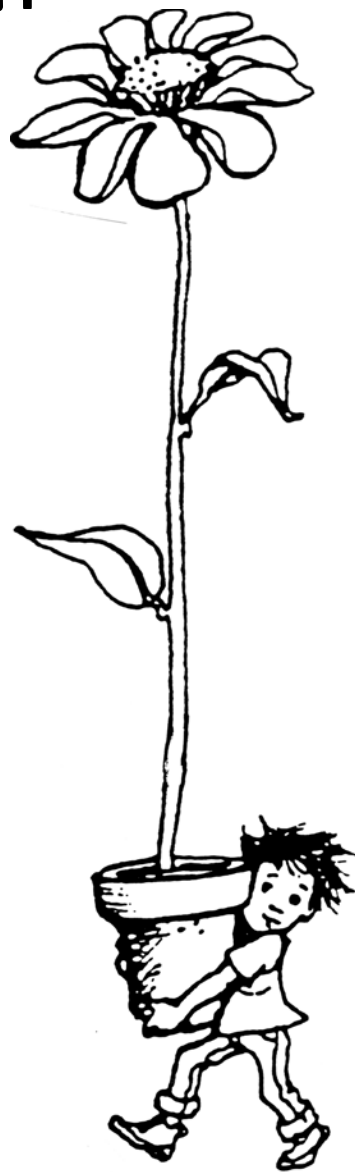
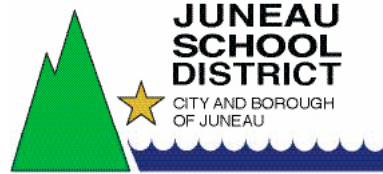




JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kindergarten Handbook



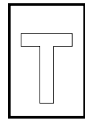


Mailing address for all schools:
10014 Crazy Horse Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Tel: 907/523-1704
Fax: 907/523-1709

It is the policy of the City and Borough of Juneau School District to provide equal education and employment opportunities and to provide service and benefits to all students and employees without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or ability.



Welcome to Kindergarten!



The Juneau School District has an exciting kindergarten program planned for your child. Educators, early childhood experts, and parents are working together to insure that our program matches the needs of a five year old. This handbook will outline our program and answer most of your questions about starting school. Please contact the principal or teacher at your child's school to get specific help with your concerns. We believe that the home and school working together can be a positive force in your child's life.



Registering for school

Kindergarten students should be registered in the spring. An open house for kindergarten is held every spring to welcome the new students. There is no registration in the summer. School offices open again in mid-August. Contact the administrative assistant at the school your child will attend.

School boundaries are determined by the District in order to balance the number of students in all schools. If you do not know which school your child should attend, please call the District Office, 523-1704, and ask for assistance.

You can also visit our website for information and assistance.

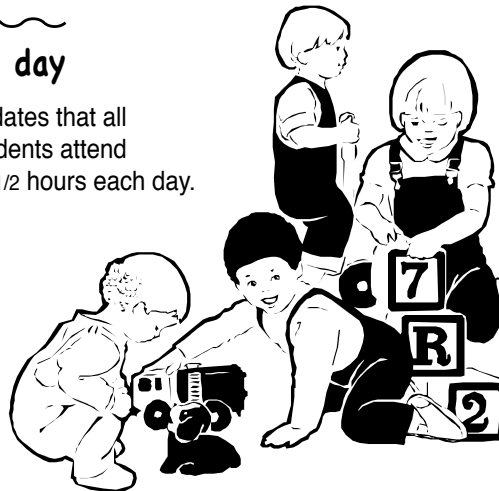
www.jsd.k12.ak.us

You will need to bring your child's birth certificate (or a copy), and a record of immunizations (Alaska State Law says, "no shots—no school") to the school to register. Your child will also need a physical examination. Consult your doctor or clinic to make arrangements before school begins.

A state law mandates the admission age for kindergarten. A child must be five years of age by September 1st.

