



ISSAQUAH
SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

Cultural Bridges



Family Guide | 2018–2019

Information to Help Families Navigate the Issaquah School District

Dear Reader,
 "Knowledge is power." This popular saying states that being educated empowers people and helps them to achieve great results. This is the main reason we've created this Family Guide, a compilation of information from the Issaquah School District for all families.

We would also like to recommend that you read your student's handouts, the website of the particular school that your child attends and the website for your child's school's PTSA.

Once you are informed about your child's education, get involved and actively participate! As you'll read on **pages 12-13**, schools in our District are very fortunate to have the support of the Issaquah Schools Foundation and PTSA's. These organizations make a big difference in the daily life of our students, and it's our responsibility as parents and family members to contribute. You don't need to speak English in order to volunteer or to be a donor! And if you need help understanding anything, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to help you.

Here's to an amazing 2018-2019 school year!

Alicia Spinner

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CULTURAL BRIDGES MAGAZINE FAMILY GUIDE 2018-2019

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Picture by Jenn Sande
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Welcome! We hope you find Cultural Bridges to be a helpful resource in learning about the Issaquah School District and our school communities in Issaquah, Sammamish, Renton, Bellevue and Newcastle. This magazine is written by volunteers and Issaquah Schools Foundation. It is funded by donations from the community.

If you are familiar with Issaquah Schools Foundation and support our programs—thank you! If the Issaquah Schools Foundation is new to you, please let me tell you more about our mission and work.

The Issaquah Schools Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that raises money to support students in the Issaquah School District. We work together with schools, educators, volunteers and PTAs to fund programs that help students find their “spark” – a love of learning that keeps them excited about school and connected to their education.

Although Washington State – through tax dollars – funds basic education, we want more than just basics for our students. We want an enriching education and a supportive environment. We want every child to have the tools they need to thrive at school. We want the best educational experience possible for our students.

The Issaquah Schools Foundation makes excellence in education possible by funding programs in schools such as:

- Robotics clubs
- Orchestra, choir and band
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) clubs
- Art classes in all elementary schools
- After-school homework help
- One-to-one mentoring
- Coding clubs
- Guidance and counseling services
- Food aid
- Teacher professional development

Without donations to Issaquah Schools Foundation, many of these programs would not exist or would not be available in our schools.

While every PTSA supports unique needs in each school, Issaquah Schools Foundation ensures that all students in all schools have access to programs. As your child moves through elementary, middle and high school, they will have access to the same programs. And, every one of your student’s teachers have access to Issaquah Schools Foundation grants that can be awarded to their school, classroom or professional development.

Throughout your time in the Issaquah School District, you will hear from Issaquah Schools Foundation about our work and the impact it makes, and the opportunities to engage with us. If at any time you have questions, please contact us at info@isfdn.org or visit www.isfdn.org. We would love to hear from you. We hope you will find ways to become involved in our school communities this year.

Until then, please enjoy this issue of Cultural Bridges magazine!

With appreciation,
Liz Swanson
Executive Director



**ISSAQUAH
SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION**

Welcome to the Issaquah School District (ISD)

The District's mission: "Our students will be prepared for and eager to accept the academic, occupational, personal and practical challenges of life in a dynamic global environment." Skilled and caring staff strive to achieve that mission using a variety of teaching methods and measurements of how well students are learning.

Our District uses Family Access to give parents and students online access to student information, including test scores, attendance, class schedules, and immunization records. Parents can verify online that the emergency contact information for each student is correct.

To login into Family Access (also called Skyward), go to <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/family/FamilyAccess> and click on "Log in to Family Access". You will also be able to find this link also on the website of your school. Your Login ID is the first 5 letters of your last name, the first 3 letters of your first name followed by 000 (3 zeros). For example,

Name: Claudia Gonzalez
Login ID: GONZACLA000

If you don't have your password, go to the login page and click on "Forgot your Login/Password?" Enter your email or Login ID and you will be emailed a link to reset your password. If you don't have an email address on file, please contact your student's school for assistance.

You will receive information in August regarding the back to school check-in process. During this process, you will verify your information in the Issaquah School District system.

School Phone Numbers

Elementary Schools

Apollo: 425-837-7500.
Briarwood: 425-837-5000.
Cascade Ridge: 425-837-5500.
Challenger: 425-837-7550.
Clark: 425-837-6300.
Cougar Ridge: 425-837-7300.
Creskside: 425-837-5200.
Discovery: 425-837-4100.
Endeavour: 425-837-7350.
Grand Ridge: 425-837-7925.
Issaquah Valley: 425-837-6600.
Maple Hills: 425-837-5100.
Newcastle: 425-837-5800.
Sunny Hills: 425-837-7400.
Sunset: 425-837-5600.

Middle Schools

Beaver Lake: 425-837-4160.
Issaquah Middle: 425-837-6818.
Maywood: 425-837-6909.
Pacific Cascade: 425-837-5911.
Pine Lake: 425-837-5710.

High Schools

Gibson Ek High School: 425-837-6350.
Issaquah High School: 425-837-6000.
Liberty High School: 425-837-4800.
Skyline High School: 425-837-7700.

