



Welcome to Bitterroot School!

Documents required to complete a new enrollment:

- 1) Current Immunizations - including 4 DPT, 3 Polio, 2 MMR, 2 Varicella
- 2) Copy of a certified birth certificate
- 3) Proof of residency (tax or utility bill)

A student's enrollment is considered complete when these items are submitted to the office.

Kindergarten Class Placements

In all other grades we have an opportunity to see children interact in a classroom setting over a period of time. We do not have that exposure with kindergarten and are unfamiliar with the dynamics of each student. To assist with placement, we will arrange students in a variety of groups the first few days of school. They will have time in each classroom and with each teacher, then every day we will conference and discuss student interactions. We have used this process in the past with great success. Please watch for Mrs. Grund's letter in August for more details.

Resources for Parents:

*Billings Public Schools Website Parent Page <https://www.billingsschools.org/parent-portal>

School Calendar

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1578336595/billingsschoolsorg/d1cwhrhmdof2uwydwgb2/2020-2021Approvedcalendar.pdf>

*Activate your Parent PowerSchool account and install the PowerSchool App for a current Daily Bulletin

*Bitterroot Elementary Website <https://www.billingsschools.org/our-schools/elementary-schools/bitterroot>

*Join either of the **Bitterroot School Wide Reminds** – text the message @944483 or @4hc6cc to the number 81010 **or** type rmd.at/944483 or rmd.at/4hc6cc in your browser on your smart phone. You may also sign up for emails at rmd.at/944483 or rmd.at/4hc6cc on your computer.

*Like the **Bitterroot Elementary**, the **Bitterroot PTA**, and the **Billings Public Schools Facebook Pages**

You may drop off documentation at the school, pop it in the mail or send in digital copies to zimmermanc@billingsschools.org. The Bitterroot Office will reopen August 5th, however some school preparations and trainings may make office hours fluid. Call or email if you wish to make an appointment.

DUE TO COVID-19: SOME OF THESE PRACTICES MAY BE CHANGED. PLEASE WATCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AS WE APPROACH THE OPENING OF SCHOOL



Welcome to Bitterroot Elementary!

Starting the Day:

Students who are eating breakfast at school are welcome from 7:45-8:05; at 8:05 those students proceed to their classrooms for morning choice. Students not eating breakfast are welcome at 8:05 and may go straight to morning choice. To ease traffic congestion and for student safety, we ask that you use Bench Blvd for student drop off and pick up. There is a crosswalk guard to provide assistance for those crossing from the additional parking available on Jacque Lane. A crosswalk guard is on duty at the bike path crossing on Wicks Lane to assist students who walk or bike to school. When the bell rings at 8:20, students should be ready to learn. Any students arriving after 8:25 must sign in through the main office.

Illness

Students who have had a temperature, vomiting or diarrhea, or an undiagnosed rash are welcome back to school **24 hours** after the last occurrence **without the assistance of medication.**

Medications at School

All medications must have proper paperwork in place before being brought to school, **including any over the counter medications.** Please contact the office regarding medication procedures. All medications must be in original packaging and be kept at the office. Students with asthma/allergies may carry medication if health plans are in place.

Meals:

Lunches may be paid directly to the Food Services Supervisor in the Bitterroot gym/lunchroom, or online at Mealtime Online at the Billings Public Schools website. Set up online access to student accounts and fill out free and reduced application online at <https://www.mymealtime.com/Apps/SignIn.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fapps>

Visitors/Treats:

We welcome visitors to our school, to minimize interruptions to learning, we ask that you set up the visit ahead of time with the teacher. All visitors to campus must check in at the main office. Classroom treats must be prearranged with the teacher and may be dropped off at the front office.

Appointments or Early Pickup:

Students who have an appointment during the day or an early release may be picked up from the office. To minimize loss of learning time, we will not call your student down until you are present to sign them out. Students who return after appointments need to be signed back in at the office.

Ending the Day:

School is dismissed at 2:20 for K-3rd grades. Please park on Bench Blvd to retrieve your student. Classes will exit on the north side of the building and line up with their classmates. We ask that you make eye contact and wave or greet the teacher as you pick up your child. Our 4th and 5th grade dismiss at 3:05 from the north side of the building as well. Once dismissed students must leave the grounds, they may return after the instruction day is finished with guardian approval. Please establish after school routines and discuss any changes in the morning. If the routine is changed please email/contact the teacher to avoid confusion. It is not always possible to deliver last minute messages late in the day about schedule changes. **Every Wednesday all students dismiss one hour earlier than normal, grades K-3 1:20, grades 4-5 2:05.**

Where to find Information:

*Billings Public Schools Website Parent Page <https://www.billingsschools.org/parent-portal>

