

2025-26 Kindergarten Information Guide



Pioneer Elementary School Grades K-5

A Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians of New Kindergartners:

Welcome to kindergarten, and welcome to Pioneer Elementary! We are excited to begin the journey of working together to educate your child—a 13-year relationship with you to prepare your child for success in life. Kindergarten is a time for students to learn how to be a friend, do things for themselves, solve problems, and work together. Our goal is to have your child love school, and rest assured we have a dedicated, highly-trained staff to provide an exceptional level of care, instruction, and service to your child.

Each year our kindergarten students enter school with a diverse range of experiences, eagerly ready to absorb everything kindergarten has to offer. You might be surprised at what an intensive learning program kindergarten has become. Our goal is for every student to reach his or her potential by building a strong academic, social and emotional foundation. A student's success is based on developmental readiness, a nurturing environment, and parental involvement.

Early investment in good school habits pays off in the long term. Learning happens from the start of the day to the final bell and our attendance motto is, "All day, every day!" There is significant research to show that kindergarten attendance has a significant impact on learning. Frequent absences contribute to lower reading scores and a lesser probability of graduating from high school. Conversely, regular attendance contributes to strong reading and math skills; work habits that transfer to jobs; and a higher probability of high school graduation. We recognize that graduation seems to be far in the future, but our goal is to graduate all Arlington students as college and career ready adults. We start meeting this goal in kindergarten!

We are looking forward to working together for the academic and emotional growth of your child.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sarah Durrant
Principal

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Social and Emotional Skills:

I need to feel excited and comfortable about starting kindergarten. You can...

- Let me know you're excited about me starting kindergarten.
- Give me a chance to visit my school before I start.
- Listen to my thoughts and ideas about school.
- Play a game with me to pretend I'm in school already.

I need to know what kindergarten will be like. You can...

- Teach me to follow directions by giving me simple steps.
- Help me learn how to share with other children, stand in line, turn, and sit in a circle.

I need to feel good about myself. You can...

- Pay attention to me and listen to my ideas.
- Help me feel good about all the things I can do.
- Praise me for my strengths.
- Be patient and let me develop at my own pace.
- Teach me that all my feelings are okay, but not all my actions are okay. For example, it's okay to be upset, but it's not okay to hit others.
- Teach me ways to calm myself down when I get frustrated.

I need to get along with others. You can...

- Show me ways to make new friends.
- Help me understand how I can be friends with children who are different from me.
- Teach me what to do when someone hurts my feelings.

I need to know how to talk with others and to listen. You can...

- Talk with me about things I'm interested in.
- Teach me how to know when it's my turn to speak and when I need to listen.
- Teach me words to describe my feelings and needs, and when to use them.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

How I Learn:

I need to be excited about learning. You can...

- Encourage me to explore with my senses—to see, touch, smell, hear and taste my world.
- Give me fun, exciting choices.
- Give me lots of time to figure things out.

I need to learn to try things and keep trying even when it seems hard. You can...

- Give me activities that hold my interest.
- Help me explore and try new activities.
- Help me learn step by step.
- Teach me that making mistakes is part of learning.
- Show me different ways to understand my world.

I need many ways to express myself. You can...

- Help me dance, sing, whistle, play instruments, paint, draw, color, build, invent, and make believe.
- Help me care about others and help them, too.
- Help me notice and talk about flowers, trees, animals, clouds, the sky and water.

I need to feel good about my family and culture, and to learn about other cultures. You can...

- Show me books and pictures of people who look like me.
- Show me books and pictures of people from other cultures.
- Sing songs and tell me stories from my culture and from other cultures.
- Use the language(s) I know to help me understand and learn.
- Take me to places that teach me about my culture and other cultures.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Using Words:

I need to be familiar with words and books. You can...

- Teach me new words.
- Show me words and symbols in my language and the sounds they make.
- Read to me. Take me to the library. Bring me books and magazines.
- Ask me questions about stories to help me understand their meaning.
- Sing songs and teach me rhymes.

I need to know shapes, sizes and colors. You can...

- Give me things to sort by shape, size and color.
- Help me find and name shapes and colors all around me.

Using Numbers:

I need to learn to count and understand that numbers have meaning. You can...

- Help me play counting games.
- Let me count things at home and in my community.
- Show me how numbers are used around me.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Keep Me Safe and Healthy:

I need to be safe and feel safe. You can...