Cultural and Family Partnerships

The Cultural and Family Partnerships program of the Issaquah School District helps families to navigate the school and connect them with school resources in order to support student learning, access to educational opportunities, and academic achievement. This year each school in the district will have a Family Partnership Liaison available. The liaisons will be working at every school for half a day per week. Every liaison will be assisting eight schools. Please feel free to contact them if you have any questions or need help with school information.

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Don't miss the Cultural and Family Partnerships Events!

Monthly meeting at 9:30am at Issaquah Valley Elementary, Portable 6. The dates are September 17th, October 15th, November 19th, December 17th, January 14th, February 11th, March 18th, April 22nd, May 20th, and June 17th. All families are welcome.

September To help families to use Skyward/Family Access to check attendance, grades and report cards. Two sessions: September 18th at Maywood Middle School and September 19th at Issaquah Valley Elementary, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

October 3th What Every Parent Wants to know about the ISD, Part 1
To help families understand everything about elementary schools, middle schools and high schools. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Issaquah Valley Elementary.

November 7th To help families of elementary schools to communicate with teachers. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Issaquah Valley Elementary.

December 5th What Every Parent Wants to Know about the ISD, Part 2
Topics will include: Special services, role of school counselors, curriculum information and adoption process, how to join district committees, etc. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Issaquah Valley Elementary.

January 30th Welcome to the Issaquah School District
To help incoming Kindergarten parents. Location TBD from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

February 27th Middle School Information Night
Topics will include: courses offered in middle school (math and science pathways, foreign languages, PE, band, orchestra and choir), how counselors work, etc. Location TBD from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

March/April High School Information Night
2 separate sessions, one for incoming 9th graders and one for parents. Dates and Location TBD.

For updated information, please visit:
<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/cultural-and-family-partnerships>.

Kindergarten to High School

COST Tuition is free, but some activities have fees for additional offerings such as after-school programs, field trips and sports. Please ask the school secretary if your family needs financial assistance. All requests are kept completely confidential.

ATTENDANCE The school will contact families using a computerized message if your child has missed that day. You have to call back and explain why your child has missed school. Some excused absences are due to illness/health, family emergencies, pre-approved family trips and religious observances. If you know your child will have to miss school, communicate with the school with the following information: name of child, teacher, date(s) and the reason for their absence.

If an elementary school student has 5 or more excused absences in a single month during the current school year or 10 or more excused absences in the current school year, the District will schedule a conference with the student and their parent(s).

If a middle school or high school student has 5 unexcused absences in one month or 10 unexcused absences in a year, the District will refer the student to a community truancy board or file a petition and affidavit with the juvenile court.

DRESS CODE Students wear casual clothes to school; there are no uniforms. Every school has a dress code, but in general, students will be asked to dress modestly. Shoulder straps of a shirt must be at least 3 fingers wide. No low-cut shirts, body-clinging, tight clothing or clothes that display writing or pictures that are obscene or suggestive. Shorts and skirts must be at least the length of student's fingertips when hands are dropped to sides and undergarments must be completely covered.

CURRICULUM All grade levels and content areas use a curriculum that is aligned with the State Standards. For more information: www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/curriculumstandards

HOMEWORK Elementary students often receive packets of homework or an individual page assigned to reinforce classroom instruction. Most teachers require daily reading as a part of homework. Homework won't be graded; it's only for practice. The teacher usually reviews the homework in class.

For middle school and high school, the amount of homework depends on the classes that they are taking. All homework is posted on teachers' websites and students write details in their planners. To make sure your student is doing homework, check the Gradebook in Family Access. In some classes, students can turn in late work, make up assignments and even retake tests if needed. If students have questions, they can email their teacher or stop by their office before or after school. Schools offer after school help for many classes. Check the website of your school for additional resources.

COMMUNICATIONS It's very important for you to be informed. Contact your teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child, and inform her/him about any important life events that may affect your child at school such as the birth of a sibling, divorce, death in the family, etc. You can also contact your teacher, school counselor or principal if you want to discuss academics or behavior. They have access to a phone interpreter service, if needed. The phone numbers of all teachers are listed on the school websites.

To get emails from the District and the school, sign up here: <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/news/ENews>.

There is also a lot of information on the websites of the Issaquah School District, the school and PTSA. To help your child succeed at school, students often use teacher websites to check homework, or send assignments. Teachers also post syllabus information (expectations for class, tests and homework), calendar, and contact information on their websites.

In elementary school, it's very important to attend Curriculum Night at the beginning of the school year and also attend Parent Teacher conferences, a meeting with the teacher of your child. Your school will give you the details. Every day check your student's backpack since teachers send forms and information to parents with kids.

In middle school or high school there are not parent conferences, but you can always request a meeting. Contact a teacher to discuss your child's progress or if you are worried about grades. For social, behavioral or emotional concerns, email or call the school counselor. Phone interpreters are available.

STATE TESTS Student progress is carefully monitored through state testing of the Common Core Standards. However, these assessments are not part of your child's grade.

Grade Kindergarten	Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)
Grades 3th to 8th, and 10th to 12th	Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)
Grades 5th, 8th, 11th	Washington Comprehensive Assessment in Science (WCAS)
Grade 12th	End-of-course (EOC)
Grade K-12th	English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA 21)

<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/assessment>

SPECIAL SERVICES Our District has programs that serve students with disabilities from birth through twenty-one years who reside within district boundaries. For more information, visit <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/SpecServices>.

BUS Bus stop and route information will be available online in mid-August.
<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/transportation/elink>.

