

# BOOP K-1

# Family Group Guide

# 2025-2026

Multi-aged Kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms  
in Bowman's Open Optional Program

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# About BOOP

## What does “Optional” even mean?

If you look online for a definition of “Optional” you won’t find one. What you will find is a myriad of schools across the country approaching education from an alternative and more flexible lens. Optional programs are self-defining, and the best definition for Bowman’s Open Optional Program is that it is an interactive, multi-age, approach to learning in which personal growth, cooperation, creativity, and social skills are prioritized. In addition, the belief that academics should be approached through themes, integrated with each other, and grow from real world applications. It is designed to help students become hands-on, self-motivated and passionate learners.

## No Grades?!

You are probably quite aware that grades are not a part of BOOP. While we do many assessments, the district benchmarks, and assessments of finished work, we do not assign number or letter values to them. Instead, we gather that information, as well as student work artifacts, in portfolios.

## Student-Led Conferences:

Students will lead their conference by sharing their portfolio with their family and teacher. If there are any academic or behavioral concerns, we try to address them beforehand in order to make conferences a time to celebrate student growth. This is also a time when we will talk about setting goals for the future, including behavior and academics. If you have any concerns about your child’s progress let us know right away and we can set up a meeting. Please do not wait until conferences if you have a concern about your child.

## Team teaching, Multi-age Classrooms, Family Groups:

Every family group is composed of two teachers, who teach a multi-age group together throughout the year. Each classroom has a small amount of division between the subjects, but generally both teachers teach all the subjects and group students flexibly. We go by our first names as teachers in the family group (Ali, Sho, Melissa, & Alicia are the K/1 teachers, Roz, Sophie & Bethany are the 2/3 teachers, and Mike & Kari are the 4/5 teachers).

Each year we split the class into two multi-age groups and students store their things on one side of the room according to their group. They also attend their specials in these groups. Students will likely have both adults teaching them at some point during the day, and will not always be on their “sides”. We learn so many different ways in our room; multi-age, whole group, small group and grade-level.

# Classroom/Bowman Basics

## Arrival 7:40-8:00am:

The first bell is at 7:50. If your child arrives before 7:50 am there is playground supervision from 7:40-7:50.

If your child is late (arriving in the classroom after 8:00 am), please stop at the office to check in so they are not marked absent.

It is wonderful if each child can be at school on time on a regular basis. If they are at school by 7:50, they will have that important time in which to greet friends, put away gear, take care of attendance, orient themselves to the day's schedule, etc.

**Monday arrival is 8:50.**

## Dismissal 2:30pm:

Students will be dismissed from the front of the school by the numbers outside the front door at 2:30pm. Typically, we will head outside at about 2:25pm. Please let us know if your child's departure will vary from the usual way. This includes when they go home with a friend, have a different driver, getting off at a different bus stop, etc. Each child needs to say goodbye to a teacher before they leave.

If you need to take your child before 2:30 you must talk to one of the front office staff, Ms. Bright or Ms. Megan, and sign your child out in the office. They will notify us over the intercom that your child is to be dismissed, and we will help them get packed up and sent down to the office.

## Lunchtime:

**Home Lunch:** If your child is bringing lunch from home they will place it on the cart outside our door. Please have their lunchbox labeled with your child's first and last name.

**School Lunch:** If your child will be purchasing hot lunch or milk throughout the year you can prepay on a lunch card, which your child will "swipe" every time they purchase lunch. It is not a bad idea to have money on a lunch card in case of an emergency or forgotten lunch. For school lunches, parents may set up lunch accounts on your child's Q account. Please check with the school office to obtain your pin and login information. The costs are: breakfast \$4, lunch \$5.75 and milk is \$1.