- Help me practice saying my name, address and phone number in my home language and in English.
- Teach me about watching for cars and not talking to strangers.
- Teach me who to ask for help when I need it.

I need to have bathroom and self-help skills. You can...

- Teach me the words to tell other grown-ups when I need to go to the bathroom, or when I am feeling sick or hurt.
- Help me practice going to the bathroom, washing my hands, dressing, and tying my shoes.
- Encourage me to try things I've learned before I ask my teacher for help.

I need to be able to use my hands and fingers to do small tasks.

You can...

- Help me learn to pick up, hold and use pencils, crayons, markers, paintbrushes and scissors.
- Help me make things with blocks, paper, cardboard and tape.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Keep Me Safe and Healthy:

*I need to be able to use my arms, legs and body to make big movements.
You can...*

- Encourage me to run, jump, climb, dance and move to music, as am able.
- Give me time each day to play outdoors.

I need to have my basic needs met before I come to school each day. You can...

- Make sure I am fed, rested and dressed for the weather.
- Find out who can help my family with getting what I need to be ready for school.



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Healthy Body to Learn and Grow:

I need a healthy body to learn and grow. You can...

- Take me to the doctor and dentist for regular check ups.
- Make sure I get all the shots I need before school starts. Being fully immunized protects me and others from serious diseases.
- Keep our family and me safe from harm. Get help if someone is hurting you, me, or anyone in my family.

I need good food, rest, and play to have the energy to learn.

You can...

- Make sure I get enough rest every night, even if I don't want to go to sleep. I can't learn if I am grumpy and tired at school.
- Give me healthy food every day, especially breakfast.
- Ask for a form for free and reduced breakfast and lunch if our family needs help getting me the healthy food I need.
- Make sure I have time and safe places to play. Kids need at least one hour of exercise each day. Outdoor play is very important for me!

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

A Big Step with Big Feelings:

I need you to help me feel ready and eager, even if I also feel scared. You can...

- Make sure we both have time to think and talk about our feelings. Your ideas and feelings shape mine. I need you to show me confidence. This is a big step for our family!
- Help me practice saying goodbye to you so I can get ready to join the school group easily. Kindergarten is different than preschool or child care where parents might stay with a child for some time until they feel ready to say goodbye. Help me learn to be on my own with my teacher and fellow students.
- Be delighted to see me after my day at school! Be ready to ask specific questions about what we did that day and who my new friends are.



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

A Big Step with Big Feelings:

I need the grown-ups in my family, school and community to work together. You can...

- See starting school as a big event for all of us! We each have our own ideas and worries.
- Ask me about my thoughts I may want to know:
 - How high do I have to count?
 - Do I have to write my name?
 - What are the rules at school?
 - Will I have new friends at school?
- Talk with others about your feelings. You may want to know:
 - How easy will it be to say goodbye and let me join my group at school?
 - Will I fit in and learn well here?
 - Will the teacher see how special I am?
- Ask teachers about their thoughts. They may want to know:
 - How well do I do in a group with other kids and few adults?
 - Do I know how to get help when I need it and work on my own when I need to?
 - Can I share the teachers attention?
 - Am I learning to follow directions and cooperate?

Arlington Public Schools ~ Programs

Highly Capable

Arlington Public Schools offers a highly capable program for eligible kindergarten through 12th grade students. High school students can take advantage of honors and advanced placement (AP) courses. Contact the principal of your student's school for more information.

Bilingual Program

Students who indicate that their first language is not English when registering with Arlington Public Schools are given the ELPA21 screener (English Language Proficiency Assessment) to determine eligibility for the EL (English Learner) program. This placement test must be given within 10 days of the student's entry into the school district.

Each spring, all students qualified as English Language Learners in the school district must take the ELPA21 assessment to measure progress in English language proficiency and to determine further eligibility.

The district bilingual services include:

- K-12 Transitional-Bilingual Education - Transitional Bilingual services are provided for our students via the language support of interpreter-tutors who are specially trained to support the English language development of students while also reinforcing native language as an important part of identity, culture, and community. Services can be provided inside the classroom or as small group and individual services outside of the classroom.
- 6-12 Sheltered Instruction - The Sheltered Instruction model integrates language and content instruction with the goal of providing access to grade-level content and English language proficiency.
- K-12 Newcomer Program - The Newcomer Program addresses the needs of recent immigrant students with limited or interrupted schooling in their home countries. Major goals of newcomer programs are to acquire beginning English language skills along with core academic skills and to acculturate to the U.S. school system.