Students are required to arrive at their bus stop five minutes prior to pick-up time. Pick-up times may change during the school year; parents will be notified. Parents are responsible for their children prior to pick-up and after drop-off. Drivers do not allow parents or any other person to board the bus.

Students are expected to behave properly and safely on the bus and at bus stops, and to comply with the driver's directions. Disciplinary rules are enforced on buses in the same manner as on school campuses, and video cameras are installed to assist staff in maintaining discipline. A complete list of bus rules can be found here: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/transportation>.

Students may ride on other buses or get off at a different stop on a space available basis with a written request from the parent to the school. A bus pass must be obtained from the school office at least a half-hour before school is dismissed. Students will be dropped off only at authorized bus stops. Kindergarten students must be released to their parent or guardian unless there is a "Release Form" signed by the parent. If you have any questions or concerns regarding a particular bus route, bus stop or bus driver or if you wish to speak with someone regarding student bus behavior, you may contact the Transportation Department at 425-837-6330.

LUNCH Food is available for purchase from the kitchen every school day. Lunch costs approximately \$4.00 and milk is \$0.50. Students are assigned a lunch account to pay for their meals. They will need to remember a PIN to type on the keypad at the cash register during lunch serving times. Deposits may be made directly through the school office or the cashier in the kitchen. For your convenience, online payments may also be made by visiting www.myschoolbucks.com. Parents may select an auto-pay option as well by visiting the website.

Menus and nutritional data are posted before the end of each month for the following month:
<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/lunch>.

Students can also bring their lunch from home. For financial assistance, applications are available at any time during the school year:
[https://issaquah.strataapps.com/\(S\(sorh1e2iw03bn3xim02lojcz\)\)/default.aspx](https://issaquah.strataapps.com/(S(sorh1e2iw03bn3xim02lojcz))/default.aspx).

LOST & FOUND Schools are not responsible for any lost items. However, there are assigned places where all misplaced items are collected. If students are missing something, they can look for it at the Lost & Found location in their school. A couple of times throughout the year, unclaimed items are donated to local charities.

COUNSELORS Each school has Counseling Services. All students have access to and the right to participate in the school guidance and counseling program. The counseling program is based on specified goals and developmental student competencies for all students in support of student achievement. It is planned and coordinated by school counseling teams with consideration of other school, parent or guardian and community representatives. There are many programs and services for child abuse, crisis intervention, families with financial needs, homelessness, mental services and special accommodations due to disability, etc.

<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/career>.

ASB Associated Student Body Every middle school and high school has an ASB organization of students. Principals designate a staff member as the primary advisor to the ASB organization. During the school year, they have fundraising activities to raise money for clubs, sports, dances, etc.

The ASB organization of each school has cards they sell to students in order for them to participate in sports, music groups, and events. Cards cost between \$35 to \$55. There is financial assistance available for students that qualify.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS Middle schools and high schools provide identification cards to students with their name, grade and a photo. Students are expected to carry their card at all times during the school day and at school activities.

CLUBS Schools offer a variety of after school clubs at no cost. Check the school's website to see what clubs are at the school and the dates the clubs meet.

SPORTS Schools offer a variety of sports for students each year. They will be asked to have an ASB (Associated Student Body) card in order to participate in a sport. Practices are held after school and students can take the activity bus home afterward.

MUSIC Schools offer students an opportunity to participate in music programs and productions throughout the year that includes concert band, jazz band, orchestra, choir, etc. Check the website of your school for details.

LOCKERS Middle school and high school students will be assigned a locker to store books, school supplies, winter and sport gear during the day. Some students may have to share lockers.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES Each school has an Electronic Device User Agreement. Students and parents will be asked to review and sign.

BELL SCHEDULES For a bell schedule by school and program for the 2018-2019 school year, please visit <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bell-schedules>.

ELL English Language Learners If you notify the school that your child speaks any language other than English, your student will be given an English Language Placement Test. This is a short test given by school staff where your child's listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are tested.

A letter with the results will be sent to parents. The Placement Test will place students at one of these levels: Emerging, Progressing or Proficient. Emerging and Progressing ELL students will be eligible for ELL instruction. Proficient students are not eligible but will qualify for extra academic support if needed for two years after transitioning from active ELL services.

Elementary ELL model: The "Supportive Mainstream" model is used in our elementary schools. In this model, students spend their day in a regular classroom. Many of the classroom and ELL teachers are trained in Project GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design). As the basis for service, ELL certificated teachers and paraprofessionals come into the classroom to help students develop academic language, and/or provide other interventions as needed, to be successful in their class.

Middle School ELL model: A certified teacher teaches the English Language Development (ELD) class for ELL students. This class works to build student proficiency in academic language, helping students access the core curriculum throughout the rest of their day. These classes focus on oral language development, explicit instruction in the structure of the English language and academic language development through reading, writing, speaking and listening. They may also support the student in their core classroom work. Some middle schools also provide after-school support for ELL students. This class takes the place of an elective. So, if a student is taking an ELL class, they won't have the opportunity to do music.

High School ELL model: A certified teacher teaches an English Language Development class for ELL students. This class works to build student proficiency in academic language helping students access the core curriculum throughout the rest of their day. These classes focus on oral language development, explicit instruction in the structure of the English language and academic language development through reading, writing, speaking and listening. They may also support the student in their core classroom work. Some high schools also provide after-school support so that students can receive extra help with academics and language learning.

