

2025 Summer Beyond the Bell FAQ

Program Dates, Times, and Locations

What dates will Beyond the Bell be open?

Beyond the Bell's summer program will begin on Monday, June 9 and the last day of summer will be Friday, August 15.

We will be closed on Friday, July 4

When will the Beyond the Bell summer program be open?

We will be open Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. We ask that you drop off your child between 6:30 - 9:00 and pick them up between 3:00 - 6:00 when doors will be monitored.

Who can attend the Summer Beyond the Bell program?

Any child that will be going into Kindergarten/TK - 6th Grade for the 2025/2026 school year.

What sites will the Summer Beyond the Bell program be at?

Beyond the Bell will be at Grant Ragan, Maple Grove, Radiant, Shuler, Sugar Creek, Waukee, and Woodland Hills.

Due to planned improvement projects at the school buildings we will not have summer programs at Brookview, Eason, Walnut Hills, and Waterford.

Which school should my child enroll at?

During our summer programming you can enroll your child at any site we have open. Some schools may have more availability than others, we encourage you to consider multiple schools when enrolling your child.

Payment Information

What is the summer weekly fee?

Our weekly fee for 2025 is \$200. Below is the breakdown of how the \$200 weekly fee will be charged.

Deposit - \$25 per week due at enrollment. The deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable

Weekly fee - \$175 invoiced and due following [this schedule](#).

Please Note - Week of June 30 - July 3 will be prorated to \$140 due to being closed on the 4th.

When are payments due for each week?

We will follow [this schedule](#) for payments and cancellations.

****Please note payments will not be accepted after the due date. If payment is not received by the due date, your child will be cancelled from the week and will not be able to attend.****

How do I make payment? Beyond the Bell has 2 ways to make payment: With a debit/credit card through RevTrak or by dropping a payment off at our child care office. Beyond the Bell does **NOT** have an automatic deduction option.

Debit/Credit Card through RevTrak:

Directions are linked at the end of these notes. These notes are answers to the most frequently asked questions/problems with making payments.

1. In the directions below click on the shopping cart icon to make payment. If you are entering a credit card number, you are not making a payment. You are updating a card you have on file in RevTrak. After entering your card information, you need to go back to your cart to complete payment.
2. Once payment has been completed, you will have the option to print or see a receipt. An additional receipt will be sent to your email.
3. Unfortunately, online payment can only be made through the RevTrak account that you enrolled your child under. Our fees cannot have payments made from multiple parent RevTrak accounts.
4. [Here are the directions](#) for making payment through RevTrak.

Dropping Off Payment At Child Care Office:

If you need to pay by check or cash, you need to drop that off at our child care office. Our office is located at the intersection of 5th Street and Cherry Street in Waukee. You will see Child Care as a department listed on the window of the building. You can drop off payment at any time by placing it in the drop box by our entrance. Entrance is located right next to the windows with the departments listed on them. Please label these payments with "Beyond the Bell" and your child's name.

Can I pay ahead or in advance? Yes, following the directions above, you can manually enter payment into each account. Each week of summer will be \$175. The one exception is week 4 - June 30 - July 3 - the fee is \$140 for that week only due to Beyond the Bell being closed on Friday, July 4.

What if I need to cancel a week I've enrolled in?

If you need to cancel a week, you need to email Rich Miller at rmiller@waukeeschools.org to cancel. Cancellations must be made 2 weeks in advance of the week following [this schedule](#). The \$25 deposit will not be refunded for a cancellation. Payment will be reimbursed if

cancellation is made before the cancellation deadline for the week. Payment will not be reimbursed if cancellation is made after the cancellation deadline for the week.

How do I check the weeks that I enrolled for?

You can check the weeks you have your child/children enrolled through revTrak by following [these directions](#).

Communication during the summer?

During summer, communication will be made through RevTrak. Unfortunately, RevTrak only allows emails to be sent to the email address that summer enrollment is made under. You can update your email address in RevTrak under your Account Settings.

Drop-Off and Pick-up:

What are drop-off and pick-up times?

Drop-off - 6:30 am to 8:30 am

Pick-up - 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Can I drop-off or pick-up outside of those times?

You can, you will need to call the cell phone numbers posted on the doors. Keep in mind that staff are with other children, leading activities, and cell reception isn't the greatest in some areas of our buildings...please be patient if you need to call. We highly recommend giving staff advance notice of drop-off / pick-up outside of the times listed above. Please see Field Trip Information regarding drop-off and pick-up on field trip days.

Where do I drop-off / pick-up my child?

Children and parents need to enter the buildings at the main entrance. The main entrance of each school building is the entrance nearest the flag and flagpole.

