

6/24/25

Dear Emerald Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Emerald Elementary! This is a very exciting time for you and your child. We know the experiences and knowledge your child will receive in Kindergarten will lead him/her on a journey of discovery and life-long learning!



### **Kindergarten SMART Start:**

Our Kindergarten students will start school on a different schedule than our students in grades 1-5. The first days of school (September 12th - 18th ) will be an orientation for Kindergarten students. The purpose of SMART Start is to provide your student with more individualized attention and allow for a smooth transition from home to school. Our teachers will also use this time to become better acquainted with the learning styles and the academic and social needs of each individual student.

Half of the kindergarteners will attend on Friday, September 12th the other half on Monday, September 15th from 7:50-10:45. All students will attend for a half day on Tuesday, September 16th. The first Wednesday, September 17th, Kindergarten students will not attend school. All students will attend on the normal schedule beginning Thursday, September 18th.

See the chart below.

| Date                      | Students and Families                                                                          |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday, September 12th    | 1st half of all kindergarten students attend in the AM<br>Family/Teacher Conferences in the PM |
| Monday, September 15th    | 2nd half of all kindergarten students attend in the AM<br>Family/Teacher Conferences in the PM |
| Tuesday, September 16th   | All kindergarten students attend in the AM<br>Family/Teacher Conferences in the PM             |
| Wednesday, September 17th | No school for kindergarten students<br>Family/Teacher conferences in the AM                    |

|                        |                                                            |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday (and onwards) | All students attend on the regular (7:50 - 2:25) schedule. |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|

### **SMART START HOURS:**

7:50-10:45: Doors open at 7:45

### **LUNCH & TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED AT SCHOOL**

#### **Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Conferences:**

Parents and guardians are each child's first teacher. When a child enters Kindergarten, it is important that the family and the "next" teacher have a chance to get to know each other. To help us develop our home-school partnership and to help make the transition into kindergarten a smooth one, your child's class will participate in the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS). By participating in WaKIDS, families will have the opportunity to meet one on one with their child's Kindergarten teacher.

These conferences are in the afternoons of Friday, Monday, and Tuesday or in the morning on Wednesday. You are welcome to bring your child to the conference if you would like.

**Your child's teacher will let you know your conference, reach out to them with questions or scheduling concerns.**

#### **Additional Helpful Information**

##### **Name Tags:**

A name tag will be provided for your child at our Back to School night. If you cannot attend, we will give the name tag to your child on their first day of SMART start. **Please safety-pin the tag to your child's dress or shirt - not sweater or jacket-** for the first two weeks of school. If changes need to be made regarding your child's pick up or drop off address on the nametag, please contact the school office at 360-604-3925.

##### **Bus Routes:**

You may find bus routes and bussing information on the Evergreen School District website at: [Bus Routes](#).

Kindergartners will **only be dropped off at their stop if a parent or designated adult is present**. If there is not an adult at the stop to meet the Kindergarten student, the bus driver will not let them off the bus and the driver will return them to the school. If you

would like your student to be dropped off without a parent present, please complete a [Kindergarten Release form](#), available from the bus driver or the school office.

On your child's first day of school, it is important that they follow the routine they will be for arriving and departing from school. This is a new experience, and they will have a more successful time if allowed to accomplish this on their own. We will have adults at the school to help assist your child with getting to their classrooms and buses.

**School Hours:**

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 7:50-2:25

Wednesdays: 7:50-12:10

Doors open at 7:45 on all days.

AM half day for SMART Start 7:50-10:45

Office Hours:

Daily 7:10-3:10

**School Supplies:**

The Evergreen School District will supply all of the necessary supplies for your Kindergartener. You will only need to provide a backpack, jacket, water bottle (optional) and a lunch box if your child plans to bring lunch from home.

**Please put your child's name on their personal belongings (water bottle, jackets, lunch box, etc.)**

**Back to School Night:**

Years of successful education begins this fall at Emerald Elementary! We are delighted to have you join our school family. Please plan to attend our "Back to School Night" on Thursday, August 21st, 4:00-5:00. During this time your child will have the opportunity to meet his/her teacher and enjoy an otter pop!

