



ISSAQUAH  
SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION

# Cultural Bridges

ENGLISH



Family Guide | 2021–2022

Information to Help Families Navigate the Issaquah School District



Dear Readers,

Our Cultural Bridges program was created to help all families navigate the Issaquah School District and to help them stay informed with events and publications offered in seven languages.

This Family Guide is a compilation of information from the Issaquah School District for families with kids in kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high school. We also publish a magazine; you can look for a print copy at the office of any of the 26 schools in our district or download it here: <https://isfdn.org/cultural-bridges-magazine/>

I also recommend you to read your student's handouts, regularly check the website of the particular school that your child attends, and visit the website for your child's school's PTSA/PTA.

Once you are informed about your child's education, please get involved and actively participate! Schools in our District are very fortunate to have the support of the Issaquah Schools Foundation and PTSA/PTAs. These organizations make a big difference in the daily life of our students and there are many ways you can contribute with them. If you need assistance understanding anything, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am here to help you.

Here's to an amazing 2021-2022 school year!

**Alicia Spinner**  
Cultural Bridges Manager  
[alicia@isfdn.org](mailto:alicia@isfdn.org)

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**Cultural Bridges**

Issaquah Schools Foundation

is a program of



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## Welcome to the Issaquah School District!

Thank you for taking time to read our Cultural Bridges Family Guide. We know a lot has changed over the past few years with the onset of the global pandemic. We hope you will find this information helpful as you navigate your way through the Issaquah School District.

Proudly supported by the Issaquah Schools Foundation, the Cultural Bridges program is a valuable resource for parents, guardians and students in our school communities of Issaquah, Sammamish, Renton, Bellevue and Newcastle.

At the Issaquah Schools Foundation, we fuel success for students district-wide at ALL 26 schools, funding the gap between what the school district provides and what is needed for an exceptional educational experience for your child.

YOU are at the heart of the Foundation! 80% of our funding comes from individual donors like you! Your volunteerism is also what makes our Foundation programs so successful. Thank you for engaging with us!

With your help, the Foundation supports vital programs including after school academic support, basic student needs such as Tools4School backpacks and supplies, snack and lunch support, speakers & workshops, mental & behavioral health support, STEM & robotics clubs, student and teacher grants and more. Your generosity as a donor to the Foundation makes programs like these possible!

The Issaquah Schools Foundation is 501C3 Non-Profit organization that does fundraising and friend-raising to support all district students. In partnership with the Issaquah School District, we work together with our schools, educators, volunteers, PTSA and other community partners to drive resources to help all students achieve the promise of their potential. We strive to be the unifying organization that allows access to exceptional opportunities district-wide.

We wish you all the best for the year ahead. As always, the Foundation puts our students needs first continuously seeking innovative ideas or feedback from you on how we might be able to better serve your student. For over 34 years, we have proven to be resilient, resourceful, and relevant and have adapted to our ever changing environment. We look forward to brighter days ahead and to meeting you in person this year! Please join our Foundation family by volunteering or donating. If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@isfdn.org](mailto:info@isfdn.org) or visit [www.isfdn.org](http://www.isfdn.org). We would love to hear from you, or better yet stop by our office. We would love to meet you!

To every child's success,

**Cornell Atwater**  
**Executive Director**  
[cornell@isfdn.org](mailto:cornell@isfdn.org)



## Family Partnership Liaisons

**Do you have any questions about your child's school programs? How to connect with your child's teacher(s) or counselor? Family Partnership Liaisons can help you navigate the Issaquah schools so you can better support your child.**

Si tiene alguna pregunta, envíe un correo electrónico a [GilmourL@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:GilmourL@issaquah.wednet.edu), o llame al 425-837-7141.

需要協助與老師或職員溝通嗎？請發送電子郵件至 [mithalw@Issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:mithalw@Issaquah.wednet.edu) 獲取協助並回答問題或填寫表格。此外，學校的教職員也可以與您聯繫提供協助。

Need help communicating with teachers or staff? Please email [ghangurdei@Issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:ghangurdei@Issaquah.wednet.edu) to get help answering questions or filling out forms. Also, someone from the school can contact you with help or answers.



Francisca Mejia Campos  
(Español)  
425-837-7141  
[GilmourL@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:GilmourL@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Serving:  
Issaquah High School  
Issaquah Middle School  
Pacific Cascade Middle School  
Clark Elementary  
Issaquah Valley Elementary  
Sunset Elementary



Wenli Mithal  
(中文)  
425-837-7106  
[MithalW@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:MithalW@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Serving:  
Skyline High School  
Beaver Lake Middle School  
Pine Lake Middle School  
Cascade Ridge Elementary  
Cedar Trails Elementary  
Challenger Elementary  
Creekside Elementary  
Discovery Elementary  
Endeavour Elementary  
Sunny Hills Elementary