Arlington Public Schools ~ Programs

Title I / Learning Assistance Program (LAP)

The Title I/LAP Program is an important partner in achieving Arlington School District's vision that all children will achieve academic success, develop a sense of purpose, and view learning as a life-long experience.

The purpose and goals of the Federal Title I Program and the State Learning Assistance Program (LAP) are essentially the same. Both programs seek to improve the educational opportunities of students who are academically at-risk for mastering the material set forth within the state content standards. Both programs provide supplemental instruction; in effect, a "double dose" of instruction in the student's area of greatest need (reading or math). Overall, the rules governing Title I are more stringent than those for LAP.

Special Education

Arlington School District offers a continuum of special education programs and services to meet the needs of eligible services. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the federal legislation governing how students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

All buildings in the district house programs for students with moderate disabilities, and we have programs for students with greater needs sited throughout the district. Special Education includes related services such as speech and language therapy and fine and gross motor therapy for eligible students.

Special Education services require collaboration among all stakeholders – parents, the students, school staff and support personnel. School Psychologists in each building work in tandem with building administrators to ensure students eligible for special education receive programs designed to meet their individual needs.

School Contact Information

APPLE / ECEAP Preschool.....	360-618-6434
Eagle Creek Elementary School.....	360-618-6270
Principal: Ms. Belisle	
Assistant Principal: Ms. Hansen	
Kent Prairie Elementary School.....	360-618-6260
Principal: Ms. Van Belle	
Assistant Principal: Mr. Stoddard	
Pioneer Elementary School.....	360-618-6230
Principal: Ms. Durrant	
Assistant Principal: Ms. Krause	
Presidents Elementary School.....	360-618-6240
Principal: Ms. Miller	
Assistant Principal: Ms. Mossburg	
Haller Middle School.....	360-618-6400
Principal: Ms. Howell	
Assistant Principal: Mr. Green	
Post Middle School.....	360-618-6450
Principal: Ms. Olson	
Assistant Principal: Mr. Dobberfuhl	
Arlington High School.....	360-618-6300
Principal: Ms. Herman	
Assistant Principals: Ms. Anderson, Mr. Axelson, Ms. Eichler	
Weston High School.....	360-618-6340
Principal: Ms. Dixon-Hundredmark	
Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center.....	360-618-6440
Principal: Ms. Marsh	

District Contact Information

Superintendent
Dr. Chrys Sweeting
(360) 618-6202

Director, Equity and Student Well-Being
Ms. Kerri Helgeson
(360) 618-6228

Executive Director, Human Resources
Mr. Eric DeJong
(360) 618-6212

Director, Literacy and Learning Support
Ms. Brenda Wyman
(360) 618-6380

Executive Director, Financial Services
Ms. Gina Zeutenhorst
(360) 618-6203

Director, Special Education
Mr. Dave McKellar
(360) 618-6209

Executive Director, Operations
Mr. Brian Lewis
(360) 618-6238

Director, Technology
Dr. Matt Jurick
(360) 618-6211

Executive Director, Teaching and Learning
Ms. Kari Henderson-Burke
(360) 618-6220

Supervisor, Transportation
Ms. Charity Prueher
(360) 435-1268

Director, Categorical Programs
Mr. Karl Olson
(360) 618-6210

Director, Communications
Mr. Gary Sabol
(360) 618-6217

Director, Child Nutrition and Support
Services
Mr. Ed Aylesworth
(360) 618-6213

Director, College and Career Readiness
Mr. Brian Long
(360) 618-6229



315 N. French Ave.
Arlington, WA 98223
360-618-6200

Information for publication provided by the Foundation for Early Learning

Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

TITLE IX/SEX EQUITY OFFICER AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR, Mr. Eric DeJong, Executive Director, Human Resources, 315 N French Ave., Arlington, WA 98223, 360.618.6212, eric.dejong@asd16.org. HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING (HIB) COMPLIANCE OFFICER, Ms. Kerri Helgeson, Director of Equity and Student Well-Being, 315 N French Ave., Arlington, WA 98223, 360.618.6228, kerri.helgeson@asd16.org, SECTION 504/ADA COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR, Mr. Dave McKellar, Director of Special Education, 315 N French Ave., Arlington, WA 98223, 360.618.6209, dave.mckellar@asd16.org