Once a year, the students take an online test in February or March called the ELPA 21 Test; the results will show their language growth and current ELL Level. If a student scores Proficient they will exit the ELL Program. To see a Family Guide to ELPA21 (in English and Spanish), click here: <http://www.k12.wa.us/ELPA21/Timeline.aspx>. To see sample test items, use Google Chrome and the following web address: <http://www.elpa21.org/assessment-system/sample-items>.

More than 1,200 students receive ELL services in the Issaquah School District. For more information, please contact the ELL office at 425-837-7093.

TERM	DEFINITION
accommodation	A change made to a student's academic plan or daily schedule that helps the student learn better.
chaperone	A person who accompanies or looks after a group of students on a field trip or sporting event.
CCSS Common Core State Standards	A common set of national goals for K-12 students in Math and English Language Arts. These goals help prepare students for college and careers.
extracurricular	Activities outside the school day that are sponsored by the school. These activities may cost money.
fundraiser	An opportunity for the school to raise money for additional programs, such as sports, art, music and supplies.
highly capable student	A student who typically scores in the top 3 -5% on both cognitive and achievement tests. Scores are typically at the 97th percentile or above.
IEPs Individual Education Programs	These are written educational plans that are developed at least annually, for students who have a disability.
LRC Learning Resource Classroom	A classroom where special education students receive instruction from a Special Education Teacher. Students may be in this class for part or all of the day, depending on their IEP.
NGSS Next Generation Science Standards	A common set of national goals for K-12 students in science and engineering. These goals help prepare students for college and careers.
PE Physical Education	A class where students work on physical fitness.
PTSA / PTA Parent Teacher (Student) Association	A parent organization that supports students and families to ensure success in education.
special education	Specially designed instruction provided to a student who has a disability.
VOICE Mentors	Issaquah School Foundation's volunteer that mentor students in academic, social or life skills.

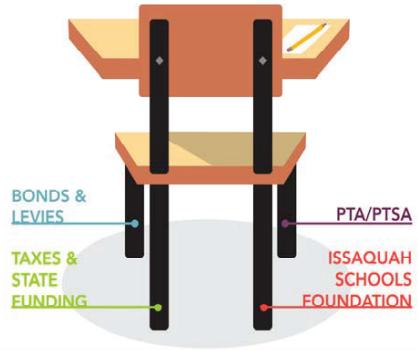
NATIONAL (JUNIOR) HONOR SOCIETY It's an organization that recognizes and encourages academic achievement while also developing other characteristics essential to citizens in a democracy.

In order to join their school chapter, students are requested to have a certain accumulative grade point average (GPA) after the first trimester of 7th grade. To maintain membership, students will have to complete eight hours of community service and attend meetings. Members will have the option of doing this activity until High School when it's called National Honor Society.

HOW ARE SCHOOLS FUNDED? AND HOW CAN YOU HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION?

TAXES & STATE FUNDING	BONDS & LEVIES
<p>Public education funding is a very complicated system. Schools receive funding from the federal government, state government, and local tax levies and bonds.</p> <p>The majority of the District's operating budget comes from the state and is based on a school district's enrollment, a per-pupil basis.</p> <p>The District uses the operations budget to fund all programs, services, textbooks and materials, and salaries, in short everything needed to run the District day to day. However, this does not fully cover the cost of a modern education.</p> <p>Issaquah ranked 269 out of 295 state school districts in 2016-2017 in per-pupil funding.</p> <p>Districts are allowed to ask voters for levies to fund extras. Local voters approve levies every two to four years to make up the difference in what the state pays for and what the District needs to offer a high quality education.</p> <p>The District relies on these levies to cover the gap between what the state provides and the actual cost of salaries, special education services, aging computers, upgrades to wireless Internet, software, emergency communications, new buses, athletics, clubs, extracurricular activities, etc.</p>	<p>In their funding formulas, state and federal governments provide little or no resources to pay for school construction or repairs, educational technology, or school bus purchases. Instead, the state allows school districts to run levies and bonds asking local taxpayers to fund these specific items.</p> <p>If levies and bonds are not supported by local taxpayers, a school district has to use its operations budget—state and federal dollars meant to pay for classroom operations—to do the work (e.g., repair a broken boiler) or make a purchase (e.g., replace a broken-down or unsafe bus). For example, if a failing school roof costs the district \$250,000 to replace, that is equivalent to the cost of three teachers' salaries out of the annual operations budget.</p> <p>School bonds specifically provide funding for construction—renovating and building new schools or repairing facilities to ensure students learn in safe, secure and modern classrooms.</p> <p>School bond elections require a supermajority (60 percent) of voter approval to pass. If you are eligible, VOTE! And if you are not, help with the campaigns and explain to other families why this is so important.</p>

Issaquah Students' Success Relies on the Stability of These Four Key Partners in Education