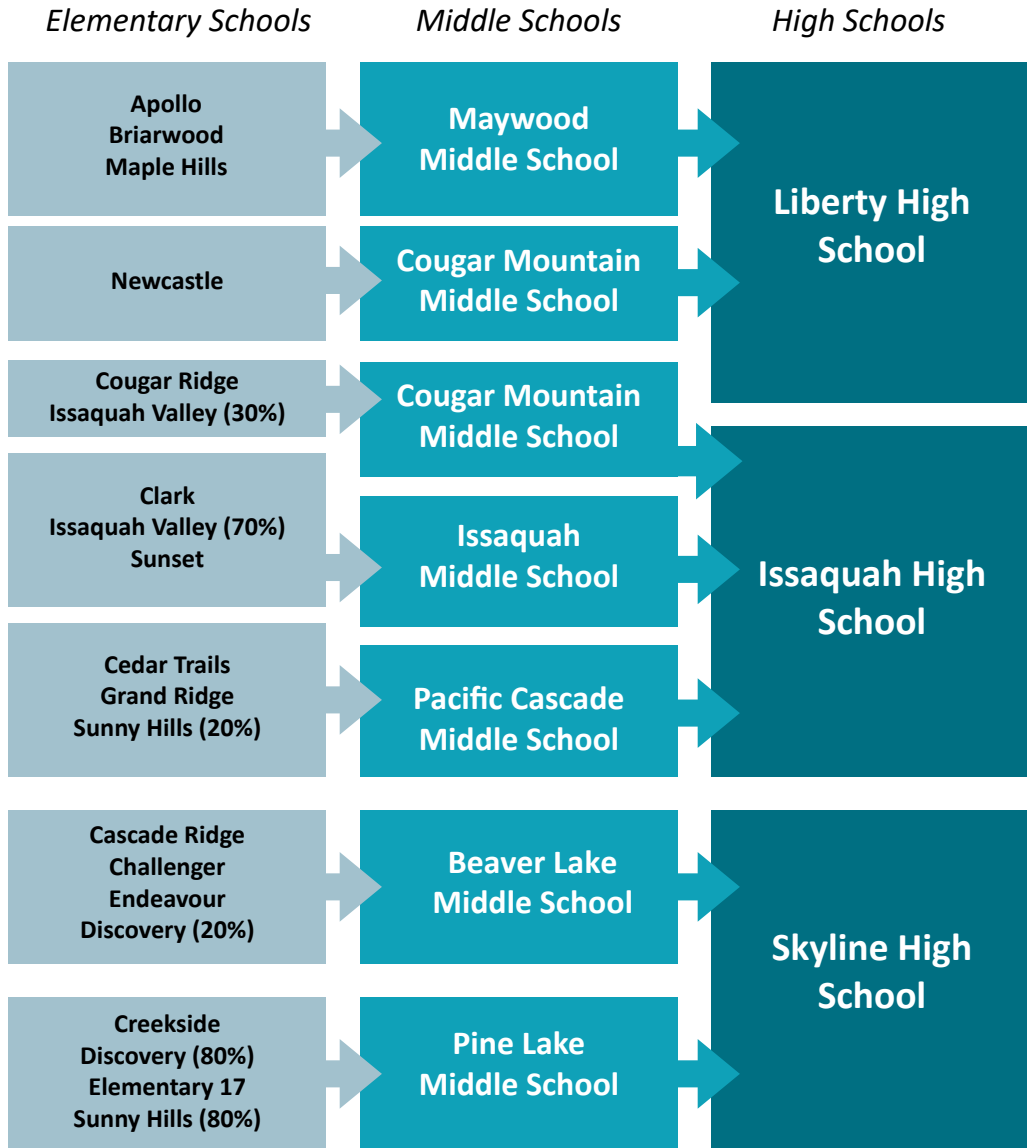


Ina Ghangurde  
425-837-7008  
[Ghangurdel@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:Ghangurdel@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Serving:  
Liberty High School  
Cougar Mountain Middle School  
Maywood Middle School  
Apollo Elementary  
Briarwood Elementary  
Cougar Ridge Elementary  
Grand Ridge Elementary  
Maple Hills Elementary  
Newcastle Elementary



## School Feeder Patterns



## Kindergarten to High School

### BOUNDARIES

All students who live within the Issaquah School District boundaries are entitled to attend schools in the district. All kids are accepted. If you are unsure in which school boundary your home is located, please email [transportation-enews@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:transportation-enews@issaquah.wednet.edu) with your complete address, including city and zip code, and they will look up the schools for you.

### COST

Tuition is free, but some activities have fees for additional offerings such as after-school programs, field trips, and sports. Please ask the school secretary if your family needs financial assistance. All requests are kept completely confidential.

### BELL SCHEDULES

For a bell schedule by school and program for the 2021-2022 school year, please visit <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bell-schedules>.

### ATTENDANCE

The school will contact families using a computerized message if your child has missed that day. You have to call back and explain why your child has missed school. Some excused absences are due to illness/health, family emergencies, pre-approved family trips, and religious observances. If you know your child will have to miss school, communicate with the school with the following information: name of child, teacher, date(s) and the reason for their absence.

If an elementary school student has 5 or more excused absences in a single month during the current school year or 10 or more excused absences in the current school year, the District will schedule a conference with the student and their parent(s). A conference will also be scheduled for elementary school students if a student has 3 or more unexcused full-day absences within any month.

If a middle school or high school student has

7 unexcused absences in one month or 15 unexcused absences in a year, the District will refer the student to a community truancy board or file a petition and affidavit with the juvenile court.

### BUS

Bus stop and route information will be available online in mid-August. <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/transportation/elink>.

Students are required to arrive at their bus stop five minutes prior to pick-up time. Pick-up times may change during the school year; parents will be notified. Parents are responsible for their children prior to pick-up and after drop-off. Drivers do not allow parents or any other person to board the bus.

Students are expected to behave properly and safely on the bus and at bus stops, and to comply with the driver's directions. Disciplinary rules are enforced on buses in the same manner as on school campuses, and video cameras are installed to assist staff in maintaining discipline. A complete list of bus rules can be found here: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/transportation>.

Students may ride on other buses or get off at a different stop on a space-available basis with a written request from the parent to the school. A bus pass must be obtained from the school office at least a half-hour before school is dismissed. Students will be dropped off only at authorized bus stops. Kindergarten students must be released to their parent or guardian unless there is a "Release Form" signed by the parent.

Middle school and high school students also have the option of riding the activity bus if they participate in after-school sports or clubs. Please note that the activity bus route drops off at different stops than the regular route.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a particular bus route, bus stop or bus driver or if you wish to speak with someone regarding student bus behavior,

you may contact the Transportation Department at 425-837-6330.



## HOMework

Elementary school kids often receive packets of homework or an individual page assigned to reinforce classroom instruction. Most teachers require daily reading as a part of homework. Homework won't be graded; it's only for practice. The teacher usually reviews the homework in class. All elementary students will have their own Clever and Seesaw accounts. Clever is the online single sign-on portal for students to access a variety of curriculum tools and technology resources. Students only need to remember one username and password to sign into a variety of resources. Seesaw is a tool for teachers to provide additional learning activities and or students to submit some assignments. Parents can get the Seesaw Parent and Family App to follow their student's work. For middle school and high school students, the amount of homework depends on the classes that they are taking. Most homework is posted on the Canvas Learning Management System and

students write details in their planners. Through Canvas, students will have access to teacher information, course syllabus, assigned homework with due dates, and a single calendar for all classes.