**Activate your Parent PowerSchool account and install the PowerSchool App for a current Daily Bulletin

***Contact the **Bitterroot Office at 281-6205 or email zimmermanc@billingsschools.org.**

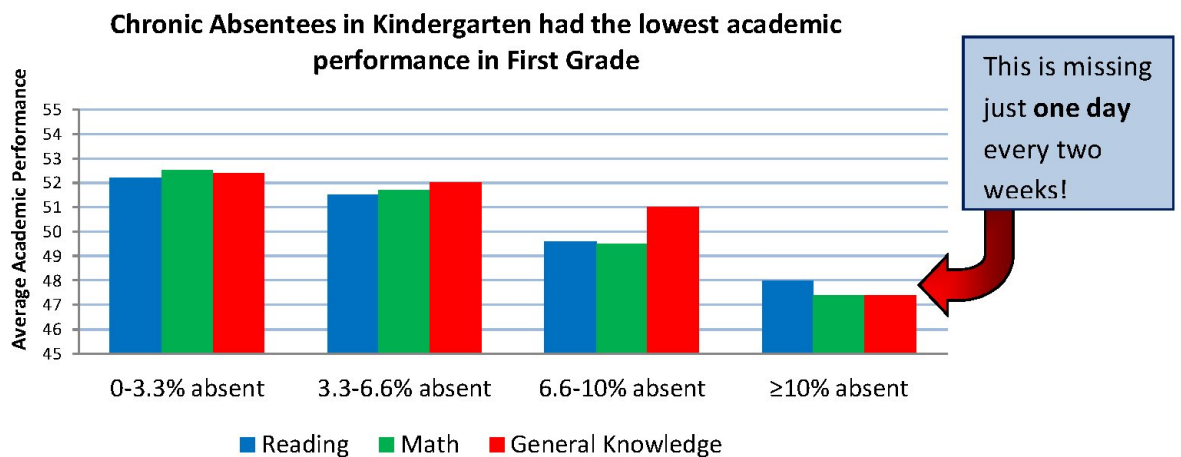
Attendance Matters

Is good attendance in kindergarten really that important?

YES IT IS!!! Kindergarten is critical for future learning. Your child will be learning important skills that will “set the course” for his or her school success!

Just look at these facts:

Ability to learn – children who are absent too much (more than 10% of the time, or 18 days in a full school year) **do less well in first grade**. For some groups the difference is even greater. *The graph shows how children who miss 10% or more school days perform much more poorly in Reading, Math, and General Knowledge.*



Source: Hedy Chang, *Present, Engaged and Accounted for: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*

Fact: One in ten kindergarten and 1st grade students miss a **month** of school during the school year when all their absences are added up. That is critical learning being missed. Children who do not learn the building blocks and basic skills in the early grades must work much harder to stay afloat as they go on. Many never catch up.

Fact: Chronic absence is the single strongest predictor of dropping out of school before graduation. Students who drop out of school are much more likely to be poor, unemployed, have substance abuse problems, be teen parents, and be involved with the law.

Students who miss school miss a lot. They miss the social experiences and connecting that other children are having – lessons and relationships that help with fitting in and succeeding in school and life.

Missing school is stressful for children since they must learn what they missed, and also what is being taught that day. It can put them in an academic hole that they cannot climb out of.

We know that sometimes families face barriers. Let us know what we can do to help. – Mrs. Grund, Principal

Lunch Time Tips for Kindergarten Parents/Students!



Dear Parents,

Eating lunch at school will be a new experience for your Kindergartener. Your child will have an easier time adjusting if you help with a few things.

If your kindergartener has a food allergy (or any allergy) please inform the school. You may purchase lunches by using Mealttime Online at www.billingsschools.org under the Parents tab. You will need to obtain your child's student I.D. from the school office prior to doing this and there is a credit card fee. You may also drop money off to the lunch clerk or send it with your student.

Have your child practice saying his/her first and last name in a clear voice. The lunch clerk will soon know all of the names, but this helps the first few weeks as the clerk gets to know the students. (Saying their first and last names is also one of the essential skills for Kindergarten)

If your child will be bringing lunch from home, please pack your child's lunch in a manner that helps him/her be as independent as possible. With each item ask yourself if your child will be able to handle it alone. Please help your kindergartener practice opening packaged food. Chips, juice and fruit containers are all challenging to small hands. To avoid messes, check to see if your student can close take home containers. We ask that you not send soda pop or candy in your child's lunch. All lunch bags/boxes should have your child's name on it.

If your student will be purchasing milk, money should be placed in his/her lunch box and explain that it is for milk. Please talk to your child about raising his/her hand in the lunchroom if assistance is needed. Other topics of conversation could be: the difference between "home" lunch and "school" lunch, and the need to use "inside voices" in a busy lunch room.

Thank you for taking the time to help your child have a more pleasant lunchroom experience. Soon it will be one of your Kindergartener's favorite times of the day.

Parent volunteers are welcome and appreciated, especially the first few weeks of school.