<h2>ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION</h2>	<h2>PTA/PTSA</h2>
<p>In our District, we are fortunate to have continued support from the Issaquah community and groups such as the Issaquah Schools Foundation and PTSA who work alongside the District in realizing its mission.</p> <p>The Issaquah Schools Foundation supports programs that benefit ALL Issaquah School District students.</p> <p>Thanks to generous donors, the Issaquah Schools Foundation is able to provide over a million dollars in programs and grants annually each year to the students and teachers in the Issaquah School District.</p> <p>This magazine is only one example of the programs that the Foundation makes possible. Cultural Bridges serves as a bridge of communication between the Issaquah School District and parents who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse.</p> <p>There are many ways to get involved with the Issaquah Schools Foundation! Be a FutureMap Career Coach, become a VOICE Mentor or volunteer at their events. As a donor to the Issaquah School Foundation, you are fueling success for every student at every school.</p> <p>To learn more, go to page 3 or visit www.isfdn.org</p>	<p>Every school in our District has a PTSA. PTSA presidents and principals meet regularly and the PTSA continually supports school activities.</p> <p>PTSAs have delegates that attend the WSPTA Legislative Assembly and vote for resolutions and legislative issues. In 2017, these items covered mental health needs for children, LGBTQ inclusion, lunch policies, and class size reduction to name a few.</p> <p>The PTSA offers meaningful volunteer opportunities within the school community. These volunteers are critical for activities such as Picture Days, Vision & Hearing and Kindergarten Registration.</p> <p>The PTSA supports students, staff and parents creating fundraising events like fun runs, auctions, book fairs, and bake sales. With these funds, the PTSA provides art supplies, laptops, teacher stipends, field trips, library books, playground equipment, recess activities, STEM and cultural programs, school assemblies, reading clubs, events, and more.</p> <p>The PTSA sponsors experiences that encourage social connections and cultural awareness such as Bingo nights and Cultural Fairs.</p> <p>Contact your PTSA, be a member, volunteer in their activities and participate in their fundraising events!</p>



2018-2019 District Calendar

M	T	W	Th	F
SEPTEMBER				
27	28	29	30	31
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

OCTOBER				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

NOVEMBER				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

JANUARY				
31	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

- Sept 3:** **Labor Day**
No school for students or staff
 - Sept 5:** **First day of school for students (grades 1-12)**
 - Sept 10:** **First day of school for Kindergarten students**
 - Oct 8:** **Teacher Work Day**
No school for students
 - Nov 12:** **Veterans Day Observance**
No school for students or staff
 - Nov 22-23:** **Thanksgiving holiday**
No school for students or staff
 - Dec 5 & 6** **Elementary conferences**
 - Dec 20-Jan 1:** **First Winter Break**
No school for students or staff
 - Jan 21:** **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
No school for students or staff
 - Jan 28:** **Teacher Work Day**
No school for students
 - Feb 18:** **Presidents Day**
 - Feb 19 - 22:** **Second Winter Break**
No school for students or staff
 - Apr 8 - 12:** **Spring Break**
No school for students or staff
 - May 27:** **Memorial Day**
No school for students or staff
 - June 19:** **Last day of school for students**
- WEATHER MAKE-UP DAYS**
If school is closed during the school year due to inclement weather, June 20 will be the first make up day. Additional school days will be added to the school calendar in June as needed.

M	T	W	Th	F
FEBRUARY				
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	

MARCH				
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

APRIL				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

MAY				
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

JUNE				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

2018-19 school calendar
12.19.17

*Calendar is pending negotiations for the CBA beginning in 2018

CITIES

The Issaquah School District includes schools in the cities of Issaquah, Bellevue, Newcastle, Renton and Sammamish. All of these cities offer wonderful events, free classes, and many services. Check their websites for more information!

Kindergarten

The Issaquah School District offers Full Day Kindergarten at no cost for all students. A half-day, morning kindergarten option is also available for families. Half-day kindergarten students may still ride the bus in the morning. However, if parents or guardians choose the half-day morning session, they are responsible for picking their child up at the end of the three-hour, half day. The kindergarten registration window begins in early February and ends March 9th. Registration takes place at your neighborhood school.

If you don't know which school you will attend next year, the Transportation Department can help. Call 425-837-6310 or enter your home address into the Transportation Department's E-Link system to find your school: <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/family/transportation/elink>.

Kindergarten Readiness

Children grow and develop in different ways and at different speeds. Your child may have more or less skills in the outlined areas. Use this document as a guide to create opportunities for students to learn and grow!

<p>Speaks clearly so others can understand their words. Takes turns in a conversation. Follows multi-step directions.</p>	<p>Is curious about new things or ideas. Generates ideas to solve a problem. Sorts objects by different features. Remembers and retells a family experience.</p>
<p>Plays well with other children. Shares with others and is able to take turns. Lets an adult know if they need help. Uses words to solve differences with peers.</p>	<p>Holds and uses a pencil with a proper grip. Can walk, run and jump. Goes to the bathroom without help. Washes hands after going to the bathroom. Puts on his or her own coat and shoes.</p>
<p>Knows letters and numbers are different. Names many letters of the alphabet. Makes many of the letter sounds. Produces rhyming words. Enjoys books and being read to. Holds a book properly. Writes most of the letters in their name. Understands letters can be made into words. Knows that words are a way that we can communicate with others.</p>	<p>Counts the number of items in a group. Counts out loud, in order, to 10 or more. Uses words like "all" and "some" to describe an amount of items.</p> <p>If you have concerns about your child's readiness for Kindergarten, talk to your preschool teacher, pediatrician or contact Child Find at 425-837-7197.</p>

How can I help my child?