Students can also use Canvas to turn in homework and email their teachers directly. To make sure your student is doing homework, you can create your own Canvas account and have an Observer Role. Official class grades are posted in the Gradebook in Family Access. In some classes, students can turn in late work, make up assignments, and even retake tests if needed. If students have questions, students can email their teacher or stop by their office before or after school. Schools offer after school help for many classes. Check the website of your school for additional resources.

## STATE TESTS

Student progress is carefully monitored through state testing of the Common Core Standards. However, these assessments are not part of your child's grade. The Smarter Balanced assessments and the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) are normally given in spring. The spring 2021 tests were postponed until fall of 2021. The fall 2021 tests will be reflective of the grade students were in during the 2020-21 school year. More information can be found at: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/assessment>.

<b>Kindergarten</b>	Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)
<b>Grades 3th to 8th, and 10th to 12th</b>	Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)
<b>Grades 5th, 8th, 11th</b>	Washington Comprehensive Assessment in Science (WCAS)
<b>Grades K-12th</b>	English Language Proficiency Assessment the 21st Century (ELPA 21)
<b>Grade 12th</b>	End-of-course (EOC)



## COMMUNICATIONS

It's very important for you to be informed. Contact your teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child, and inform her/him about any important life events that may affect your child at school such as the birth of a sibling, divorce, death in the family, etc. You can also contact your teacher, school counselor or principal if you want to discuss academics or behavior. All schools have access to in-person and phone interpreter services, if needed. This is a free service for parents. The phone numbers and email addresses of all teachers are listed on the school websites.

For Communications, families no longer need to sign up for E-news – they're automatically signed up with the email provided upon registering their student(s). But if you would like to sign up with an alternate email (for example, if you provided a home email to the school, but want to receive E-news at work as well), you can then sign up here: <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/news/ENews>.

There is also a lot of information on the websites of the Issaquah School District, the school, and PTSA/PTA. To help your child succeed at school, sign up for a Canvas observer account (middle school and high school) or the Seesaw Parent and Family app (elementary school). Teachers also post syllabus information (expectations for class, tests and homework), calendar, and contact information on Canvas and Seesaw.

In elementary school, it's very important to attend Curriculum Night at the beginning of the school year and also attend Parent-

Teacher conferences, a meeting with the teacher of your child. Your school will give you the details. Every day check your student's backpack since teachers send forms and information to parents with kids.

In middle school or high school there are not Parent-Teacher conferences, but you can always request a meeting. Contact a teacher to discuss your child's progress or if you are worried about grades. For social, behavioral or emotional concerns, email or call the school counselor. Phone and in-person interpreters are available.

## CURRICULUM

All grade levels and content areas use a curriculum that is aligned with the State Standards. For more information, visit: [www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/curriculumstandards](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/curriculumstandards).

## SPECIAL SERVICES

Our District has programs that serve students with disabilities from birth through twenty-one years who reside within district boundaries. For more information, visit <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/SpecServices>.

## DRESS CODE

Students wear casual clothes to school; there are no uniforms. Every school has a dress code, but in general, students will be asked to dress modestly. Shoulder straps of a shirt must be at least 3 fingers wide. No low-cut shirts, body-clinging, tight clothing or clothes that display writing or pictures that are obscene or suggestive. Shorts and skirts must be at least the length of student's fingertips when hands are dropped to sides and undergarments must be covered.

## LUNCH

For the 2021-2022 school year, lunches will be available to all students in our cafeterias at no cost, regardless of income or any other factors. A standard meal will be available, prepared by district food service staff members. A la carte items (such as bottled drinks, pizza from vendors, or bags of chips), will be available at middle schools and high schools for students to purchase at a cost.



Menus and nutritional data are posted before the end of each month for the following month: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/lunch>.

Students can also bring their lunch from home. For financial assistance, applications are available at any time during the school year: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/operations/foodservice>

### **LOST & FOUND**

Schools are not responsible for any lost items. However, there are assigned places where all misplaced items are collected. If students are missing something, they can look for it at the Lost & Found location in their school. A couple of times throughout the year, unclaimed items are donated to local charities.

### **COUNSELORS**

Each school has Counseling Services. All students have access to and the right to participate in the school guidance and counseling program. The counseling program is based on specified goals and developmental competencies for all students in support of student achievement. It is planned and coordinated by school counseling teams with consideration of other school, parent or guardian and community representatives. School counselors help students manage emotions, apply interpersonal skills, and plan for postsecondary options.

Counselors also deliver classroom lessons, facilitate small psychoeducational groups, offer short-term counseling to students, connect students with outside resources, and collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, community members for student success. To contact your student's school counselor, visit: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/counseling-services/comprehensive-school-counseling>

### **ASB Associated Student Body**

Every middle school and high school has an ASB organization of students. Principals designate a staff member as the primary advisor to the ASB organization. During the

school year, they have fundraising activities to raise money for clubs, sports, dances, etc.

The ASB organization of each school has cards they sell to students in order for them to participate in sports, music groups, and events. Cards cost between \$35 to \$55. There is financial assistance available for students that qualify.

### **IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

Middle schools and high schools provide identification cards to students with their name, grade, and a photo. Students are expected to carry their card at all times during the school day and at school activities.

### **CLUBS**

Schools offer a variety of after-school clubs at no cost. Check the school's website to see what clubs are at the school and the dates the clubs meet. Information is also sometimes included in the school's E-news.

### **SPORTS**

Schools offer a variety of sports for students each year. They will be asked to have an ASB (Associated Student Body) card in order to participate in a sport. Additional fees might apply to certain sports. Practices are held after school and students can take the activity bus home afterward. Available sports, sports seasons, and further information should be available on the school's website, as well as posted in the school's E-news. All students wishing to participate in a school sport need to have a physical dated after June 1st.

### **MUSIC**

Schools offer students an opportunity to participate in music programs and productions throughout the year that includes concert band, jazz band, orchestra, choir, etc.

### **LOCKERS**

Middle school and high school students will be assigned a locker to store books, school supplies, coats, and sport gear during the day. Some students may have to share lockers.

## ELL English Language Learners

If you notify the school that your child speaks any language other than English, your student will be given the WIDA, an English Language Placement Test. This is a short test given by school staff where your child's listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills are tested.

