

Welcome Back! Let's Soar into 2025–2026!

Dear Image Families,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! We hope your summer was filled with joy and relaxation. As we prepare to embark on another exciting academic journey, we're thrilled to have our Eagles back in the nest, ready to learn and grow together.

If you have a child that will be age four prior to September 1st and lives within Evergreen Public Schools, they may be eligible for no cost preschool. If you are interested, please take a moment to complete this survey: <https://forms.gle/YEkZGKMkMNJcwZKU9>. If you know of another child that might be eligible, please pass on the link to them.

Important Dates

- **Teacher Assignments:** Available online via [Skyward Family Access](#) on **Wednesday, August 20th**.
 - **Meet the Teacher Night:** Join us on **Thursday, August 21st, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM** to meet your child's teacher.
 - **First Day of School (Grades 1–5): Tuesday, August 26th**
 - **Kindergarten Smart Start:** Our Kindergarten team will contact you with your child's specific schedule and start date.
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School Hours


- **Full Day:** Doors open at 8:35 AM; school begins at 8:40 AM; dismissal at 3:15 PM.
 - **Early Release Days:** Doors open at 8:35 AM; school begins at 8:40 AM; dismissal at 1:00 PM.
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Communication Platform

We will continue using [EPS Parent Square](#) for all school-home communications. Please visit the EPS ParentSquare site for more information.

Arrival & Dismissal

We will continue with the same routines as last year to support a smooth and safe transition for students.

 Walking Families (West Side Crosswalk)

- Arrival: Parents walking their children should remain on the west side of the main entry crosswalk—for your child's safety, please do not accompany them across the drive lane. Crossing is supervised during drop-off.
- Dismissal: Parents walking must wait on the west side until staff signal it's safe to exit. Please stay behind the crosswalk barrier until all cars have cleared.

Parent Drop-Off (West Side Car Line)

- Form a single-file car line along the west side of the loop—do not pass, and pull forward as space becomes available. Staff will greet children at the car, open doors, and help your child exit safely.
- Students enter school and proceed directly to classrooms; staff will be on hand to guide Kindergarten students through their first weeks.

Parent Pick-Up (Dismissal)

- At dismissal time, please follow the same car line. Pull forward completely, and turn off your engine.
- There will be staff to assist students. Once your child is safely inside, please exit promptly to allow others to pull up.

Early Pick-Up Procedures

- To pick up a child early, report to the main office, present a photo ID, sign out your child.
- Please ensure that your Skyward contact information is current, and notify the office in advance if someone unfamiliar will be picking up your child.

The Importance of Regular Attendance

1. Academic Achievement

- Students who attend school regularly are about **1.7 times more likely** to reach proficiency in reading and math compared to those with irregular attendance
- Even **missing just two days a month** can put students at risk of falling behind, accumulating gaps in essential learning

2. Long-Term Outcomes

- **Chronic absenteeism** (missing 10% or more of school days) is a strong predictor of dropping out and lower graduation rates
- Long-term studies show early absence leads to **poorer educational levels, economic struggles, and less civic engagement** in adulthood

3. Social & Emotional Well-Being

- Attending school fosters **friendships, self-confidence**, and a sense of belonging—all essential for emotional health
- Students who miss or arrive late frequently often feel *isolated* and disconnected from peers and teachers

4. Negative Ripple Effects

- **Tardiness** disrupts classes. It interrupts learning for all students and forces teachers to reteach missed content, affecting lesson flow
 - Habitual lateness can **lower GPAs, reduce test scores**, and increase disciplinary action.
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Why Even “Small” Absences Matter

- Missing a few instructional minutes *every day* adds up—**18 lessons per month**, hundreds per year—and that can derail student progress .
 - Early absence—especially in kindergarten—can lead to lifelong attendance issues and diminished achievement
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Why Punctuality Matters Too

- **Morning routines** kick-off vital parts of the day: attendance checks, previews, relationship-building, brain warm-ups. Being late causes kids to miss this. .
 - **Other students** lose learning time when teachers must pause to help late arrivals catch up
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What Parents Can Do

1. **Set firm routines:** Regular bedtimes, early wake-ups, and smooth morning transitions go a long way .
 2. **Reinforce attendance value:** Talk about how being there every day helps learning, friendships, and future opportunities
 3. **Identify barriers:** Is it illness? Transportation? Anxiety? Bring issues to school early so they can be solved proactively.
 4. **Positive reinforcement:** Instead of penalizing lateness, celebrate improvements with encouragement, praise, or small rewards.
 5. **Work together:** Schools, parents, and community resources can partner to resolve issues like illness or transportation.
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Bottom Line

Being present and on time isn't just about showing up—it's central to your child's **academic success, social development, and future potential**. Missing school or arriving late doesn't just cost content—it costs confidence, connection, and opportunity.

Transportation

Bus Routes: Available in August on the Evergreen Public Schools Transportation page. For questions, contact 360-604-4950.

School Lunches

All students will receive **free school lunches** this year. We ask each family to complete the 2025–2026 Child Nutrition and Education Benefit Application, which will be sent home with your child.

School Supplies

The Evergreen School District provides all necessary school supplies. Families need to provide:

- A backpack
- Tennis shoes on PE days

If you need assistance, please contact our Family Resource Coordinator, Noor Ayesh, at (360) 604-6850.

Supporting Your Child at Home

- **Establish a Routine:** Consistent wake-up, meal and bedtime schedules help students to feel secure and ready to learn.
- **Create a Learning Space:** A quiet, well-lit area for reading and homework can enhance focus.
- **Engage Daily:** Discuss school experiences with open-ended questions like, “What was something new you learned today?”
- **Stay Connected:** Regularly check ParentSquare, school newsletters, and your child's planner or folder.
- **Promote a Growth Mindset:** Encourage effort and perseverance, emphasizing that mistakes are learning opportunities.

- **Encourage Healthy Habits:** Ensure your child gets adequate sleep, nutritious meals and physical activity.
 - **Read Together:** Daily reading builds vocabulary and a love for learning.
 - **Celebrate Achievements:** Recognize and praise your child's efforts and accomplishments, big or small.
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We are excited to welcome all of our students back to Image Elementary. Let's make the 2025–2026 school year a fantastic one!

Go Eagles! 🦅

Warm regards,

Kathleen Keller, Principal
Lisa Angeley, Associate Principal