Be Ready for the School Day

- Help your child have a good day by keeping a regular schedule. Ensure they are getting enough sleep (9-12 hours) and start their day with a nutritious breakfast.
- Stay connected to your child's classroom including checking your child's backpack after school for notes and homework.
- Support your child independently completing self-care tasks (putting on and zipping their own coat, opening food containers themselves, using the bathroom and washing hands on their own).

Set Expectations

- Be a good role model by showing your child a positive attitude about school and learning.
- Talk with your child about making new friends and meeting people who are different from them.
- Talk with your child about how you expect them to behave at school and the importance of respecting teachers, staff, and other students.
- Help your child to think of solutions if they have a problem and talk about what they could do in unexpected situations.

Practice Skills at Home

- Read to your child every day whether in English or your home language.
- Engage your child in math activities including counting and sorting.
- Teach your child their full name, and practice writing their first name.
- Use everyday situations to practice taking turns, sharing, and following routines.
- Get plenty of exercise and spend time outdoors every day.
- Teach and model good hygiene, washing hands after using the restroom, brushing teeth and coughing or sneezing into his/her elbow.
- Help your child learn skills to calm themselves (like taking deep breaths or counting to 10) if they are upset. Help them learn to use words to solve problems with others.
- Engage in extended conversations with your child. (Ask questions about what they are playing with, what they noticed, etc.)

Are you wondering what the goals are for kindergarten and other grades?



The State of Washington has learning standards that define the knowledge and skills every student needs to be ready for when they complete every grade.

To learn about the goals for kindergarten, visit www.yourchildsprogress.com, where information can be found in English, Chinese, Khmer, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Elementary

Grades 1st to 5th are considered elementary education and the Issaquah School District has 15 elementary schools.

SCHEDULE There is one teacher per classroom who teaches the majority of the subjects to the whole class, in small groups or one-on-one. Other adults, such as paraprofessionals or parent volunteers, may also work with students. Students will spend the majority of their day in their classrooms. For music, physical education and library, students go to other classrooms and have other teachers. Teachers post their weekly schedule on their websites. Regularly students have 20 minutes for lunch and 2 recesses of 20 minutes each day, with the exception of Wednesdays. Classmates change each grade level, and students have different teachers each year.

BEHAVIOR Kids are asked to walk inside the school, to not raise their voice level and to respect the personal space of each student, or "space bubble." At recess, they will be asked to keep their hands to themselves and to not play roughly. In class, students will need to raise their hand to talk. Students participate actively in classrooms; this is recorded on their report card under "behaviors that promote learning."

CELEBRATIONS Schools organize a lot of special days for students, such as pajama day, crazy hair day, etc. These are called Spirit Days. Teachers will let you know about these events. If you have questions about the holidays your family celebrates, talk to your teacher. Schools encourage children to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others. Parents are asked not to send birthday or other party invitations to school, especially when all children in a classroom are not included. In some schools, birthdays are celebrated once a month. Ask your child's teacher for the procedure regarding classroom birthday celebrations.

VISITING Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom. However, please contact the teacher to schedule a specific visitation time. Parents are also welcome to visit students during lunchtime. Ask your school for regulations. All visitors must sign in at the school office and are required to wear a visitor badge at all times.

VOLUNTEERING Once a person has completed the District's background check and volunteer application form, schools welcome all families to volunteer in the office, classrooms, the library or health room. Volunteers help the PTSA to support art docent programs, and other enrichment activities in schools. All volunteers must complete an on-line background check application: <https://issaquahvolunteers.hrmpplus.net>. Note that your volunteer approval lasts for one school year only.

Volunteers make a big difference at schools. All family members are welcome to volunteer. Kids love to see parents, grandparents and caretakers volunteering in their classrooms, recess and events!

GRADES Report cards are not mailed or sent home. Parents need to go to Family Access to view and download them. There is not a ranking system in the US, and grades in elementary school don't count towards college.

Teachers use pre-tests and post-tests to track student growth. Pre-tests are given before a unit, so teachers can see what students already know.

Teachers use daily assignments and tests to provide grades for report cards. Students are graded based on Washington State standards, and report cards each trimester reflect student's progress towards the end-of-year standards for Behavior that Promote Learning and Academic Performance:

Level 4: Exceeds Standard
Level 3: Meets Standard
Level 2: Approaches Standard
Level 1: Well-below Standard.

Level 2 and 3 are the most common grades. Celebrate the 3's! For more information (in English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean) visit <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/fieldtest>.

PBSES Positive Behavior Social and Emotional Support The District's vision statement for PBSES is to promote respect, positive relationships, and predictable, proactive learning environments so that students can lead socially and emotionally safe and healthy lives. More information can be found here: <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/programs/pbSES>.

HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM The Issaquah School District's Highly Capable Program provides a continuum of services to eligible students in grades K-12. Testing is required for eligibility. PEP is the program for Kindergarten to 2nd grade. MERLIN and SAGE for 3rd to 5th, and Secondary for 6th to 12th. To see the descriptions of the these programs, go to <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/programs/gifted>.

SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS There are some choice programs with extra emphasis on science and technology for 4th and 5th graders. These programs are located at Briarwood, Cascade Ridge and Clark, but all students can apply. When students are in 3rd grade, they will be selected by a lottery in April. There are parent information sessions in February and March. Attendance is required to apply. Parents will need to provide transportation for their child if the school is not their assigned home school. For more information, go to: www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/programs/ScienceTech.