A letter with the results will be sent to parents. The Placement Test will place students at one of these levels: Emerging, Progressing, or Proficient. Emerging and Progressing ELL students will be eligible for ELL instruction. Proficient students are not eligible but will qualify for extra academic support if needed for two years after transitioning from active ELL services.

The Issaquah School District uses an acceleration model that empowers multilingual students to develop the social and academic English language proficiency that they will need to be successful in content-area instruction throughout their day. Language and skill development is accelerated, so students can meet high standards in ALL academic areas.

### Elementary ELL Model

The "Supportive Mainstream" model is used in our elementary schools. In this model, students spend their day in a regular classroom. Many of the classroom and ELL teachers are trained in Project GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design). As the basis for service, ELL certificated teachers and paraprofessionals come into the classroom to help students develop academic language, and/or provide other interventions as needed, to be successful in their class.

### Middle School ELL Model

A certified teacher leads the English Language Development (ELD) class for ELL students. This class works to build student proficiency in academic language, helping students access the core curriculum throughout the rest of their day. These classes focus on oral language development, explicit instruction in the structure of the

English language, and academic language development through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They may also support the student in their core classroom work. Some middle schools also provide after-school support for ELL students. This class takes the place of one elective.

### High School ELL Model

A certified teacher leads an English Language Development (ELD) class for ELL students. This class works to build student proficiency in academic language, helping students access the core curriculum throughout the rest of their day. These classes focus on oral language development, explicit instruction in the structure of the English language, and academic language development through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They may also support the student in their core classroom work. Some high schools also provide after-school support so that students can receive extra help with academics and language learning.

Once a year, the students take an online test in February or March called the WIDA annual test; the results will show their language growth and current ELL Level. If a student scores Proficient they will exit the ELL Program.

To see a Family Guide to ELPA21 (in English and Spanish), click here: <http://www.k12.wa.us/ELPA21/Timeline.aspx>. To see sample test items, use Google Chrome and the following web address: <https://www.elpa21.org/assessment-system/items/>

For more information, please contact the ELL office at 425-837-7078.





# 2021-2022 District Calendar

M	T	W	Th	F
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
	31	1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

<b>OCTOBER</b>				
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

<b>DECEMBER</b>				
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

<b>JANUARY</b>				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

- Aug 31:** First day of school for students
  - Sept 3:** First day of school for Kindergarten students
  - Sept 6 :** **Labor Day**  
*No school for students or staff*
  - Oct 18 :** **Teacher Work Day**  
*No school for students*
  - Nov 11:** **Veterans Day Observance**  
*No school for students or staff*
  - Nov 25-26:** **Thanksgiving holiday**  
*No school for students or staff*
  - Dec 1-2:** **Elementary conferences**
  - Dec 20 -31:** **First Winter Break**  
*No school for students or staff*
  - Jan 17 :** **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
*No school for students or staff*
  - Jan 28:** **Teacher Work Day**  
*No school for students*
  - Feb 21:** **Presidents Day**
  - Feb 22 - 25:** **Second Winter Break**  
*No school for students or staff*
  - March 18:** **\*\*No School (1st Weather Make-up Day)**  
*No school for students or staff OR first WEATHER MAKE-UP Day*
  - Apr 11 - 15:** **Spring Break**  
*No school for students or staff*
  - May 30 :** **Memorial Day**  
*No school for students or staff*
  - June 17:** **Last day of school for students**
- \*\*WEATHER MAKE-UP DAYS**  
*If school is closed during the school year due to inclement weather, March 18th will be the first make up day. Additional school days will be added to the school calendar in June as needed.*

M	T	W	Th	F
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

<b>MARCH</b>				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	**18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

<b>APRIL</b>				
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

<b>MAY</b>				
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

<b>JUNE</b>				
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

2021-22 school calendar for WEB

**CITIES**  
The Issaquah School District includes schools in the cities of Issaquah, Bellevue, Newcastle, Renton, and Sammamish. All of these cities offer wonderful events, free classes, and many services. Check their websites for more information!



ISSAQUAH  
SCHOOLS  
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After the first day jitters, get ready to enjoy each year with your children!

## The Issaquah Schools Foundation supports all students during their journey through the Issaquah School District.

• Through culturally sensitive outreach, mentoring, translations services and a magazine, the Foundation program, Cultural Bridges helps parents feel more confident becoming involved in school and supporting their students at home.

To read/download Cultural Bridges magazine in Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish or Vietnamese, visit:

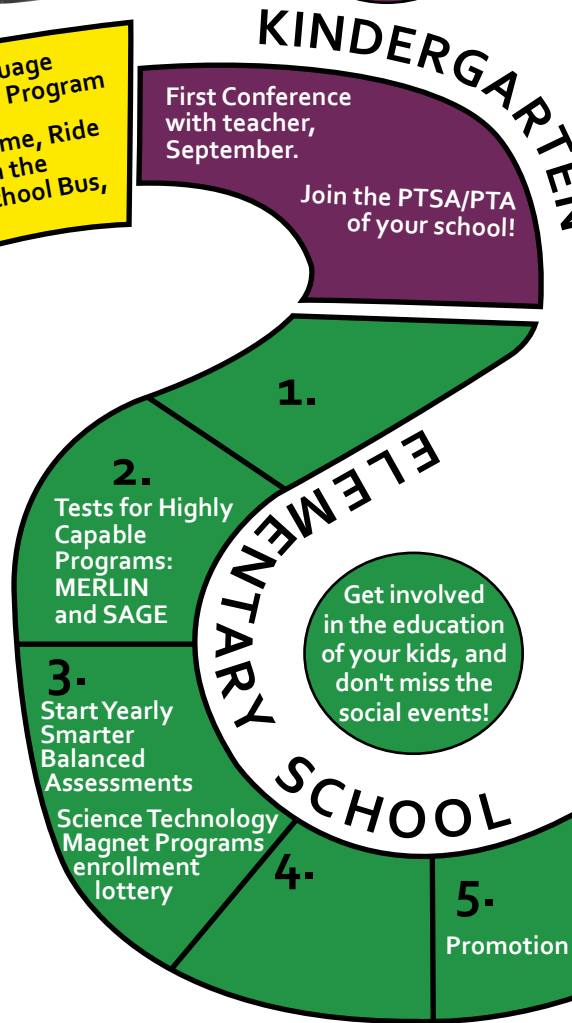


<http://isfdn.org/cultural-bridges-magazine/>

- The Foundation partners with the food bank to offer for students in need the Tools4School program providing new backpacks filled with supplies to start off the school year prepared.
- For students who need more help with academics, the Foundation provides both funding for teachers to stay after school to help with specific subjects as well as funds for Student Academic Grants which helps to pay for outside tutoring or academic support.
- All along the way, reading is important, and the Foundation provides books to every school library in the district.
- With curriculum funded by the Foundation, Character Strong helps to provide skills around social emotional support for students.
- For those who need more challenge, the Foundation helps to support the highly capable and science tech programs at the elementary level.
- The STEMposium is a Foundation supported event put on by the district providing an opportunity for students to see a variety of STEM options at all levels.

