Attention parents of five-year-olds! (and those whose children will be five-years-old by Aug. 31)

It’s time to discuss kindergarten.

Welcome!

Your child is about to embark on a wonderful milestone and BISD is proud to be part of this momentous event. Kindergarten sets the foundation for your child’s school career, and puts your student on a lifelong path of learning.

While kindergarten is a time of great discovery, excitement and growth, it’s also a big transition — for parents and children alike! That’s why when you enroll your child in kindergarten at BISD, your student will not only receive a high-quality education, but will also gain a team of staff whose main goal is to help your child succeed intellectually, socially and emotionally.

Parent involvement is greatly encouraged and it’s a time of close partnership between the school and the home. We welcome you to volunteer on field trips and in the classroom.

What is the birthday cutoff to be a kindergartner?

Children must be five years old by August 31st.

What is the kindergarten schedule?

Except for the first three days of the school year, kindergartners follow the same school calendar and schedule as other elementary students. They ride the bus and eat lunch at school, just like the older grades.

However, the first three days of the regular school year are different. Instead of a regular school day, kindergartners and parents participate in kindergarten readiness activities and a get-to-know-you conference.

Elementary School Schedule:

Start Time: 7:50 a.m.
Dismissal: 2:20 p.m.
Monday’s Early Release: 12:50 p.m.

How many students are in a kindergarten classroom?

Our goal is to have kindergarten classrooms with 20 or fewer students. This may vary slightly due to enrollment.

How are kindergarten classrooms staffed at each school?

All kindergarten classrooms are staffed with one certificated classroom teacher. Teachers are supported by instructional specialists, the school counselor and their kindergarten teaching team.

Do kindergartners require special arrangements for transportation or food?

Kindergartners are included in regular bus routes and food service plans for their schools.

- Kindergartners are greeted at buses in the morning, and are walked to buses in the afternoon.
- Students with food allergies and dietary restrictions are closely monitored by staff.
We are excited to meet you!

Kindergarten Contact Information

Blakely Elementary School
Principal Reese Ande
Office Manager Kyanne Hawkins
Phone: (206) 842-4752

Ordway Elementary School
(Includes El Velero Spanish Immersion Program; Enrollment for El Velro is via a lottery.)
Principal Melinda Reynvaan
Office Manager Sarah Dunstan
Phone: (206) 842-7637

Wilkes Elementary School
Principal Amii Pratt
Office Manager Sheila Jakubik
Phone: (206) 842-4411

Commodore Options School
(Includes Odyssey and Mosaic Home Education Partnership; Enrollment for Odyssey is via a lottery.)
Principal Trish Corsetti
Office Manager Michelle Hope
Phone: (206) 780-1646

Kindergarten Information and Registration Night
Wednesday, February 5, 2020
Blakely Elementary School
4704 Blakely Ave. NE
6 p.m. Doors open. Please note, this night is for adults. Students will have an opportunity to visit at a later date. (See next section.)
6:30 p.m. Presentation on BISD options —
• Neighborhood schools (Blakely, Ordway & Wilkes)
• Odyssey*, which is a choice program and funnels into a multi-age learning environment; housed at Commodore Options School
• Mosaic Home Partnership*, which is a choice program based at Commodore Options School
• El Velero**, Spanish Immersion is a choice program; housed at Ordway

Additional information on the choice programs will also be available at the Commodore Open House* on 2/6 at 6:30 p.m. and the El Velero Info Night **on 2/11 at 6 p.m.

Come visit!
School visitations are an opportunity for students and parents to visit a kindergarten class, tour the school, learn more about the school and program, and take a bus ride around the neighborhood with a parent / guardian. Visits of El Velero and Odyssey programs will take place after their enrollment lotteries.

Blakely Elementary
Wednesday, Feb. 12
8:15-9:15 a.m.

Ordway Elementary
Thursday, Feb. 13
8:15-9:15 a.m.

Wilkes Elementary
Wednesday, Feb. 12
8:15-9:15 a.m.

BISD 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, gender 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. For questions, please contact Civil Rights Coordinator, Erin Murphy at emurphy@bisd303.org.

The Program:
Kindergarten students receive core instruction in:

• Reading
• Writing
• Math
• Science
• Social Studies
• Health
• Social skills

They also participate weekly with a content specialist teacher in the following areas:

• Physical Education
• Music
• Art
• STEM Lab (hands-on exploration of science and engineering concepts)

The Whole Child Approach:
BISD is dedicated to supporting the development of students who explore and acquire a range of skills each year. The district is committed to providing each student with an excellent academic program in an engaging and supportive environment.

BISD provides students with a range of services to support learning needs such as academic support, special education services, and a highly capable program.