



# École Brentwood Elementary School

## Kindergarten Handbook

**Mission:** Ensuring a culture of **powerful learning** and **engaged thinkers**.

**Vision:** A **family-centered** school built on a foundation of excellence,  
creating **boundless learning opportunities**.

Phone: (403)934-5013

Email: [brentwood@ghsd75.ca](mailto:brentwood@ghsd75.ca)

Facebook: Ecole Brentwood Elementary

Instagram: [brentwoodelementary](https://www.instagram.com/brentwoodelementary)

Website: <http://www.brentwood-school.com/>





Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to École Brentwood Elementary School - a family-centered school in the Golden Hills School Division. Kindergarten is a wonderful way for your child to discover what school is like and to have fun while taking part in boundless learning opportunities. At École Brentwood Elementary School, children's natural curiosity and eagerness to learn are fostered through organized activities and purposeful play. Your child will be provided with opportunities to interact, imagine, experiment and explore to acquire new knowledge, learn new skills and practise what they have learned in a nurturing learning environment.

At École Brentwood Elementary School, we are proud to offer programming in both English and French. We offer a full day program that runs Monday through Friday, in both our English and French streams. This option mirrors our Grade 1 – 6 schedule. We also provide the option to attend part-time. Part-time students attend school Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and are integrated into the full-time program. Our goal is to provide programming that fits the diverse needs of families. The choice is yours!

Our kindergarten programs provide the following:

- Nurturing and caring teachers and support staff
- A quality child-centered education in a safe and caring environment
- Strong emphasis on readiness skills for literacy and numeracy
- Recognition and attention to individual academic, social, emotional and creative needs
- Character development, environmental awareness and social responsibility
- Access to technology
- Opportunities for parent and community involvement
- Support for students with special needs
- Access to the division's educational consultants, psychologists and specialized programs
- Partnerships with the Regional Health Authority

The information included in this package is intended to help you make your child's transition to school a positive experience. The relationship between school and home is very important, and as such, we encourage you to become an active participant in your child's education. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the school.

Yours in Education,

Miss. Danielle Seabrook (Principal) & Mme. Erin. Friesen (Associate Principal)

# ABCs of Kindergarten

## Important Information



### ALLERGIES

If your child has any food allergies, please let us know.

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance and punctuality are important factors in ensuring success in school. Please contact the school office or your child's teacher to report any absences. If your child is absent and we have not been notified, our automated system will call you.



### BELONGINGS

Please ensure all belongings (i.e. footwear, clothing, lunch containers, water bottles, etc.) are clearly labeled.

### BREAKFAST PROGRAM

We are fortunate to be able to offer a small breakfast option to students through the School Fuel program. The breakfast typically consists of a muffin, a piece of cheese and a slice of apple. Students are welcome to access this program from 8:05 - 8:25 a.m. each day.

### BUSING

Busing is optional and there is no cost to parents. Busing can be arranged by visiting the Golden Hills School Division website or contacting their office directly at 403-934-5121. Initially, staff will be on hand to ensure bus students get on the correct bus at the end of the day.



### CLOTHING

Kindergarten students are encouraged to dress with minimal assistance. Of course, support will be provided if necessary.

### COMMUNICATION

Many methods are used to communicate with parents/guardians. You will receive regular information updates through emails, school newsletters, our website, and our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

### CURRICULUM

In Alberta, we follow the Alberta Program of Studies. Clear expectations in seven learning areas are described in the Kindergarten Program Statement. These learning areas help to meet the social, physical, intellectual, cultural, creative and emotional needs of young children and provide a foundation for elementary schooling. These seven areas are: Early Literacy, Early Numeracy, Community & Environmental Awareness, Personal & Social Responsibility, Physical Skills & Well-Being, Creative Expression, and Citizenship & Identity.



## **DONATIONS**

On occasion, students may be encouraged to bring in various donated items such as recyclable containers and cardboard tubes.



## **ENTRANCES**

Kindergarten children will be assigned a boot room door to use for the duration of the school year.



## **FEES**

Kindergarten fees are broken down as follows:

School Supplies: \$35

Cultural/Fine Arts: \$7

Agenda: TBD (if the kindergarten teacher opts to have students use them)

## **FIRE DRILLS & LOCKDOWN DRILLS**

The children will participate in fire and lockdown drills throughout the year so that they are prepared in the event of a real emergency.

## **FOOTWEAR**

Children are required to have an indoor pair of non-marking running shoes. Please ensure the shoes you choose for your child are ones that he/she is able to put on and take off independently.



## **GYM**

Kindergarten children will have scheduled blocks of Physical Education in the gym. In gym, the students work on building physical skills, playing cooperative learning games and utilizing gym equipment.



## **HOME READING**

We encourage daily reading with your child in order to build their language and early literacy skills.

## **HOT LUNCH**

Kindergarten children will have an opportunity to take part in the hot lunch program. Specific details are released in the fall and the school utilizes an online ordering system each year.



## **INDEPENDENCE**

Fostering and encouraging independence in Kindergarten children is a key aspect of the program. The children are encouraged to explore and take on personal responsibility in order to become successful learners in Kindergarten and beyond.