Thank you,

Bitterroot Kindergarten Teachers

 **BITTERROOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST 2020-2021** 

<p><u>Kindergarten:</u> 2 Boxes of 24 Crayola Crayons 6 Glue Sticks 1 Large Book Bag/Backpack (no rollers) 1 Box of Snacks 1 Box of Crayola Washable Markers 1 1" 3-Ring Binder 1 Composition Notebook - Wide Ruled 2 Plastic Folders (Red and Yellow) 1 Fiskar scissors 1 Small School Box 1 Box of 4 Black Expo Dry Erase Markers 1 Large Box of Kleenex 10 #2 Sharpened Pencils 1 Set Headphones - straight jack (No earbuds) <u>Optional Supplies:</u> 1 Box of Gallon, Quart, or Sandwich Ziploc Bags 1 Container of Anti-Bacterial Wipes 1 Large Hand Sanitizer 1 Box of Plain Band-Aids 1 bottle of White Elmer's glue</p>	<p><u>Grade 1:</u> 1 Backpack 1 Set of Headphones (No earbuds) 3 Boxes of Snacks 1 School Box (9"x6"x3"-No Zippers) 1 Fiskar Scissors – Sharp 6 Regular Glue Sticks 2 Boxes Crayons 1 Box Large Washable Markers 2 Large Pink Eraser 4 Black Expo Dry Erase Markers 1 Box Colored Pencils (sharpened) 1 Set watercolor paints 24 #2 <u>Yellow</u> Pencils (Sharpened) 1 Composition Notebook 1 Spiral Notebook 2 Plastic Pocket Folders (<u>green& yellow</u>) 1 <u>Plain</u> White 1" 3 Ring Binder 1 Box Quart Size Ziploc Bags (Boys) 1 Box Gallon Size Ziploc Bags (Girls) 1 Large Box of Kleenex 1 Lg Container Disinfectant Wipes 1 Bottle Hand Sanitizer</p>	<p><u>Grade 2:</u> 1 Backpack 1 Deck of Cards 1 School Box (9"x6"x3") 1 Set Headphones (no earbuds) 2 Composition Notebooks 2 Pocket Folders (sturdy paper) 1 Pocket Folder (plastic for take home) 24 #2 Yellow Pencils (sharpened) 1 Fiskar scissors 1 Box of 24 Crayola Crayons 1 Box Washable Markers 1 Box Colored Pencils (sharpened) 1 Set Watercolor Paints (8 colors) 6 Black Dry Erase Markers 2 Regular Glue Sticks 2 Containers Anti-Bacterial Wipes <u>Optional Supplies:</u> 1 Yellow Hi-lighter Pen Gallon or Sandwich size Ziploc bags 1 Large Hand sanitizer Band Aides 1 Large Boxes Kleenex</p>
<p><u>Grade 3:</u> 1 6 Qt Plastic Tub w/lid (shoebox size) - (Hennessy) 1 school box - (Barrera/Brewer) 1 Pkg Wide Ruled Notebook Paper(150 Ct) 20 #2 Pencils (sharpened)- communal use 1 Box of Kleenex 1 Fiskar Scissors (pointed ends) Colored Pencils (sharpened) 2 Plastic Pocket Folders with prongs 1 Box of 8 Washable Markers 4 Black Dry Erase Markers - communal use 1 Pkg 3x3 sticky notes - Communal Use 3 Wide Ruled Composition Notebook 1 Backpack 1 Set Headphones for Computer 1 Container Anti-Bacterial wipes 1 Large Pink Eraser 1 Pack glue sticks - Communal Use</p>	<p><u>* Grade 4:</u> 2 Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper (150 Ct) 1 Fiskar Scissors (pointed ends) 20 #2 Pencils - communal use Colored Pencils 1 Pen 1 Wooden Ruler (in & cm) not Flexible 1 Large Glue Sticks 1 Backpack/Book Bag 4 Expo White Board Markers (communal use) 4 Two-Pocket Folder- 2 Library 1 Deck of Cards 1 Reusable Water Bottle 1 Set Inexpensive Headphones (computer – no earbuds please) 1 Box Qt Ziploc Bags 1 Container Anti-Bacterial Wipes 1 Large Box Kleenex 1 Old Sock for White Board Eraser 3 Composition Notebooks</p>	<p><u>* Grade 5:</u> 1 Backpack/Book Bag 2 Pkg Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper 2 Spiral Notebooks 1 Ruler (in & cm) 10 Pencils wood or mechanical 2 Glue Sticks 10 Colored Pencils 1 School Scissors 1 5x7 School Box 2 Two Pocket folder – Library/Health 3 Two Pocket Folders (Red, Blue, Yellow) 1 large pink Eraser 1 Box Markers 4 Expo White Board Markers 2 Hi-Lighters different colors 1 Set Inexpensive Headphones (computer – no earbuds please) 2 Large Boxes of Kleenex 1 Deck of Playing Cards 1 Box Crayons (24 or 36 ct)</p>

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*** Assignment Notebook: Intermediate Students (Grades 4-5) will be required to purchase an assignment book from the school. Please, bring \$5 the first day of school.**

PLEASE: NO PENCIL SHARPENERS FOR ANY GRADE