## Trips/Vacations:

We know that your student will sometimes miss school due to family trips or vacations, and we think varied life experiences are an important part of learning. For this reason, we send students, not with a packet of work to complete, but rather with a Trip Journal in which they can record their experiences to share with us. We are also hoping to collect postcards that students send while they're away, the address for the school will be in the trip journal. Students will have the opportunity to share their journal with the class when they return to school.

## Excusing Absences:

Please call the attendance hotline 907-566-5650 or email [bowmanoffice@asdk12.org](mailto:bowmanoffice@asdk12.org) if your child will be absent. If you have a planned absence, please let us know as well as the school office. It would be really great if when notifying us or the office via email you include us both on your communication.

## Field Trips:

We love taking students into the community to enrich their learning. More information and schedule will be coming soon! We often ask for family members to volunteer to chaperone for field trips and lead a small group of students. If you hear about unique opportunities in the community for field trips, let us know!

## Snack and Water: Please send one in with your child!

We have snack time each day. Please pack a small healthy snack each day for your child. If a child does not have a snack, we sometimes have extras for students that are donated by families. Also, please send in a water bottle for students to leave at school during the week. We will send them home on Fridays for washing. Sending in a water bottle encourages hydrating throughout the day and helps free up the line at the water fountain.

Healthy snack donations are always appreciated.

## Outdoor Gear:

Please be sure your child is ready for the weather. If it is wet/raining send rain gear (pants, jacket, boots). When winter arrives we will be fully clothed in gloves/mittens, hat, snow pants, coat and boots. Children will always have the option of wearing their school PE shoes indoors so **extra shoes are not necessary**. In wet and winter weather it is best to send your child wearing the footwear they need for outdoors. This way they are sure to have what they need. Please label everything!

## Lost and Found:

We have a whole school lost and found by the entrance. We try to keep our classroom coat closets neat and will send any extra items at the end of the week. Children often will not claim their gear. PLEASE, PLEASE write your child's name on EVERYTHING ☺.

## Classroom News and Communication

We will send home a newsletter every week on Friday sharing what we did in school and any upcoming events or classroom news. We use the Friday folder as a way to send home items in an organized way. It is really helpful if families help students remember to return their folders each Monday.

## Homework

Regarding homework, please note that research does not yield a connection between homework and increased success in school. However, research DOES demonstrate a highly positive relationship between reading at home and academic success as well as the importance of spending time with family. For this reason, homework will take the following forms:

**Read with your child every day**

Switch roles between reading and listening, let them choose books based on interest or comfort level. Each month, students will receive a R.E.A.D (Reading Excites and Delights) calendar. If students meet the reading goal, they can exchange their calendar at the end of the month for a free book provided by our amazing PTA.

**Family Projects:**

We sometimes create projects for your student to work on at home with your support. This kind of activity really helps students experience learning holistically at home and school.

**Hands on Homework:**

Throughout the year, we will send home math games, activities and projects that are related to what we are studying. These will have specific directions and if applicable a due date.

**iReady:**

You can have your child work on their independent iReady lessons daily/weekly. Log in using their ASD credentials through [clever.asdk12.org](https://clever.asdk12.org).

ASD credentials are last name.firstname pswd: 12345

**Other ways to support your child in K/1**

- Read the weekly newsletter
- Provide a healthy snack
- Have your child's name on everything, practice getting on winter gear (make it a game), and teach your child to tie shoes.

**Help your child learn important safety information such as:**

- Telephone Number (Home number or parent cell phone number)
- Address
- Full Parent Names
- Emergency Number 911

# Special Things

**Birthdays:**

Each month we have a birthday celebration. We celebrate birthdays as a group because 40+ separate birthday celebrations is a lot to celebrate! We typically hold our birthday parties on the LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH for all students who have birthdays in that month. You should receive an e-mail from our party planners beforehand with an invitation and snack sign up. If your child is celebrating a birthday, please bring in a (semi) healthy snack for the whole class (~48 kids). We will make you aware of any allergies to consider.

