

## Kindergarten Registration F.A.Q.

### *Cordata Elementary*

<i>Frequently Asked Question</i>	<i>Answer</i>
<b>Transportation:</b>	
What is the drop-off procedure in the morning?	Families enter the Parent Drive-thru loop in the visitor parking and drop child off in the loop. Parking can be very challenging at Cordata, if you need to come in the building with your child there is limited parking in the front. Students go to the playground before school, not into the building.
What time can I drop my child off? Where can he/she go before school starts?	Between 7:30 and 8:00 am. Students walk to the playground and stay until teachers meet them at 8:00 am
What is the pick-up procedure in the afternoon?	Families join the parent pick up line that forms to enter the drop off/pick up loop. As you reach the top of the loop our support staff will connect you with your child. Please remain in your car unless you need to help your child buckle in.
Is there something that tracks my child if they are on the bus?	Bellingham Public Schools issues ‘Hamster Passes’ to all bus-riding students. This card allows for the transportation office the ability to verify if a child is on the bus, providing the child swipes the card. When swiping, we can verify when a student boards the bus and when they get off the bus.
What if my student leaves their belongings on the bus?	Transportation does not have a ‘lost and found.’ The items usually remain on the bus for 1 day and then they are taken to the lost and found at the school.
How does my student remember how to get home?	Kindergarten teachers have student go-home plans and escort students to the bus, drop off/pick up loop or after School childcare.
What if my student misses the bus stop or forgets to get off the bus?	If the student does not get off the bus, we activate the ‘reconnect plan’ which will take the student to the next school site on the route, typically one of our high schools. The parent will be notified and would need to meet their child at the high school.
Will the bus driver drop off my student if an adult is not there to meet them?	Yes. Transportation will drop the student off if no one is there to meet them <i>unless</i> the student tells the driver they’re supposed to stay on the bus, or they indicate they feel unsafe. Additionally, if the bus driver recognizes the environment bus stop is unsafe for any reason, the student will remain on the bus.
How do we change the ‘going home’ plans? Playdates, second homes, etc.	Families will call the school at (360)676-6461 before Noon, to make changes to student go home plans. Teachers will be notified of these changes.
<b>Attendance:</b>	It is very important for your child to be at school as much as possible. Please keep sick children at home.
What is the procedure if my child is late to school?	Student come to the office to receive a pass before going to class.
What is the procedure if my child is absent from school?	Call 360-676-6461, press 1 to leave message on Attendance line.
What is the procedure if my child needs to leave school early?	Please call 360-676-6461, press 2.
<b>Health:</b>	

What is the allergy policy? Can I pack nuts in my child's lunchbox?	Yes, you may pack nuts in your child's lunchbox. But please be aware that many students have life threatening allergies to different types of food. Please talk with your child about not sharing food and good hand hygiene.
What is the procedure if my child gets hurt or feels sick at school?	Student(s) are sent or brought to the Health Room in the Main Office. A call will be made if needed. Right now we are reviewing our illness guidelines to align with state and federal guidance regarding the current Covid-19 pandemic.
What is procedure if my child has a toileting accident at school?	Student(s) are sent or brought to the Health Room in the Main Office to clean up and change their clothes. It's a great idea to send you student with extra clothes.
What does my child need to bring to school with them? Can I pack extra clothes?	Backpack only. Bellingham Public Schools provide all needed school supplies. We ask students to bring extra clothes in case of any accidents.
<b>Meals and Snacks</b>	
Can my child eat breakfast at school?	Yes, breakfast is provided.
Is there a snack time? Who provides it?	Yes, there is a built-in snack time. Please check with your child's teacher for classroom plan.
How do families pay for school lunch?	Bellingham Public Schools provides an easy way to add money to a food account by making payments through the online system, <a href="#">MyPaymentsPlus</a> . If a food account balance is low, it will only take a few minutes to add money using a credit/debit card or a checking account at any time of the day from anywhere. Payments will post within one-hour to the student's food account. Families will be charged a small fee for making an online payment. Or, families can continue to pay for school meals with cash or check at their school. To begin the registration process, go to <a href="#">Food Services Online Payment</a> . Follow the instructions to register or go straight to <a href="#">MyPaymentsPlus</a> . For questions regarding meal payments, call (360) 676-6504 or email <a href="mailto:BPS.MealPayments@BellinghamSchools.org">BPS.MealPayments@BellinghamSchools.org</a> .
How do I know what choices my child can make for school lunch?	School lunch menus are printed and distributed to families each meal cycle. Families can also find menus <a href="#">here</a> .
What happens if my child doesn't finish their lunch?	Student can package uneaten home lunch to return home.
What do I do if my child has food allergies or sensitivities?	It is our goal to ensure that every student in our school is safe. School Nurses work with our school district staff regarding allergy management. Staff are trained on our <a href="#">policy</a> and <a href="#">procedures</a> surrounding allergies and anaphylaxis. Yes, you can send foods that are common allergens, (tree nuts, peanuts, soy, dairy, wheat, egg, fish/shellfish), to school in your student's lunch. We ask that students not share food at school. Lunchroom staff are trained to assist our students who have life threatening food allergies. Classroom teachers will work with families to manage food that is consumed in the classroom for treats and snacks.
<b>General:</b>	
What can I do to prepare my student for kindergarten?	Bellingham Public Schools strongly believe it is not the child's job to be 'ready' for kindergarten. It is our job to be ready for them. We recommend engaging your child in play-based learning activities that

	make sense for your family routine and structure. Please visit our website or click here for suggested activities.
Are there before and after school options for childcare?	Pending Covid-19 outcome.
Do parents get contact information for another child's family?	No. Student contact information is kept confidential.
Is there a school lost and found?	Yes
When is recess? Will my child have to go out if it is rainy or cold?	Recess schedules will be made available in the fall.
Can my child bring toys to school?	No.
<b>Classroom:</b>	
When will we know who the classroom teacher is?	Class lists will be available at our Meet and Greet, before the start of school.
Is there a conference or time to meet my child's teacher prior to school starting?	Yes. Prior to school starting, you will be contacted by school personnel to schedule a 30-minute entry conference.
What does the classroom look like?	Every classroom reflects a play-based, developmentally appropriate environment ready for your student. Each classroom has the following areas: block, home, toy, writing, library, art, quiet corner, whole group and small group learning spaces. Each classroom environment is unique to the classroom teacher and provides opportunities for experimentation, exploration, discovery, inquiry, challenge, and peer interaction.
What does a typical daily schedule look like?	The kindergarten daily schedule is a balanced one that accommodates play-based learning across content areas. Quieter and more active moments are balanced throughout the day. Because schedules vary slightly from school to school and classroom to classroom, your student's teacher will review the daily schedule during the entry conference.
How should I communicate with my child's teacher?	Teachers will provide contact information about SeaSaw and email communication.
How do I volunteer?	Please contact your student(s) teacher or school for volunteer application and opportunities.
Who do I contact to learn more about PTA?	Friends of Cordata will provide information in the fall.