Dual Language Immersion Program  
Event "Come, Ride Along" on the Yellow School Bus, August.

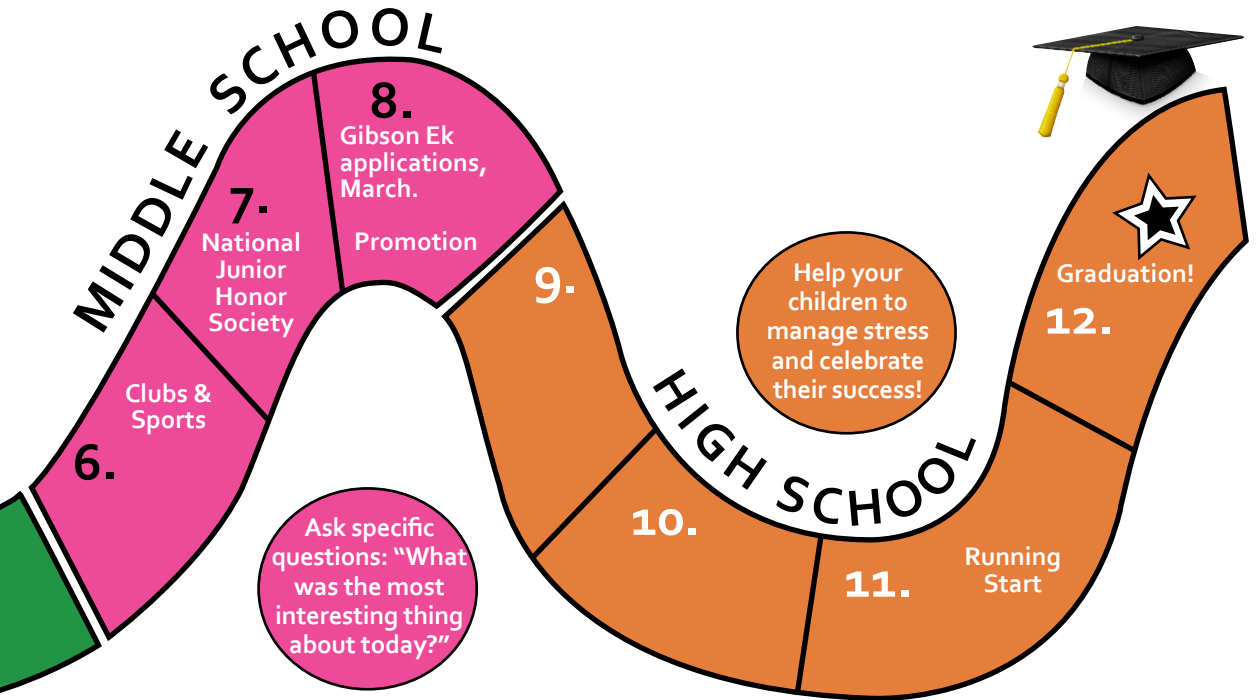
First Conference with teacher, September.  
Join the PTSA/PTA of your school!



• WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) is a Foundation supported program that helps with the transition from elementary to middle school. 8th grade students help the incoming 6th graders get acclimated to their new school, answer questions and make them feel welcome.



# ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT ROADMAP



- The Foundation helps to fund robotics club opportunities at the middle school level.
- The Foundation provides funding to help purchase band and orchestra instruments and all the equipment needed for choir, theater, and fine arts classes.
- Issaquah Scholars/Start Strong program, piloted by the Foundation and now run by the ISD, helps support students as they transition from middle school to high school.

- At the high school level, the Foundation as well provides funding to help purchase band and orchestra instruments and equipment needed for choir, theater, and fine arts classes.
- The Foundation provides funding for the Robotics and other STEM high schools clubs.
- The Great Careers Conference is a Foundation supported opportunity for students to look at options outside of just the 4-year college path.

# Family Events 2021-2022

The District's Family Partnership organizes these events in collaboration with Cultural Bridges. All families with students in the District are welcome to attend.

All session in English, Spanish, and Mandarin. Interpreters in other languages available upon request. If you need an interpreter in another language, contact Lorna Gilmour at: [gilmourl@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:gilmourl@issaquah.wednet.edu). And if you would like to participate helping at any of these events, contact Alicia Spinner at: [alicia@isfdn.org](mailto:alicia@isfdn.org).

For more information, visit:

<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/cultural-and-family-partnerships/events>

## SEPTEMBER

**September 22nd Secondary (Grades 6-12) Canvas Workshop for Parents from 6:30 to 8:30 pm Zoom**

**September 29th Family Access In-Person Workshop 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the ISD Administration Building** Computers will be available for families to practice navigating Family Access.

## OCTOBER

**October 13th Family Connections Question and Answer session Two sessions - 10:30 am to Noon and 7:00 to 8:30 pm on Zoom** Where to get answers or who to ask for help with school questions?

## NOVEMBER

**November 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30 pm Zoom Session Tips for Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary School only – K-5)** Topics will include - Parent-teacher conferences, contacting schools, norms, expectations for parent-teacher communications, and questions to ask teachers at conferences

## DECEMBER

**December 8th - Family Connections Question and Answer session Two sessions - 10:30 am to Noon and 7:00 to 8:30 pm on Zoom** Where to get answers or who to ask for help with school questions?