Length of school day

Alaska law mandates that all kindergarten students attend a minimum of 4 1/2 hours each day.





Is my child really ready for school?

A child who is ready for school generally is able to do most of the following things. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please talk to the school principal.

Does your child generally:

- Care for personal needs (eating, dressing, working, bathroom)?
- Work independently?
- Follow directions?
- Listen attentively?
- Show an interest in coming to school?
- Play cooperatively with other children?
- Take turns?
- Show self-control?
- Show respect for the ideas and property of others?
- Handle frustration and disagreement well?
- Communicate easily with other children and adults?
- Communicate with words rather than hitting, kicking, or biting?

How does the school evaluate my child's needs?

Juneau's kindergartners are screened as soon as school starts. Some classes of kindergarten students begin a week after the regular grades in order to provide the Kindergarten teacher and new student an orientation and screening. Be sure to check with your school office for details on the first week of school. The teacher makes observations while working with your child and is able to evaluate a child's needs, based on his/her training and experience and by consulting with other specialists in the District. Throughout the school year kindergarten teachers will give you observations and feedback about your child's progress and growth through telephone calls, parent-teacher conferences, report cards, home visits, and informal meetings. Your child's teacher will stay in touch with you about your child's needs.



Communications

It is important for the home and school to communicate effectively. All schools send home newsletters and notes through the children. (Please be sure to ask your child if there are any notes in his/her backpack, pockets, folders, lunch bag, etc.)

Conferences between parent and teacher provide an opportunity to learn about your child's progress and are scheduled twice each year. However, if you have concerns at other times, please call for an appointment. Teachers are generally available 1/2 hour before or after school, or by special arrangement.

School Phone Numbers

Auke Bay Elementary School	463-1775
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School	463-1899
Floyd Dryden Middle School	463-1850
Gastineau Elementary School	463-1999
Glacier Valley Elementary School	780-1400
Harborview Elementary School	523-1850
Juneau Community Charter School	586-2526
Juneau's HomeBRIDGE Correspondance	523-1821
Juneau-Douglas High School	523-1501
Mendenhall River Community School	463-1799
Montessori Borealis School Program	523-1850
Riverbend Elementary School	463-1819
Thunder Mountain High	780-1900
Yaakoosge Daakahidi High	523-1800



What will my child do at school?

Your child will have many new experiences and learn many new skills. Using a variety of programs, centers, free choice activities, and resources, your child will learn to:

- Explore new things and ideas.
- Use new words learned from people, field trips, films, books, and pictures.
- Express self with words, clay, crayons, music, etc.
- Listen to stories, directions, and other children and adults.
- Prepare for academic activities by looking at books and learning to use them.
- Dictate letters, words, and stories for adults to write down.
- Count, by relating numbers to specified groups of objects.
- See differences in colors, sizes, shapes, and sounds.
- Learn to plan ahead, ask questions, and anticipate future events.
- Be safe, by taking part in safety lessons, fire drills, and supervised playground activities.
- Protect self and learn where to go for protection.
- Get along with others, be cheerful, polite, fair, and well-mannered.
- Share things like toys, games, and experiences with others.
- Play fair, follow rules, and take turns during games.
- Care for self and belongings by going to the bathroom alone, hanging up clothes, returning toys and tools at pick-up time.

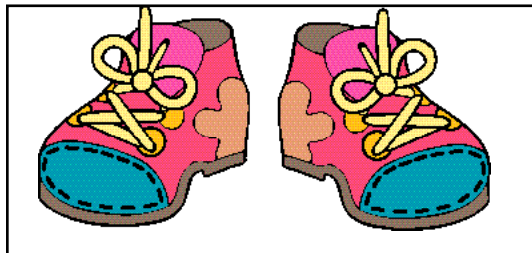


What kind of clothes should my child wear?

