

Fireside Elementary - Ambassador Program Guide Information Source and Support Network

Welcome to Fireside Elementary!

The goals of the Ambassador Program are to:

- Ensure that every child and family in the classroom is supported to negotiate the resources of the school and the community.
- Support access to extra-curricular activities both within the school and externally including information and funding.
- Provide a source of ongoing support, information and connections for new families to Fireside, International and Bilingual Families.
- Build a more inclusive community.
- Celebrate diversity at Fireside Elementary.

There are families that volunteered to be 'Fireside Falcon Friends' and they are here to help answer any questions families may have in navigating the school system and to support your family throughout the year. Please feel free to contact our PTO lead with any questions. We want to help you feel connected to the Fireside and greater Louisville community.

Fireside Ambassadors Contact:

Paige Dow (programsfiresidepto@gmail.com) **PTO Programs Chair**

ARRIVING AND LEAVING SCHOOL:

School start: School starts at 7:50 am. There is a 5 min warning bell that rings at 7:45 and school bell at 7:50am. People typically walk, bike or drive to school. There are bike racks to the side of the school where you can leave your scooters or bikes. You dismount your bikes once on school grounds and pass the yellow lines. If you are dropping your child off, you can park in the school parking lot and walk them to their class. Alternatively, you can go to the "hug and go", the location of this will be changing this Summer so more info is to come. 'Hug and go' is just that; the child would walk to their door and the driver is not to leave their car parked in this area. Children line up at their classroom doors and their classroom teacher lets them in as the bell rings. If it is past 7:50am children can enter through the front school door and after 7:52 am they will sign in as tardy.

School pick up: If your child does not have an after school program or class, then they should be picked up at their classroom door at 2:50pm.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Friday Folders: Every Friday, your child's teacher will send home important information through your child's Friday folder. Be sure to look for it in your child's backpack! The Friday folder will contain important information from the teacher, the district, and the community. In the first weeks of school, there is a lot of information that comes home, but this does slow down as the year progresses. If you have any questions about the items found in the folders, please contact us. Please ask if you have any questions from the Friday folders.

Fireside Directory: The Fireside Directory is a place where families share their contact information (phone number/email address). We highly recommend that you opt in to the invitation sent via email at the start of school or when you are enrolled. You can also manage your account settings in Help at School to opt in and be included in the directory.

Fireside Chat: The school will email you each Friday. This communication often includes a blog post from the principal as well as other pertinent school communication. Reading this each week will keep you up to date on everything happening at school.

Fireside Parent Teacher Organization (PTO): The Fireside PTO also has a section in the Chat including information about fundraising, school supplies and PTO sponsored events. This information is also available on the PTO website (found below).

The Fireside Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is made up of parents, teachers, and our principal. We work together to provide a quality scholastic experience for all Fireside students and to make Fireside an excellent school for our community.

The PTO uses family events and community activities to raise funds for Fireside. We do not ask our children to sell door-to-door, so please help us by supporting our events and activities. Your donations are always welcome, even if you cannot join us.

The PTO funds many projects including: additional teaching tools in the classrooms, buses for field trips, the annual science fair, new computers, playground equipment, classroom books and supplies, additional paraeducator hours, and more.

All members of the Fireside community are welcome and encouraged to attend monthly PTO meetings, which are usually on the third Wednesday of each month from either at 9:10am-10:30 or 5:30-6:45 PM. Babysitting and food included! School needs and budget issues are discussed and voted on by attendees. This is your chance to influence just how PTO funds are put to work in your child's school! Childcare is often provided.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES AND USEFUL SOURCES

Camps: The Ambassador program has created a list of summer camps. Summer camp

registration does start early in this area (sometimes as early as February). Ask an Ambassador for guidance on this or any other school vacation ideas. (Check PTO website for information on camps)

Fireside PTO: <https://sites.google.com/site/firesideptoco/> Please visit this site to learn more about fundraising, Volunteer opportunities, school calendar, PTO minutes and much more.

Fireside Elementary Homepage: <http://fie.bvsd.org> Please visit this site to learn important school announcements, report an absence, notice of school closures, information on Fireside activities and clubs and information about teachers and contacts.

Lifelong Learning: <http://www.bvsd.org/III/Pages/default.aspx> Lifelong Learning has many courses for adults and children. Some of these classes are held at Fireside after school. If your child participates they will make their own way to this afterschool activity and you will collect them when it is finished. There are fantastic after school programs from learning Spanish to participating in the school musical. We recommend you review the website to see what's on. The list of classes becomes available in September.

Louisville Recreation Center: Lots of activities for the entire family. Many children participate in the sports activities organized by the recreation center.

<http://www.louisvilleco.gov/residents/recreation-senior-services/>

YMCA: Lots of activities for the entire family. <https://www.ymcabv.org/>

School Age Care (SAC): SAC offers an inclusive, fee-based, licensed program that provides a safe, fun and enriching environment for children before and after school at Fireside.

<http://bvsd.org/sac/Pages/default.aspx>

KEY FIRESIDE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES *(Parent volunteers are always welcome and needed at these events)*

Parent Teacher Conferences: Dates: TBD. Twice a year parents have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher to talk about their child's learning and progress. This informative meeting lasts about 20 minutes. A sign-up sheet will be sent out via email several weeks before conferences. The PTO also organizes volunteers to provide meals for the teachers on these evenings.

Fireside Fun Run: September 20, 2024. Fireside's biggest fundraiser. Students run/walk laps by grade level at the end of the school day to show enthusiasm and support. Parents can come cheer on their child(ren). Families are asked to help raise money for Fireside by asking family members, neighbors, and/or making personal donations to the school. Some children donate the money they make from lemonade or bake stands. Our community understands that not all families will be able to contribute, and that is ok. All children can participate in the Fun Run. There will also be a community celebration in the evening.

Spirit Nights: About once a month local restaurants will host a night where a portion of their earnings from that evening will be donated to Fireside PTO. This is a fun night to eat out and see friends while supporting the school. There are also some social nights where places like SkateCity or The SPOT will sponsor nights

Community Literacy Week: Each year the school celebrates literacy week. There are opportunities for parents to read to the children and many interactive programs during the week.

Science/STEM Fair: Spring 2026. The Science Fair is a great time for students of any grade to explore and discover new ideas and then share their knowledge and enthusiasm of inquiry with others in a supportive environment. Students display their projects and meet with judges to explain their discoveries. The fair is non-competitive for grades K-2 and competitive optional for grades 3-5. Students can work alone or with a partner. An informational packet will be sent home in the Friday Folders approximately a month prior to the fair explaining what is necessary to participate. Janine Fitzgerald, Tag Coordinator, is the organizer of this event
janine.fitzgerald@bvsd.org.

Field Day: Spring 2026: This is a day of fun non-competitive games that takes place for several hours during the school day. Parents are welcome to come watch the fun. A schedule for each grade level will be sent in Friday Folders.

Class/grade level Parties: There are three grade level or class parties that take place schoolwide: Halloween, before Winter Break, and Valentine's Day. Parent Volunteers work with the teachers to provide food and activities for each class. Parents may attend these parties and are encouraged to contribute to supplies or food needed.

Multicultural Celebration: February 2026 A family night of celebrating our diversity. Families bring a dish that represents their heritage.

Teacher Appreciation Week: Spring 2026. We have amazing teachers at Fireside and this is a week where parents and students come together to show our appreciation! The PTO organizes different activities from encouraging students to write thank you cards to bringing in a flower. Some families do things on their own like bringing their teacher coffee or a gift card. Here is a link to the [Staff Favorite Things](#).