## JANUARY

**January 26th 8th Grade Transition Night for Families new to US High School from 6:30 to 8:30 pm** Topics will include high school credits, graduation requirements, high school opportunities, general information about course selection, and programs such as AP, IB and Running Start.

## FEBRUARY

**February 16th 5th grade transition to Middle School information night for families new to the US from 6:30 to 8:30 pm** Course selection information, elective class options such as orchestra and choir, PE/Health classes, sports, clubs, health/immunization, costs/fees, supplies

## MARCH

**March 9th (Tentative date) - Welcome to the ISD for incoming Kindergarten parents 6:30 to 8:30 pm** Topics will include What K looks like in the ISD, age of students entering K, Kindergarten preparedness, transportation, lunch, costs/fees, hours, health and immunization)

**March 23rd - Family Connections Question and Answer session Two sessions - 10:30 am to Noon and 7:00 to 8:30 pm on Zoom** Where to get answers or who to ask for help with school questions?

**NATIONAL (JUNIOR) HONOR SOCIETY**

An organization that recognizes and encourages academic achievement while also developing other characteristics essential to citizens in a democracy. The National (Junior) Honor Society elevates a school's commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. These five pillars have been associated with membership in the organization since its inception in 1929.

Learn more about these five pillars of membership, visit: <https://www.njhs.us>

In order to join their school chapter, students are requested to have a certain cumulative grade point average (GPA) after the first trimester of 7th grade. To maintain membership, students will have to complete eight hours of community service and attend meetings. Members will have the option of doing this activity until High School when it's called National Honor Society.

<b>TERM</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	A change made to a student's academic plan or daily schedule that helps the student learn better.
<b>Chaperone</b>	A person who accompanies or looks after a group of students on a field trip or sporting event.
<b>CCSS Common Core State Standards</b>	A common set of national goals for K-12 students in Math and English Language Arts. These goals help prepare students for college and careers.
<b>Extracurricular</b>	Activities outside the school day that are sponsored by the school. These activities may cost money.
<b>Fundraiser</b>	An opportunity for the school to raise money for additional programs, such as sports, art, music and supplies.
<b>Highly Capable Student</b>	A student who typically scores in the top 3 -5% on both cognitive and achievement tests. Scores are typically at the 97th percentile or above.
<b>IEPS Individual Education Programs</b>	These are written educational plans that are developed at least annually, for students who have a disability.
<b>LRC Learning Resource Classroom</b>	A classroom where special education students receive instruction from a Special Education Teacher. Students may be in this class for part or all of the day, depending on their IEP.
<b>NGSS Next Generation Science Standards</b>	A common set of national goals for K-12 students in science and engineering. These goals help prepare students for college and careers.
<b>PE Physical Education</b>	A class where students work on physical fitness.
<b>PTSA / PTA Parent Teacher (Student) Association</b>	A parent organization that supports students and families to ensure success in education.
<b>Special Education</b>	Specially designed instruction provided to a student who has a disability.
<b>VOICE Mentors</b>	Volunteer that mentor students in academic, social or life skills.

## Kindergarten

The Issaquah School District offers Full Day Kindergarten at no cost for all students. A half-day, morning kindergarten option is also available for families. Half-day kindergarten students may still ride the bus in the morning. However, if parents or guardians choose the half-day morning session, they are responsible for picking their child up at the end of the three-hour, half day. The kindergarten registration window begins in early February and ends in March. Registration takes place at your neighborhood school.

If you don't know which school your child will attend next year, the Transportation Department can help. Call 425-837-6310 or enter your home address into the Transportation Department's E-Link system to find your school: <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/family/transportation/elink>.

### DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

This program is housed at Clark and Issaquah Valley Elementary (IVE) Schools with the intent to serve students in these two schools' attendance areas. Each year, during the Kindergarten Registration window, students who will be entering Kindergarten the following fall are eligible to apply. All District students can apply. If they live outside the schools boundaries, families need to provide transportation. Kindergarten students who enter the Dual Language Program will form a cohort that will potentially continue through high school. For more information, contact Clark (425-837-6300) or IVE (425-837-6600).

Dual language education integrates English-speaking students with native Spanish-speaking students. Academic instruction is presented in both languages. Social and academic learning occurs in an environment that values the language and culture of all students and sets high standards to ultimately achieve academic success in both Spanish and English.

### Kindergarten Readiness

Children grow and develop in different ways and at different speeds. Your child may have more or fewer skills in the outlined areas. Use this document as a guide to create opportunities for students to learn and grow!

Speaks clearly so others can understand their words.  
 Takes turns in a conversation.  
 Follows multi-step directions.  
 .....  
 Plays well with other children.  
 Shares with others and is able to take turns.  
 Lets an adult know if they need help.  
 Uses words to solve differences with peers.  
 .....  
 Knows letters and numbers are different.  
 Names many letters of the alphabet.  
 Makes many of the letter sounds.  
 Produces rhyming words.  
 Enjoys books and being read to.  
 Holds a book properly.  
 Writes most of the letters in their name.  
 Understands letters can be made into words.  
 Knows that words are a way that we can communicate with others.

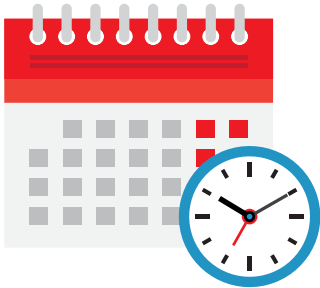
Is curious about new things or ideas.  
 Generates ideas to solve a problem.  
 Sorts objects by different features.  
 Remembers and retells a family experience.  
 .....  
 Holds and uses a pencil with a proper grip.  
 Can walk, run and jump.  
 Goes to the bathroom without help.  
 Washes hands after going to the bathroom.  
 Puts on his or her own coat and shoes.  
 .....  
 Counts the number of items in a group.  
 Counts out loud, in order, to 10 or more.  
 Uses words like "all" and "some" to describe an amount of items.

**If you have concerns about your child's readiness for Kindergarten, talk to your preschool teacher, pediatrician or contact Child Find at 425-837-7197.**



## Elementary

Grades 1st to 5th are considered elementary education and the Issaquah School District has 15 elementary schools.



