



Supporting the Program

Policies and Regulations

ATTENDANCE

We encourage families to do their best to ensure that students arrive on time to school each day, however our hardworking staff asks that children not be present on school grounds when school is not in session. We hope to create a safe and friendly space for children and must have time to assemble the “magic” that makes each day special. Families arriving early may park in our circle as long as they do not block the BI Childcare driveway. Cars will pull forward when a teacher comes to the gate. Please remember to drive slowly (5 mph) and be respectful of our neighborhood.

If your child will be absent please call or text your child’s teacher. Know that attending school regularly helps children develop comfortable routines that will aid a happy transition into their classroom time each day.

On occasion, children may complain that they do not wish to go to school. Teachers generally find that once these children transition into their work they are happy and engaged. If complaints about attending school are a persisting concern, please do not hesitate to contact your teacher; we are happy to work with you to support a smooth drop-off each day!

Please be on time to pick up your child from school. Punctuality shows respect for our busy staff and encourages your child to feel comfortable at school, knowing you will always return.

BCNS HEALTH POLICY

Please send your child to school ready to learn and play!

It is our hope that children will arrive well rested with a good breakfast or lunch under their belts and ready to take on all the things our day involves.

Do not send your child to school if he or she is ill. A child who is sick is not able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other students and staff. In case of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea, children must remain home at least 24 hours *after* their symptoms are gone. This time may increase depending on the current COVID recommendations. Our school does not have a health room. If your child develops symptoms during the day you will be contacted to take them home to rest.

Immunization Requirement:

Prior to student admission, BCNS shall follow general immunization guidelines as set forth by the state of Washington Public Health Department.

Developmental Concerns

If you have any concerns regarding your child's speech, hearing, eye, motor or behavioral development, we recommend consulting with your physician. It may also be helpful to observe your child in the school environment. The Bainbridge Public School holds monthly child screenings just for these concerns. They also have early intervention programs that are available to Island families. We will happily work with you to ensure your child is able to receive what he or she needs in order to succeed at school.

CAR POOLS AND ALTERNATE CAREGIVERS

If another parent or caregiver will pick up your child, please be certain that you have communicated with the staff, the other parent/caregiver and with your child about what will happen. We require families to submit written permission if another person will pick up your child.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

We ask that children do not bring toys or special items from home, as they may be damaged or left behind. Students in the Pre-K class will each be assigned a day of the week for a "class meeting." On their assigned day, your child is welcome to bring in a special item to share with the class. More information about the class meetings will be provided by the lead teacher.

Bring your BCNS bag to school each day with a change of clothes, several extra masks, a snack, and water bottle!

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

The school no longer has a land line. Please text or email your teacher – add them to your cell phone contacts!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If the Bainbridge Public Schools are closed due to severe weather, then BCNS will be closed. While BISD is operating online we will have to use our best judgment and will communicate with each class via email. School closure information will often be announced on the local (Seattle) news stations or www.bisd303.org. If the public schools are one hour late due to road conditions, then the Preschool and PreK class will most likely be cancelled. If the power goes out during school or if snow begins to accumulate, please try to pick your child up early if it is safe to do so. Our top priority is keeping our families and staff safe during a storm or emergency.

OBSERVATION AND CONFERENCE

Informal conferences are held throughout the year. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about your child's growth/development at school.

Formal conferences may be held in the Spring if possible. We do our best to coordinate preschool conference days with the elementary public school conferences.

STAFF DAYS / ART ROLLS

Per the working procedures there are usually 3-4 staff days throughout the year. This year we are not taking days off for this work as our classes have cut their class time already. Each month your child will bring home their "art roll" to share with their family. This is full of all the art and projects that they have been working on the previous 3 or 4 weeks. Treasures!

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Birthdays are special at BCNS. Many parts of our birthday celebration have been traditions for decades.

Please do not send private birthday party invitations to school unless all children in the class are invited. Thank you for your understanding.

COMMUNICATION

Each Friday your teacher will send a short email recapping the week and announcing upcoming events. PLEASE, read this information as it is important to be part of your child's education. Mark important dates and events on your calendar so your child will be prepared for any special events. The Board also puts together a monthly newsletter with exciting monthly information. It is your responsibility to your child and to the school to read these emails.

THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND ONE CALL FOR ALL

In 1970, a scholarship fund was established to help families with tuition costs. BCNS alumni families contributed to this fund. In 1996, we applied to the Bainbridge One Call For All drive as an Island non-profit organization. BCNS receives funds from this community effort each year. We have been able to fund six scholarships to families in need of monthly tuition assistance. The scholarship amount is a monthly reduction of the tuition costs. Scholarships are private, and if you need assistance, please contact the Administrative Director.

BCNS FAMILIES

The quality of our program is the result of the willing cooperation of hundreds of families who have been involved with the school since its conception in 1963. This cooperative spirit has been a mainstay for over 50 years, as parents and staff continue to repair and enhance our beloved school. We are very fortunate that BCNS has been able to attract a population of families and staff who are so dedicated to maintaining this stimulating environment for young children. This year will be unique in that we may or may not be able to organize and enjoy our typical large gatherings that provide the framework for us all to get to know each other, but we are grateful for our amazing indoor/outdoor classroom and the ability to provide an in-person learning environment to all the BCNS children this year!

Thank you!