How can I enter the building?

For the summer, the main entrance will either be monitored by Beyond the Bell staff or unlocked during our drop-off/pick-up times. The app that parents use during the school year will not be available during the summer.

What to Bring Each Day

Will my children need to bring lunch?

Yes, children will need a lunch from home each day. Majority of the days we will eat at the school. Lunch can be left in your child's bag. There are occasions that we will eat on field trips that children will be asked to bring a disposable lunch that everything can be thrown away easily.

Beyond the Bell will be peanut free this summer.

Beyond the Bell will serve a morning snack (usually breakfast type food) and an afternoon snack.

What will my children need to bring to Beyond the Bell?

- **Backpack:** Children will have a number of items to bring each day and a backpack will help keep their belongings in one spot. There are wall hooks where children will hang their backpack.
- **Lunch:** Children will need to bring lunch each day. Due to multiple allergies at our sites this summer, **lunches need to be peanut free**. Please note on some field trips children will need to bring bag lunches where everything can easily be thrown away. Unless on a field trip, lunches will need to be kept in your child's backpack until they eat.
- **Refillable Water Bottle:** We encourage children to bring a refillable water bottle to take outside for easy access to water, on field trips or to get drinks inside at the school. Please label water bottles with your child's name. All of our sites have a refillable water station.
- **Sunscreen:** Per DHS regulations **all children** need to have sunscreen everyday. Each child needs their own sunscreen as siblings could be in separate groups and on different field trips. Sunscreen will be kept in a zip lock bag (we provide) with your child's name labeled on it. We are required to apply sunscreen every 2 hours we are outside and every 1 hour we are at aquatic centers. That is usually 2-3 times a day on site, 3-4 if we are on an outdoor field trip, and 4-5 times when we go to aquatic centers. Sunscreen will need to be replaced when your child runs out. Any sunscreen can be used. Just note that spray sunscreen tends to run out a lot quicker than lotion. Staff will monitor children as they apply sunscreen and assist younger children or children that need help.
- **Shoes:** Please, make sure that your child is wearing shoes with a back. Tennis shoes, sandals with a back, etc... Children will be running, playing, and being active and need appropriate footwear.
- **Books:** Children will have time to read each day and children will be able to bring a book or books from home to read.
- **Additional Items:** Some field trips (swimming) or themed days at site (water day) might require children to bring additional items from home. These days will be communicated to parents in weekly letters from on-site supervisors and on parent boards at the sign-in/out table.

Is there anything my child can't bring? Unless items are listed above please don't have your child bring them. We don't want your child's toys or other belongings to get lost, broken, or stolen. Beyond the Bell has plenty of things to play and activities to do.

Children are not allowed to have communication devices such as cell phones and smart watches in use while at Beyond the Bell.

Field Trip Information

Do children go on field trips?

Children will go on 3 field trips each week. Field trip calendars are linked below. Please note the following when clicking on the calendar links below:

- It's easiest to open the link/calendar by using a web browser. The link may try to open in your calendar on a mobile device.
- The calendar will start with the current date. You might need to scroll ahead.
- These are Google Calendars and can be added to your calendar apps.
- Many trips we need to divide into groups of younger or older children as they can accommodate half of our children at once. Older children will be those children entering 3rd - 6th grades. Younger children will be those entering PK/K - 1st grade. Our children entering 2nd grade tend to be somewhere around the cutoff. Some 2nd graders may go with older children and some may go with younger groups. Parents of children entering 2nd grade will know what group their children are in before the start of the week.

[Grant Ragan Calendar](#)

[Maple Grove Calendar](#)

[Radiant Calendar](#)

[Shuler Calendar](#)

[Sugar Creek Calendar](#)

[Waukee Ele Calendar](#)

[Woodland Hills Calendar](#) (School located within WDM city limits on S 95th St)

Can we drop off or pick up our child on a field trip?

We understand that children have other camps and activities during the summer and sometimes those conflict with our field trips. On these occasions, parents might request to drop off or pick up their child while we are on a field trip. There are field trips that you can and field trips that you cannot drop off or pick up while we are there. If we are at a park, you will be able to drop off your child at those places. Parks which we usually hit once a week for a trip and are easy for you to drop off / pick-up at. Supervisors must be notified a day ahead of time, however. (Please note - Jester Park is the only exception to parks. We schedule programs with Naturalists at Jester Park).