FIELD TRIPS Permission slips are sent home with your child prior to a field trip and must be returned before your child can be transported off school grounds. If you do not wish your child to participate in a particular field trip, alternative activities will be arranged.

HEALTH Parents will be asked to pick up their child if a health problem occurs. A student with an oral temperature of 100° or over should remain at home until free of fever for 24 hours. A school nurse is available for consultation and may be contacted through the school office.

LASER PENS/POINTERS Because of the potential for serious injury to the eyes, students are not allowed to bring or use laser pens/pointers on school grounds or buses. Every school has their own rules, but other things that are not commonly welcome at schools are cellphones, hoverboards, heelys, hats, and gum.

PETS/ANIMALS The District has implemented a no pet regulation. Pets should not be brought to school unless all District regulations and procedures have been followed. Please check with your building administrator for approval and necessary forms.

PHOTOGRAPHY Professional photographers visit each school to take individual and class pictures. Students, however, are not required to purchase photographs. Information, including cost/package options, is sent home prior to the photographer's visit. A portion of the profit is returned to each school.

SAFETY Safety drills are held monthly. Safety drills such as fire, earthquake, shelter in place, and lockdown drills are practiced to help familiarize students and staff with the procedures to follow should a real emergency occur.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL Parents are requested to deliver students to school no earlier than 10 minutes before classes begin. If your student walks to school or if you drive your child, please be sure you are supervising them until 10 minutes before classes begin.

At the end of the day, students who have not been picked up 15 minutes after the school days ends will be brought to the school office and parents will be contacted. Because supervision is not provided before or after school, students are not allowed on the playground and must wait in a supervised area. Parents must come to the office to pick up their child.

LEAVING EARLY If a child must leave school before dismissal, parents are required to stop in the office and sign their student out. Students will then be called from the classroom by the office. Please do not go to the classroom. If your child leaves school with less than 2 hours left in the school day, the dismissal is recorded as a tardy.

5TH GRADE In the last year of elementary education, schools have special activities for the students. One of these activities is going to camp. Students spend three days participating in hands-on lessons that compliment their science and social curriculum. They also enjoy dancing, canoing, crafts and campfire songs. The last assembly of the school year is very special for 5th graders, since they get to celebrate the completion of elementary school with all the students. Later, they get to do the same with their families during the Promotion (it's not called Graduation).

Middle School

Grades 6th to 8th are considered middle school education and the Issaquah School District has 5 middle schools.

COURSE SELECTION In March, students are asked to choose the classes for the following year. They will get information packets and parents will help select the courses in Student Access.

Students are required to take a full year of Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science at each grade level, these are called Core classes. Advanced and accelerated options are available to students in Language Arts, Math and Science and placement in these courses is done using an informed self-select model. Information can be found in your student's course selection packet and on the district website. There are some additional required classes like Health and PE (Physical Education) and Tech Smart (6th grade only). And there are elective courses such as Chorus, Band, Orchestra, Spanish, etc.

SCHEDULE Students move to different classrooms for each subject, and they have different teachers. Classes are between 50 to 55 minutes long and are called "a period." There are 6 to 7 periods daily. They have a 30 minutes lunch and no recess.

GRADES Teachers use letter grading: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F (D is passing and F is failing). It's important to read the Syllabus from each teacher to understand grading expectations. Middle school students receive 3 official trimester report cards each year. Parents can check their students' grades through Family Access. There is not a ranking system in the US.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT All middle school 7th and 8th grade students who complete high school credit courses are eligible to have those grades and credits placed on their high school transcript. A request can be made to add the credit and grade at any time up to the point of the student's junior year credit review with his/her counselor. Please note that once the grades are added to the high school transcript, the grade and credit cannot be removed and will permanently be included in the computation of the student's grade point average.

TESTS There are class, District and State tests. For class tests, teachers write the tests based on curriculum. Students have these tests several times during the trimester. For District tests, students will be asked to take a pre-assessments test before the trimester and a post-assessment after a unit or trimester. For State tests, see page 7.

PROMOTION Students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th who receive passing grades in at least eleven of their twelve trimester common core courses will be promoted to the next grade level. Students with more than one failure in Language Arts, Social Studies or Math are recommended to make up the course in the District's in-person Middle School Summer Program. The middle school principal will formally notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the students who are to be retained by the last day of school.

Issaquah School District App

Do you really know how your kids are doing at school? Don't worry; there's an app for that!

You can use the Issaquah School District app on your smartphone or tablet and it's available on all major mobile platforms, including iOS, Android and Windows Mobile.

This app allows you to be more involved in your student's education. You can check their attendance, homework, pending projects, class grades, test scores, behavior reports and more. This app provides immediate access to students' alerts and schedules too.

Here you have the instructions to get yourself started!