### SCHEDULE

There is one teacher per classroom who teaches the majority of the subjects to the whole class, in small groups, or one-on-one. Other adults, such as paraprofessionals or parent volunteers, may also work with students. Students will spend the majority of their day in their classrooms. For music, physical education and library, students go to other classrooms and have other teachers. Teachers post their weekly schedule on their websites. Regularly, students have 20 minutes for lunch and 2 recesses of 20 minutes each day, with the exception of Wednesdays. Classmates change each grade level, and students have different teachers each year.

### BEHAVIOR

Kids are asked to walk inside the school, to not raise their voice level and to respect the personal space of each student, or "space bubble." At recess, they will be asked to keep their hands to themselves and to not play roughly. In class, students will need to raise their hand to talk. Students participate actively in classrooms; this is recorded on their report card under "behaviors that promote learning."

### CLEVER

Clever is the online single sign-on portal (SSO) for student access to a variety of curriculum tools and technology

resources. Clever eliminates the need to remember multiple usernames and passwords. For more information, visit: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/Technology/elementarylogin>

### SEESAW

Seesaw is an online tool that teachers can use to provide additional learning activities. It also allows students to submit certain assignments to their teachers. There is a Parent and Family App that can be used to view what students are working on. For more information, visit: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/Technology/elementarylogin>

### GRADES

Report cards are not mailed or sent home. Parents need to go to Family Access to view and download them. There is not a ranking system in the US, and grades in elementary school don't count towards college.

Teachers use pre-tests and post-tests to track student growth. Pre-tests are given before a unit, so teachers can see what students already know.

Teachers use daily assignments and tests to provide grades for report cards. Students are graded based on Washington State standards, and report cards each trimester reflect student's progress towards the end-of-year standards for Behavior that Promote Learning and Academic Performance:

Level 4: Exceeds Standard

Level 3: Meets Standard

Level 2: Approaches Standard

Level 1: Well-below Standard

Level 2 and 3 are the most common grades. Celebrate the 3's! For more information (in English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean), visit <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/fieldtest>.

### PBSES Positive Behavior Social and Emotional Support

The District's vision statement for PBSES is to promote respect, positive relationships,

and predictable, proactive learning environments so that students can lead socially and emotionally safe and healthy lives. More information can be found here: <https://issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/programs/pbses>.

### **HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM**

The Issaquah School District's Highly Capable Program provides a continuum of services to eligible students in grades K-12. Testing is required for eligibility. PEP is the program for Kindergarten to 2nd grade. MERLIN and SAGE for 3rd to 5th grades. Secondary students in 6th to 12th grades receive a variety of options to provide academic acceleration and rigor. To see the descriptions of these programs and to get more information, visit: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/programs/gifted>.

### **SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS**

These are choice programs with extra emphasis on science and technology for 4th and 5th graders. These programs are located at Briarwood, Cascade Ridge, and Clark, but all students in the District can apply. When students are in 3rd grade, they will be selected by a lottery in April. There are parent information sessions in February and March. Attendance at the information sessions is required to apply. Parents will need to provide transportation for their child if the school is not their assigned home school. For more information, go to: [www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/programs/ScienceTech](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/programs/ScienceTech).

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Permission slips are sent home with students prior to a field trip and must be returned before a student can be transported off school grounds. If parents do not wish for their child to participate in a particular field trip, alternative activities will be arranged.

### **CELEBRATIONS**

Schools organize a lot of special days for students, such as pajama day, crazy hair day, etc. These are called Spirit Days. Teachers will let you know about these events. If you

have questions about the holidays your family celebrates, talk to your teacher. Schools encourage children to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others. Parents are asked not to send birthday or other party invitations to school, especially when all children in a classroom are not included. In some schools, birthdays are celebrated once a month. Ask your child's teacher for the procedure regarding celebrations.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers make a big difference at schools. Before the COVID pandemic, all family members were welcome to volunteer. Kids love to see parents, grandparents and caretakers volunteering in their classrooms, recess and events! At the time this publication was released, the restrictions were still not lifted. But if you are interested in volunteering, please ask the teacher of your children if the school is accepting volunteers at this time.

In the past, all visitors were asked to sign in at the school office and were required to wear a visitor badge at all times. Once a person completed the District's background check and volunteer application form, schools were welcoming all families to volunteer in the office, classrooms, the library or health room. Volunteers helped the PTSA/PTA to support art docent programs, and other enrichment activities in schools. Volunteers were asked to complete an on-line background check application and their volunteer approval lasted for one school year only. For updated information, please visit: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/human-resources/volunteers>.

### **HEALTH**

Parents will be asked to pick up their child if a health problem occurs. A student with an oral temperature of 100° or over should remain at home until free of fever for 24 hours. A school nurse is available for consultation and may be contacted through the school office.

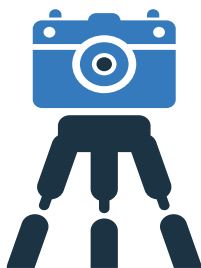
### **LASER PENS/POINTERS**

Because of the potential for serious injury to

the eyes, students are not allowed to bring or use laser pens/pointers on school grounds or buses. Every school has their own rules, but other things that are not commonly welcome at schools are cellphones, hoverboards, heelys, hats, and gum.

### **PETS/ANIMALS**

The District has implemented a no pet regulation. Pets should not be brought to school unless all District regulations and procedures have been followed. Please check with your building administrator for approval and necessary forms.



### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Professional photographers visit each school to take individual and class pictures. Students, however, are not required to purchase photographs. Information, including cost/package options, is sent home prior to the photographer's visit. A portion of the profit is returned to each school's PTSA/PTA.

### **SAFETY**

Safety drills are held monthly. Safety drills such as fire, earthquake, shelter in place, and lockdown drills are practiced to help familiarize students and staff with the procedures to follow should a real emergency occur.

### **SAFETY PATROLS**

Fifth graders are selected for patrol duty in most schools. Since it is an honor to serve on the school safety patrol, students are carefully selected, instructed in their duties, and cautioned to observe courtesy and safety when helping other children cross streets. Please ask your child to obey the safety patrol.

### **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**

Parents are requested to bring students to school no earlier than 10 minutes before classes begin. If your student walks to school or if you drive your child, please be sure you are supervising them until 10 minutes before classes begin.