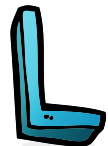
## **JUNK FOOD**

We encourage nutritious eating as part of a healthy lifestyle; therefore, we ask that junk food (candy, chips, etc.) be kept to a minimum.



## KINDERGARTEN ROUTINES

Kindergarten routines are typically repetitive and predictable. This provides the children with a sense of security and enables them to anticipate “the next step”. The children generally become familiar with these routines during the first few weeks of school and are able to adapt to the daily schedule of activities with ease. Some of these routines include entering, gathering, book browsing, calendar, learning centers, Show & Tell, etc.



## LATES

Students who are late are required to check in at the office and obtain a late slip prior to making their way to their classroom.

## LOST & FOUND

Lost and Found bins are located near the entrance ways. If your child misplaces a personal belonging, please feel free to check the bins or ask a staff member to do so on your behalf. Be sure to check it regularly as we do collect a lot of stray items and donate them periodically.

## LUNCH

Lunch is scheduled from 12:05 - 12:20 pm. During lunch, each child will be encouraged to eat their sandwich, bun or thermos contents (or whatever healthy option has been packed for them to eat at lunch time) before choosing other items in their lunch.



## MICROWAVE

The kindergarten classrooms are not equipped with microwaves. Please do not send items that need to be heated. Items required to be eaten warm should be sent to school in a thermos.

## MILK PROGRAM

Kindergarten students will have an opportunity to take part in the school’s daily milk program.



## NEWS

Classroom news is communicated primarily via emails, while school news is generally communicated via the monthly newsletter and our social media accounts.



ÉCOLE BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY



brentwoodelementary



## OFFICE HOURS

The school office is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday to Friday. The office phone number is 403-934-5013 and our email address is brentwood-school@ghsd75.ca . The answering machine will be available before and after office hours, so please feel free to leave a message.

If you are picking up your child early from school, please sign him/her out at the office. Office personnel will notify your child’s teacher.



## **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent-teacher conferences are held in November and March. Appointments are made using an online booking system, or by calling the school during a small window of time.

## **PATROLS**

We run a Safety Patrol Program in affiliation with the Alberta Motor Association. Our Grade 5 & 6 patrolers, who are trained, assist students in navigating the unique four-way stop near the school.



## **QUESTIONS**

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions. We are more than happy to answer any questions you may have!



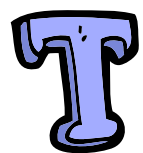
## **RECESS**

There are two scheduled recesses each day: 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. and 12:20 - 12:50 p.m. We also have a wellness break scheduled each day from 2:10 - 2:20 p.m.



## **SUPPLIES**

Supplies are purchased by the school in bulk. Families are invoiced a school supply fee in the fall.



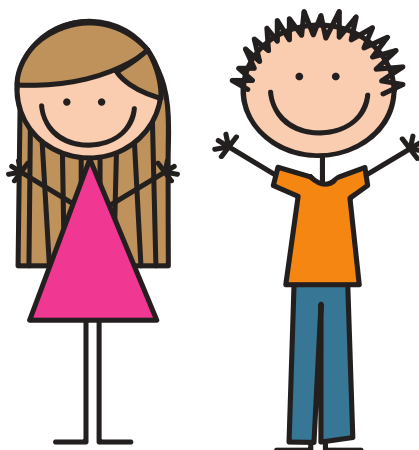
## **TOYS**

It is recommended that children do not bring toys to school. Many times these items get lost, stolen, broken, etc., thereby causing unnecessary conflict in the classroom. We remind students of this early on and ensure them that there are plenty of toys at school to play with every day.



## **UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD**

Parents are their children's first and foremost important teachers and therefore, play a central role in the lives of their children. As a parent, you know your child best. Please communicate any events or changes which may upset your child or affect their learning immediately to the teacher. This will help teachers to understand your child better and adapt their expectations and programming to meet their needs. This will ensure continued success for all!



## VOLUNTEERS

Parent support and participation is openly welcomed and encouraged. During volunteer opportunities, parents can become more aware of child development practices, the learning process, and the Kindergarten program in general. Parents can assist in the following ways:

- ☐ Helping in the classroom by preparing materials and/or assisting individual or small groups of children
- ☐ Going on field trips with the class
- ☐ Preparing materials from home
- ☐ Sharing special skills, knowledge and interests through classroom presentations

Volunteers will be contacted by homeroom teachers. All volunteers must have a valid Criminal Record Check and Child Welfare Check. Letters to acquire these documents can be obtained from the office.

## WEBSITE

Our website is one of the many means used to communicate with families. Our website can be accessed using the following link: <http://www.brentwood-school.com/>

## WEATHER

Please send appropriate clothing to school with your child each day. The children have more fun if they are warm, dry and comfortable.

## EXTRA CLOTHES

Please ensure that your child has a complete extra set of clothes to be kept at school. A message will be sent home if any items need to be replenished during the year.

## YEAR CALENDAR

A 2020-21 school year calendar has been included in this package. It can also be accessed on the GHSD and school websites.

## ZIPPERS

Developing independence is a large part of kindergarten. Children are encouraged to zip and unzip their own clothing, however assistance will be provided when needed.