24 hours.
- Have experienced **vomiting or diarrhea** within the previous 24 hours.
- Have symptoms of a **communicable illness**.
- Have an **unexplained rash or symptoms of pink eye** that have not been evaluated.
- Are experiencing symptoms that make it difficult for them to comfortably participate in normal preschool activities.

Children should be **symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school**, unless otherwise directed by a healthcare provider or current public health guidance.

If Your Child Becomes Ill at School

If your child becomes ill during the preschool day, school staff will care for them in an appropriate supervised area while a parent/guardian or emergency contact is notified.

Please make sure your **contact and emergency contact information is current** so we can reach someone promptly when needed.

If your child is diagnosed with a communicable illness, please notify the school so we can follow appropriate health and safety procedures.

Student Photos & Privacy

Throughout the school year, photos and videos may be taken during classroom activities, special events, projects, celebrations, or other school activities. These may be used in classroom projects, school publications, the yearbook, end-of-year activities, or Rainier School District communications.

Families may indicate their preferences regarding the use of their child's photograph through **Skyward Family Access** or by contacting the school office.

Please contact the school if you have questions regarding your child's photo or media permissions.

Tuition & Payment Information

There is a **\$75 annual registration fee** due upon enrollment.

Preschool tuition may be paid beginning in September through the Rainier Elementary office or the InTouch Online payment portal.

Monthly Tuition

AM Preschool — \$240 per month

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

PM Preschool — \$300 per month

Monday–Friday

Tuition is due on the **first school day of each month, September through May.**

Because your child's preschool space is reserved for them, tuition is not refunded for absences. If your family experiences a special circumstance, please contact us so we can work with you.

Statements will be sent at the beginning of each month, with reminders sent during the second week. Accounts that remain unpaid by the last week of the month may result in the child's preschool space being made available to another family.

Families who qualify for **Free or Reduced-Price Meals** may complete the appropriate paperwork through Skyward Family Access or obtain a paper application from the school office. Qualifying families will receive a **50% reduction in monthly preschool tuition.**

Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting

All Rainier School District employees are **mandated reporters**. School employees are required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities.

Our responsibility is always to support the safety and well-being of the children in our care.

District Policies & Required Notices

Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (Policy 3207 & 3207P)

Schools are meant to be safe and inclusive environments where all students are protected from Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB), including in the classroom, on the school bus, in school sports, and during other school activities.

What is HIB?

HIB is any intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act of a student that:

- Physically harms another student or damages their property;
- Has the effect of greatly interfering with another student's education; or
- Is so severe, persistent, or significant that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment for other students.

HIB generally involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. **HIB is not allowed, by law, in our schools.**

How Can I Make a Report or Complaint About HIB?

Talk to any school staff member. You may use the district's reporting form to share concerns about HIB, but reports may also be made verbally or in writing.

Reports may be made anonymously or confidentially. No disciplinary action will be taken against another student based solely on an anonymous or confidential report.

For more detailed information, including district policies, procedures, reporting forms, and contact information, please visit the **Rainier School District Policies and Procedures** resources.

Nondiscrimination (Policy 3210 & 3210P)

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.

Lack of English language proficiency will not be a barrier to admission and participation in career and technical education programs. Rainier School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational programs.

Discrimination can happen when someone is treated differently or unfairly because they are part of a protected class.

What is Discriminatory Harassment?

Discriminatory harassment can include teasing and name-calling; graphic and written statements; or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating.

Discriminatory harassment happens when the conduct is based on a student's protected class and is serious enough to create a hostile environment. A hostile environment is created when conduct is so severe, pervasive, or persistent that it limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the school's services, activities, or opportunities.

You can report discrimination or discriminatory harassment to any school staff member or to the district's Civil Rights Coordinator. For information regarding district coordinators, complaint procedures, or a copy of the district's nondiscrimination policy and procedure, please visit the **Rainier School District Policies and Procedures** resources.

Sexual Harassment (Policy 3205 & 3205P)

Rainier School District is committed to a positive and productive education free from discrimination, including sexual harassment. Students and staff are protected against sexual harassment by anyone in any school program or activity, including on the school campus, on the school bus, or off-campus during a school-sponsored activity.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome behavior or communication that is sexual in nature when:

- A student or employee is led to believe that they must submit to unwelcome sexual conduct or communications in order to gain something in return; or
- The conduct substantially interferes with a student's educational performance or creates an intimidating or hostile educational or employment environment.

Sexual harassment may include unwelcome touching of a sexual nature, sexually inappropriate comments or communications, sexually explicit materials, or other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature.

Sexual harassment may be reported to any school staff member or to the district's Title IX Officer. Families also have the right to file a complaint. District policies, procedures, coordinator information, and complaint information are available through the **Rainier School District Policies and Procedures** resources.