- Children should wear clothing they can manage (tie shoes, zip snowsuits).
- Indoor clothing should be simple, safe, sturdy, labeled, and not too tight!
- Outdoor clothing should be clearly labeled.
- Boots should be large enough so they can be put on without help and should be labeled.
- Prepare for the weather by listening to the weather report every morning before school. Choose appropriate outdoor clothing and provide for possible changes in the weather.
- Plan for your child to be outdoors for recess every day, for two 15 minute periods.

What should I label? Everything!

Remember there will be boots, lunch boxes, hats, mittens, gloves, backpacks, snow pants, rain gear, and shoes for hundreds of children at your school! (Your child may know what "it" looks like, but will the third grade teacher who finds it in the playground know where to send it?) Please put labels on everything your child can lay down or take off at school!





What can I do at home?

- Spend time talking and listening to your child.
- Read! Read! Read! Books, papers, cans, boxes, signs, tags, etc.
- Limit television. Offer other activities instead.
- Provide a stimulating environment with puzzles, games, books, toys, library visits, walks, trips, etc.

Illness or absence

If your child cannot come to school, please call the office. If you are planning an extended trip, please notify the school so special arrangements can be made. If your child becomes ill at school, you will be called by the school nurse or office.

Children are provided with recess time each day and are expected to go outside. If a child is too ill to go outside, he/she should be kept at home until he/she is well. Special cases are made, when a doctor's note is provided.

How can I send money/messages to school?

- Use checks when sending large amounts of money for pictures, book orders, etc.
- Put exact change for milk, or other items in an envelope which has been labeled with child's name, what is to be purchased, and how much is wanted.
- Send messages/money in plastic sandwich bags, pinned to your child's coat.



May I visit and help at school?

Yes!

We encourage parent visits and work in the classroom. It will be more pleasant for all involved if you:

- Plan and schedule the work or visit with the teacher.
- Make arrangements to leave younger children at home.
- Stop by the school office and sign in when you arrive.
- Call ahead if you can't come as scheduled.
- Ask questions about routines etc., when the children are not present.
- Discuss what you would like to do with the teacher (some people prefer cutting and pasting, others want to work with children, supervise field trips, teach mini-lessons, etc.).
- Keep to any schedules regarding prepared materials. (Lessons and schedules are hard to change at the last minute, and materials may only be appropriate for a short time.)

Each elementary school in Juneau has a Parent Volunteer Coordinator, so don't be surprised if you get called to help out with a school-wide activity at some time.

What can I do to help with my child's classroom?

- Read stories to individuals or groups of children.
- Prepare learning materials at home (like cutting out shapes).
- Lead small group activities.
- Help with classroom clean up.
- Take dictation of children's stories.
- Chaperone field trips.
- Do class book orders.
- Check to see what your teacher wants saved for future classroom projects and help collect resources!



What are helpful habits to encourage?

- Putting things away
- Doing simple chores
- Learning to listen
- Helping others
- Dressing self
- Following a schedule
- Sorting and arranging household objects

How can I help my child be successful at school?

- Allow time for a healthy breakfast each day.
- Be sure your child is well rested.
(10-12 hours is recommended.)
- Be sure meals are well balanced, unhurried, and eaten at a regular time.
- Be sure your child gets plenty of exercise.
- Show an interest in school activities.
- Take an active part in school life, as much as you are able.
- Join the school's parent group or site council.
- Attend programs at the school.
- Stay in touch with your child's teacher.
- Volunteer to help in the classroom, whenever you can.

RALLY (before and after school care and activities)

All of the elementary schools provide a before and after school childcare program called RALLY. Students are supervised and provided with a stimulating variety of activities and programs. The cost of the service is determined at the beginning of the school year.

Parents who are interested should sign up for RALLY during registration or call your school.



Getting to and from school

Students who live near the school are expected to walk and should arrive no earlier than 20 minutes before the start of class. Students will then be directed to the playground, where they will be supervised until class time.