**Party Invitations:** Please use the addresses on the K/1 directory if you are inviting select classmates. You may send birthday invitations to pass out at school if given to all students.

## Elder Family Share:

Public speaking is a skill that the B00P program prides itself in supporting and practicing throughout a student's time here. Elders will have the opportunity to present information about a passion or interest. Their presentation can be about anything that they would like to share! Past presentations have included information about a favorite sport or activity, a family pet, a trip taken or a hobby your child is involved in or something that you do as a family. Visuals are encouraged for the share and can be a poster or digital presentation (if using technology please send to us in advance so we can make sure it works). Families are encouraged to come help present, presentations should be no longer than 10-15 minutes. We have made a schedule for children to present, but if you need to adjust your time/day please let us know!

## Friend of the Week:

If your child is a Kindergartener, they have the opportunity to share a Friend of the Week share. Nearly every week throughout the school year a Kindergartener will be featured in our family group as our Friend of the Week. We'll go alphabetically by first names and a reminder will be listed on our weekly newsletter. A special time will be set aside each week for the Friend of the Week to tell us about him/herself. A poster of photos, drawings, etc. (which has been prepared at home) will be displayed in the room. The week before your child's week, a bag of information and materials will be sent home to help you and your child prepare. View the online calendar to see your child's date.

## Mystery Reader:

Mystery readers are guest readers that come into our classroom to read a book to the class. This is a great opportunity to share your child's favorite book, surprise them and get them excited about literacy! The "mystery" of who the reader is will be secret until you arrive (unless you want to tell your child). When you arrive, sign into the office and ask the office staff to call down to our room to let us know that the Mystery Reader is on their way down to our classroom. Students get super excited about this!

## Toys, Stuffed Animals, Special Items from Home, etc.:

Please keep toys, cards and other special items safe at home unless requested for sharing. There will be a few times during the year we may ask children to bring in special items for different activities and projects. Keeping special items at home helps us all learn together without distractions and keeps special items safe and sound!

## Parent Involvement

A big part of B00P is the idea that learning is a holistic experience- students are always getting an education, be it at home or at school. For this reason, the program encourages parents to come into the classroom frequently and/or get involved in learning activities. This can take many forms, including signing up for weekly classroom roles, coordinator positions, special events, helping out in the classroom, or even taking jobs home. Please feel free to drop in any time to see the classroom- you can always help by reading with a student or being another set of hands.

# Alicia & Melissa's Family Group Communication

## We are a Team!

The Optional Program is all about team teaching in a family group and throughout the program. We prefer that communications be sent to both of us so we can be on the same page. Likewise, all communication you receive from us, regardless of which e-mail it is from has been reviewed or written in tandem. Meetings are also held with both of us as we work with all students on all subjects. To reach us both with one email use [boopk1@asdk12.org](mailto:boopk1@asdk12.org)

## Remind:

We use the Remind App. You can also download the App, create an account, and sync your phone to your account to get more features!

Text the appropriate code to 81010

First Grade Code: boopk Or join via Link: <https://www.remind.com/join/boopk>

Kindergarten Code: boopk1 Or join via Link: <https://www.remind.com/join/boopk1>

## Website:

See our website for volunteer sign ups, newsletter. <https://bit.ly/BOOPK1>

## Homeroom:

Homeroom is a photo sharing app where teachers can upload photos for participants to view, like, and comment on. Families can also save photos to their device! Join our homeroom class by following this code:

<https://gethomeroom.com/i/EJWQLLG>

## Day to Day Communication:

If there is something super important that we need to know sooner rather than later, please call or email the front office during the school day, as we may not see the e-mail right away. You can always write us a note to send in with your child or send a Remind!

## Helping us Help your Child:

Please don't hesitate to let us know about changes, family or otherwise, that your child may be experiencing that could impact their learning. This provides us with a better understanding of your child and their needs. It could also explain academic or social behavior we are seeing at school and allow us to better respond and resolve any issues.