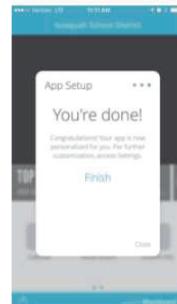
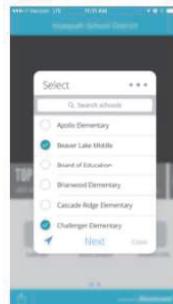
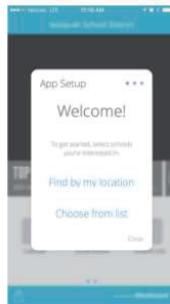
Issaquah School District App

1: Download App on Phone/ Tablet

2: "Choose from list"

3: Select School/s

4: "Finish"



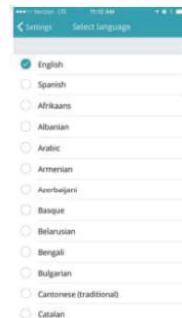
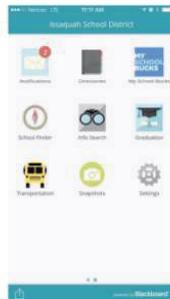
To Change Language Settings

1: Swipe to 2nd Screen

2: Select Settings

3: "Select Language"

4: Select Language



High School

Grades 9th to 12th are considered high school education and the Issaquah School District has 4 high schools. Students in 9th grade are called freshman; in 10th grade, sophomore; in 11th grade, junior; and in the 12th grade, senior.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS Each year has two semesters that last 18 weeks. Students earn one credit unit for each full-year subject passed or one-half credit unit for each semester-length course passed. Classes meet 300 minutes per week. Students must earn 22 credits in order to graduate. Please visit the school's counseling website and online course guide for detailed information about each graduating class' individual requirements.

State exams in Biology, Math and Language Arts are also required. These test are given to students in 10th and 11th grade. The High School and Beyond Plan is another part of graduation requirements. Please talk to the school's Career Center to learn more.

COURSES When students are in 8th grade, they receive a package so they can plan their four years in high school. Students and families will be able to request their student's classes for the next year. Students need to take one class of each of the general subjects: English, Math, Science and Social Studies. There are different classes offered each year for each of these subjects.

In order to meet their graduation requirements, students also need to choose courses in PE and Health, music, art, science, history and other areas.

GRADES Teachers use letter grading: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F (D is passing and F is failing). It's important to read the Syllabus from each teacher to understand grading expectations. High schools students get their grades after each semester. Parents (and students) can check their grades through Family Access. There is not a ranking system in the US. Colleges and employers look at high school transcripts listing all high school grades, courses and the student's cumulative grade point average (GPA).

AP Advanced Placement At Liberty and Issaquah high schools, students can take these college-level classes in high school. Students may receive college credit, depending on their test score and the college they attend.

IB International Baccalaureate This is a Diploma Program that students in Skyline High School can obtain. It's a pre-university course of study for grades 11 to 12 based on international standards. During their sophomore year, students will be ask to sign a contract outlining their classes for 11th and 12th grade. This Diploma is recognized by many universities worldwide.

RUNNING START All high school students can choose to take certain classes online. Students in grades 11th and 12th can attend a community college and earn College and High School credit at the same time.

TRANSCRIPT This is an official record of a student's grades for High School level classes. Colleges and employers only look at High School transcripts (not middle school or elementary report cards).

WORLD LANGUAGE CREDIT Students can get a World Language Credit if they take tests and meet scoring requirements. This is a great way for bilingual/ELL students to get credit for fluency in their first language. Ask your High School counselor for details.

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER Schools have excellent resources for students and parents who need information about post-secondary education and career decisions like financial aid, part-time jobs, volunteer opportunities, etc. Look for all this information on the school's website.

DANCES Schools organize many dances for students. Homecoming is during the fall. Although it is a formal event, girls usually wear short dresses. This event is linked to a football game. TOLO is a spring dance where traditionally the girls have to ask the boys to go as their date. And there is always a fun theme, so students wear costumes. In addition, at the end of the school year, schools organize the Prom, a very formal event, where girls wear long dresses and boys wear tuxedos.

DRUG FREE ZONES Schools in the Issaquah School District are protected as drug free zones, as established by the City of Issaquah and King County. Drug free zones provide for possible double penalties for anyone caught trafficking controlled substances within 1,000 feet of a designated school, school bus stop or public park.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING If a student feels that he or she is being harassed, intimidated, or bullied because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, or disability, the student should immediately report such incidents to a teacher, counselor, or building administrator. A complete copy of Regulation #3207 may be obtained at any school or on the district website at www.issaquah.wednet.edu.

GIBSON EK HIGH SCHOOL This is the District's newest high school that opened its doors in September 2016. This school uses a Big Picture Learning model that encourages to use "out of the box" methods of learning. At Gibson Ek, students learn through projects that have been carefully chosen instead of attending classes like ones at a regular high school. New learning methods work better for some people. If you have questions or want to learn more about the school, visit www.gibsonnek.org.

Fueling success for every student at every school.

The Issaquah Schools Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that raises money to support students in the Issaquah School District in Issaquah, Sammamish, Bellevue, Newcastle and Renton. We work together with community members, donors, educators, volunteers and PTAs to fund programs that help students find their “spark”—a love of learning that keeps them excited about school and connected to their education.



Foundation-funded programs include:

- Art Education
- After-School Homework Help
- Backpacks & School Supplies
- Coding Clubs
- Cultural Bridges
- Food Aid
- One-to-One Mentoring
- Orchestra, Choir & Band
- Robotics Clubs
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Clubs



ISSAQUAH
SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

Learn more about Issaquah
Schools Foundation at

www.isfdn.org