**Additional Information for all students and families:****Arriving/Dismissal:**

If you plan to transport your child to school, please follow the traffic pattern signage and avoid using your cell phone while driving in the parking lot. There will be many students who are coming to school for the first time and will be trying to figure out where to go; therefore, they may be distracted. Below is a link to a video on how to safely access our parking lot and directions for student arrival and dismissal.

Parking Lot Directions Video: [https://youtu.be/TCsyJGS\\_Scc](https://youtu.be/TCsyJGS_Scc)  
[Parking Lot Map](#)

### **Riding the Bus to School:**

Here is the link to Emerald Bus Routes

Choose the bus stop closest to your house. Students will need to be at the stop by the time posted under the bus number. If you have questions about busing please call our transportation department at (360) 604-4950.

Students will need to follow the guidelines below when riding the bus.

- Students must stay in the same seat the entire bus ride
- Student must stay seated at all times while the bus is moving
- Students will be greeted by an Emerald staff member when they arrive at the school

### **Walking to School:**

- Students are expected to use the crosswalks when crossing the streets and the parking lot. We will have students and adults assisting at the crosswalks before school.
- Emerald staff will be supervising students during arrival and departure times. If you choose to walk your child to their grade level meeting spot, please park your car and escort your child, rather than waiting and watching from the pick up/drop line.

For the safety of our students and staff, parents will need to enter the school from the front office doors and sign in. **Parents will not be permitted to enter the building with their children to personally escort them to class.**

### **Departing School:**

If you are picking up your child from your car, please follow the procedures below:

- Remain in your car while in the pick up/drop off lane
- Follow traffic flow
- Remain in a single lane
- Continue to move your car up the drop off lane
- Your child will wait until the car is at the curb and stopped before entering your vehicle from the curbside.

- **If your child cannot access the car from the curb, please park and meet your child at the flagpole**
- **If for any reason you cannot park (sleeping child, car seats, mobility, etc), please let staff know and we will escort your child to your car**
- If you would like to escort your child to your vehicle please park in one of our visitor parking spots and meet your child at the parent pick up spot by the flagpole area.

#### **Picking up your child in person:**

- Our student pick up area is located near our flagpole.
- Please wait for your child's teacher to bring your child to the pick up area
- For student safety and accountability, please make sure your child remains in the line until the teacher knows they have met up with their family member.
- Pull all the way to the top of the lane, your child will meet you there

#### **CLASS PLACEMENT:**

Class placements are **firm** except in very rare circumstances. Moving a student during the school year is considered only after a good faith effort has been made to alleviate the areas of concern in the existing classroom. Should a concern arise, please call the teacher.

#### **Closed Campus:**

Our campus will be closed for public access while students are in the school. (7:45-3:00)  
This includes after school club times as well.

#### **Daycare:**

Emerald will be partnering with Right at School to provide afterschool care at our school.

[Right at School Information and Enrollment](#)

#### **Family Community Resource Center (FCRC):**

Our HEART center is here to support our Emerald families with the tools and resources needed to learn and grow. Centers at our elementary schools support basic needs and provide direct referrals to community resources, while offering opportunities for student and family enrichment. Support may include school supplies, clothing, toiletries and hygiene items, fresh and nonperishable food, parenting resources, employment connections, housing and utilities resources and help navigating the system to access community resources.

For community-based resources you may find helpful during this time, please visit the [Community Resources Page](#).

**Healthy Snack Policy:**

Emerald Elementary is a HEALTHY SCHOOL, focused on the wellness of our students in alignment with our [district's wellness policy](#). If you plan to send your child to school, please make sure the snack is healthy. Healthy snacks are snacks that are whole grain, under 200 calories, and low fat (< 7 grams for 200 calorie snack), low in sodium, and sugar.

**Meals while at School:**

- Meals are free for all students (breakfast and lunch).
- Students will be served a free breakfast and lunch to eat while at school. Milk will be served at both meals (chocolate milk and white milk are both served at lunch time).
- Water will be available during lunch time.

**Recess:**

Students will be going outside for recess, rain or shine, so please dress them for all types of weather.

Thank you for your partnership and again, *WELCOME TO EMERALD ELEMENTARY!*

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mitchelson, Mrs. Crone and the Emerald Kindergarten Team