Bus transportation is provided by the school district for students who live more than a mile from school, or who live on a pre-determined hazardous route. Buses stop at major intersections and at convenient places along the roads to pick up students. Riding the bus is a privilege. Students should:

- Sit and not move or stand up while the bus is moving.
- Talk quietly.
- Not eat or chew gum on the bus.
- Keep hands, heads, and objects inside the bus.
- Obey the directions of the bus driver.

Please provide a daily written note if there is going to be a change in how your child goes home.

A pink slip from the bus driver is used to notify the parents and principals about any unacceptable behavior. Good bus behavior is necessary for the safety of all.

About one week before school begins, the bus schedules will be advertised in the newspaper. You may also call your school office for assistance.





How can I keep my child safe?

- Be sure your child knows and can say his/her first and last name, parents' names, street address, phone number.
- Choose the safest route to and from school or the bus stop. Walk it together several times and point out:
 - Traffic lights:** Wait on the curb for the green light.
 - Crosswalks:** Cross here. Look left, right, then left again. Walk, don't run. Wait for cars to completely stop.
 - Driveways:** Watch for cars backing up or pulling in.
 - Bus stop:** Stay off the street and keep close to the bus stop.
 - Sidewalks:** They're the safest place to walk.
- Tell your child to go directly to and from school. Don't stop to play or explore.
- Ask your child not to talk to strangers and not to accept rides, candy, or toys from someone they don't know.
- Drop off your child no more than 10 minutes before school starts.
- Pick your child up promptly after school.
- Discuss what to do if bus doesn't come or your child misses the bus.
- Discuss how to ride the bus safely.

How can I get my child to school on time?

- Time the routine the first day and add 10 to 15 minutes. This will give enough time to handle simple matters without hurrying.
- Pack lunches the evening before & hold them in the refrigerator.
- Plan simple breakfasts the night before.
- Get to bed on time.
- Set the timer for five minutes before time to leave the house as a reminder that it's time for coats.
- Prompt and regular attendance, beginning at kindergarten:
 - reassures the child, helps him/her feel successful.
 - allows the child to adjust to class routines.
 - speeds up the learning process.

What will the first day be like?



The first day will be exciting.
You can help prepare your child if you:

- Pin a note enclosed in a sandwich bag on your child's jacket with name, phone numbers, sitter's name and address (if necessary), bus number (check newspaper for bus numbers), and street address for the first 2 weeks.
- Try to answer questions for your child before arriving at school. Discuss any fears about school before the first day. Be positive and loving. Be reassuring — say that everything will be all right. Do all you can to make your child happy and confident about entering the school world.
- Arrive on time. (15 - 20 minutes before class is fine).
- Leave cheerfully. (Don't linger. Your presence may distract from this new and fascinating world.)
- Show your support by encouraging your child to openly discuss his or her feelings about school with you, and by meeting with the teacher to work out any problems. Teachers really do care how parents and children feel.



Juneau Elementary Schools

	Telephone	Fax
Auke Bay Elementary School	463-1775	463-1751
Gastineau Elementary School	463-1999	463-1997
Glacier Valley Elementary School	780-1400	780-1499
Harborview Elementary School	523-1850	523-1899
Mendenhall River Community School	463-1799	463-1777
Riverbend Elementary School	463-1819	463-1792

Elementary Choice Programs that start at Kindergarten:

Juneau Community Charter School	586-2526	586-4903
Tlingit Language and Culture Program	523-1850	523-1899
Juneau's HomeBRIDGE	523-1821	523-1829

Visit on line: www.jsd.k12.ak.us



Unity

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher, the tools he used
Were books and music and art
One a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle loving heart.

Day after day, the teacher toiled
With a touch that was deft and sure
While the parent labored by his side and
Polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last their task was done
They were proud of what they had wrought
For the things they had molded into the child
Could neither be sold or bought.

And each agreed he would have failed
If he had worked alone
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher, the home.

—Author Unknown.

**Show your support...
especially on the first day of
school.**

**Be active in your child's
school work and school life.**

