

ISLAND PARK ELEMENTARY

Welcome to Kindergarten!



Our 4 B's: Belonging, Belief, Barriers,
Broadcast

Fred

Welcome and Introductions

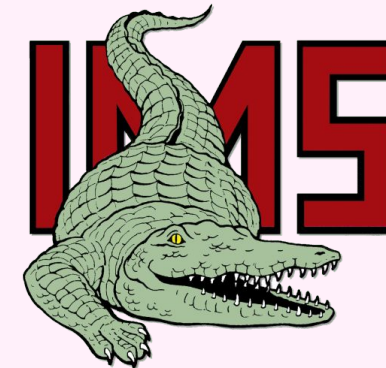
- Joby McGowan- Principal Island Park
- Rebecca Reid- Kindergarten Teacher Lakeridge
- Nova Williams- Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
- Mary Jo Budzius- Director of Teaching and Learning
- Randi Fielding- Assistant Director of Special Services
- Helen Weyant- MIPA
- Jessica Francis- MIPA
- Alexandra Sage- MIPA
- Fred Rundle- Superintendent



Mercer Island School District

A Little About Our District

- Over 3,800 students
- About 500 staff members
- Serve students from age 3 to 22
- Consistently rated at or near the top in student achievement
- Whole child focused, inclusive, supportive, and rigorous





A typical day feels active, social, structured, warm, and full of discovery.

Intention of Kindergarten



- Play with purpose
- Practice routines and independence
- Build confidence through joyful learning
- Learn how to be part of a classroom community

THE STRENGTH OF OUR TEACHERS

Warm, skilled, and ready for a wide range of readiness

Children do not need to arrive already reading, writing, or doing advanced math.

notice
strengths

build trust

stretch thinking



SPECIALISTS ARE A BIG PART OF THE ELEMENTARY EXPERIENCE

PE, music, art, library, and more

- Learning happens through bodies, voices, creativity, and books
- Specialist spaces help students feel connected across the whole school

Rebecca



THE COOL STUFF KIDS GET TO EXPERIENCE

Elementary school is about much more than academics



- Assemblies and visiting performers
- Buddy activities and school traditions
- Field trips, celebrations, and performances
- Spirit days, PTA events, and special projects

HOW WE TEACH READING AND LITERACY

Early literacy grows in many connected ways

Students develop at different rates, and instruction responds to those differences.

- Phonemic awareness and phonics
- Oral language and vocabulary
- Read-aloud and comprehension
- Drawing, writing, and sharing ideas



Reading readiness is not one single skill-it grows through language, stories, practice, and joy.

MATH AND DIFFERENTIATION

Strong foundations, real challenge

Kindergarten math builds deep understanding of numbers, patterns, problem solving, mathematical reasoning, and mathematical practices.

- Support for students who need more practice
- Greater challenge for students who are ready to stretch
- Hands-on tools: counters, cubes, ten-frames, games, and drawings





Kindergarten learning remains grounded in hands-on materials, conversation, movement, books, play, drawing, writing, and interaction with other children.

TECHNOLOGY AND SCREEN TIME

A tool, not the primary mode of instruction

- Used intentionally
- Used in service of learning

BELONGING, FRIENDSHIP, AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Learning how to be part of a community

fairness

respect

belonging

These skills are taught, modeled, practiced, and reinforced—not simply expected.



- make friends
- solve conflicts
- ask for help
- take turns
- repair harm

Student Safety is a Priority

Safe and Supportive Schools

- Bus to Bus, Bell to Bell- We are all on duty!
- Who are your emergency contacts?
- Vetting the people who work with your child, including volunteers?
- Single entry vestibules
- Communication when plans change
- Bus riders
- Playground supervision
- Emergency Take Action- planning for emergencies
- We are all a team!



PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES

You do not have to prepare your child perfectly

- Practice independence: zippers, lunch containers, backpack
- Build routines: sleep, morning steps, saying goodbye
- Read together and talk together
- Encourage curiosity, communication, and confidence





It Takes A Village...

Our Partners





We can't wait to welcome your child.

Kindergarten is full of learning, laughter, growth, friendship, and discovery.

Your child belongs here.