Trips that we pay an admission to get in, you will not be able to drop off or pick up your child. Most of these places require our entire group to enter at the same time...and pay at once, they

can give all the children any directions they may need to give them, or they just have a policy that everyone in the group needs to enter at the same time. For Beyond the Bell, it is very difficult on these trips to have 1 staff person monitor a drop off or pick up due to our required ratios while on field trips or to interrupt a group of children's trip to meet at an entrance.

Trips you cannot drop off or pick-up at include, but are not limited to: Jester Park, Mini Golf, Blank Park Zoo, Iowa Cubs game, Science Center, Aquatic Centers, Roller Skating, etc...

**** Due to state mandated ratios, children can only be dropped off at the school when their age group is at the school.****

When can we drop off our child on field trip days?

We ask that you drop your child off at least 30 minutes before we leave for a trip. Thirty minutes before leaving, we make sure the children have a field trip shirt, have all items needed for the trip, go over all directions with the children, do attendance multiple times and hit the restroom before leaving.

Safety at Aquatic Centers:

For aquatic centers we have a ratio of 8 to 1 (a few centers require that for large groups). We have swim shirts that our children will wear while swimming. That makes our children more noticeable with our staff and the lifeguards.

During enrollment parents will select the swim level that they want their child to be in. Your child will have a wrist band based on the swim level parents signed up their children for. The wrist band reminds all of our staff how far each child can go in the water. Red level children can go waist deep in the water when standing and yellow can go chest deep when standing in the water. Green levels will be able to swim within the vision of a staff person at any depth of the pool. Green level will have to pass a swim test with Beyond the Bell staff and/or aquatic center staff in order to swim in the deeper water.

All of our staff are required to be spread out in either the pool, on the edge of the pool, with children at the spray toys (a couple centers have these away from pools while others have them in a pool.) or 1 staff person will be at our camp. Lastly, we go to aquatic centers that are fairly small, less popular, and not spread out. Our children will be confined within a small area that can be more easily monitored by our staff. We have been asked by some aquatic centers about our training for our staff as we go above and beyond what other groups do.

What are the swim levels:

Red Level - Child is a beginning swimmer. Child is only allowed in water that goes waist high when they are standing in the water.

Yellow Level - Child is an okay swimmer. Child is allowed to go into water up to chest high when standing in the water.

Green Level - Child is an excellent swimmer. Child will be allowed to enter water at any depth, including use of diving boards, slides, and lazy rivers. Green level must pass a swimming test with Beyond the Bell staff before being allowed to swim in deeper water. Aquatic centers may do additional testing for your child.

Can I switch my child's swim level?

You will need to contact the supervisor at the school your child attends to update your child's swim level.

How are children transported to field trips?

Beyond the Bell will utilize the district school bussing company.

New Enrollment Information

When does enrollment start and end?

Enrollment is currently ongoing until 11:59 pm on Friday, May 2.

****Please Note - All Summer Enrollment will close at 11:59 pm on Friday, May 2****

How do you enroll for Summer Beyond the Bell?

We will have a new enrollment process for the 2025 summer compared to the last several summers.

- 1.) Starting on March 4 at 9:00am, enrollment will begin.
- 2.) Parents will enroll their child for each week individually. Each week will be its own separate enrollment.
- 3.) Enrollment will be through RevTrak by following [these directions](#).
- 4.) Each week of summer that you enroll your child will require a \$25 non refundable deposit paid at enrollment.
- 5.) The deposit will be part of the weekly fee. The remaining weekly fee will be billed 3 weeks prior to the week. Payment will be due 2 weeks prior to the week. Please see [this schedule](#) for billing and payment due dates for each week of summer.

Why did the summer enrollment change?

Summer 2024 saw a record number of waitlist spots of almost 200 combined over all of our sites. We had 50 children that attended 0 weeks and another 30 that attended 1 week. To better serve the children of the Waukee Community School District that need summer care we needed to:

- a.) Have a more accurate way of knowing the number of children enrolled and attending each week, along with better knowledge of a weekly waitlist if a waitlist is needed.

b.) Have more spot availability compared to previous summers. BtB will have 30 more spots per site than what was used on average last summer. The number of sites will increase from 6 to 7. We will have 270 more spots available each week than what was used last summer.

c.) More of a commitment (\$25 deposit per child per week) to reserve a spot for each week. Previous summers the fee was \$25 to have a spot for the entire summer. That was not a deterrent for parents to take a spot that wasn't going to be used.

d.) Allow the \$25 deposit to be part of the child's weekly summer fee.

Is there a waitlist for the summer program?

There could be a weekly waitlist if weeks fill up. However, some schools could have more availability than others. We encourage you to consider multiple sites when enrolling. There are no guarantees that spots will become available at your preferred site. Availability of spots will depend on cancellations of other participants.