At the end of the day, students who have not been picked up 15 minutes after the school days ends will be brought to the school office and parents will be contacted. Because supervision is not provided before or after school, students are not allowed on the playground and must wait in a supervised area. Parents must come to the office to pick up their child.

### **LEAVING EARLY**

If a child must leave school before dismissal, parents are required to stop in the office and sign out their student. Students will then be called from the classroom by the office. Please do not go to the classroom. If your child leaves school with less than 2 hours left in the school day, the dismissal is recorded as a tardy.

### **COMMUNITY FLYERS**

The district allows outside organizations access to distribute information to students and families through the Peachjar e-flyer distribution system. Upon approval by the district, flyers are emailed directly to parents via Peachjar. They are also posted on each school's e-flyers webpage. These are for community events, extracurriculum classes, PTA/PTSA events, etc.

### **5TH GRADE**

In the last year of elementary education, schools have special activities for the students. The last assembly of the school year is very special for 5th graders, since they get to celebrate the completion of elementary school with all the students. Later, they get to do the same with their families during the Promotion (it's not called Graduation).

## Middle School

Grades 6th to 8th are considered middle school education and the Issaquah School District has 5 middle schools.

### COURSE SELECTION

In March, students are asked to choose the classes for the following year. They will get information packets and parents will help select the courses in Student Access.

Students are required to take a full year of Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science at each grade level, these are called Core classes. Advanced and accelerated options are available to students in Language Arts, Math, and Science; placement in these courses is done using an informed self-select model. Information can be found in your student's course selection packet and on the District website. There are some additional required classes like Health and PE (Physical Education) and Tech Smart (6th grade only). And there are elective courses such as Chorus, Band, Orchestra, etc.

### SCHEDULE

Students move to different classrooms for each subject and they have different teachers. Classes are between 50 to 55 minutes long and are called "a period." There are 6 to 7 periods daily. They have a 30-minute lunch and no recess.

### CANVAS

Canvas is Issaquah School District's Learning Management System for students in grades 6 - 12. Through Canvas students can access all coursework, turn in assignments, and connect with their teacher and classmates.

Parents can have an Observer Role in Canvas, which allows access to view their student(s) courses. For video tutorials and Canvas user guides: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/Technology/canvas>

### GRADES

Teachers use letter grading: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F (D is passing and F is

failing). It's important to read the Syllabus from each teacher to understand grading expectations. Middle school students receive 3 official trimester report cards each year. Parents can check their students' grades through Family Access. There is not a ranking system in the US.

### HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

All middle school 7th and 8th grade students who complete high school credit courses are eligible to have those grades and credits placed on their high school transcript.

A request can be made to add the credit and grade at any time up to the point of the student's junior year credit review with his/her counselor. Please note that once the grades are added to the high school transcript, the grade and credit cannot be removed and will permanently be included in the computation of the student's grade point average.

### TESTS

There are class, District and State tests. For class tests, teachers write the tests based on curriculum. Students have these tests several times during the trimester. For District tests, students will be asked to take a pre-assessments test before the trimester and a post-assessment after a unit or trimester. For State tests, see page 7.

### PROMOTION

Students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th who receive passing grades in at least eleven of their twelve trimester common core courses will be promoted to the next grade level. Students with more than one failure in Language Arts, Social Studies or Math are recommended to make up the course in the District's in-person Middle School Summer Program. The middle school principal will formally notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the students who are to be retained by the last day of school.

## High School

Grades 9th to 12th are considered high school education and the Issaquah School District has 4 high schools. Students in 9th grade are called freshman; in 10th grade, sophomore; in 11th grade, junior; and in the 12th grade, senior.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To graduate from high school, students must meet four requirements: (1) earn the required number of credits; (2) develop a High School and Beyond Plan; (3) meet the requirements of a District-approved graduation pathway; and (4) demonstrate technology proficiency.

The state requires students to earn a minimum of 24 credits in specified subject areas to graduate from high school. School districts are permitted to establish credit requirements that exceed the minimum number established by the state, or to obtain a waiver of credit-based requirements for one or more high schools implementing alternative requirements.

1) The state requires students to earn a minimum of 24 credits in specified subject areas to graduate from high school. For Issaquah High School (IHS), Skyline High School (SHS), and Liberty High School (LHS), the District has established the following credit requirements for graduation:

SUBJECT AREA	IHS/SHS	LHS (2021-22)	LHS (2023)	LHS (2024)	LHS (2025)
English	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	3	3	3	3
Social Studies	3	3	3	3	3
Science	3	3	3	3	3
Career & Technical Education	1	1	1	1	1
Fitness/Physical Education	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Health	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Arts/Personal Pathway	2	2	2	2	2
World Langs./Pers. Pathway	2	2	2	2	2
Electives	4	8	7	6	5
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>

2) Every student must develop a High School and Beyond Plan to guide the student's high school experience, including plans for postsecondary education or training and career. Students shall create their High School and Beyond Plans in cooperation with parents and school staff.

3) Students must meet the requirements of a District-approved graduation pathway in order to graduate. All students should consult with their counselor for more information on satisfying the Pathway requirement.

4) The District requires that all students demonstrate technology proficiency.

### GRADES

Teachers use letter grading: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F (D is passing and F is failing). It's important to read the syllabus from each teacher to understand grading expectations. High schools students get their grades after each semester. Parents (and students) can check their grades through FamilyAccess. There is not a ranking system in the US. Colleges and employers look at high school transcripts listing all high school grades, courses, and the student's cumulative grade point average (GPA).

**AP Advanced Placement**

At Liberty and Issaquah high schools, students can take these college-level classes. Students may receive college credit, depending on their test score and the college they attend.

**IB International Baccalaureate**

This is a Diploma Program that students in Skyline High School can obtain. It's a pre-university course of study for grades 11 to 12 based on international standards. During their sophomore year, students will be asked to sign a contract outlining their classes for 11th and 12th grade. This Diploma is recognized by many universities worldwide.

**RUNNING START**

All high school students can choose to take certain classes online. Students in grades 11th and 12th can attend a community college and earn college and high school credit at the same time.

**TRANSCRIPT**

This is an official record of a student's grades for high school level classes. Colleges and employers only look at high school transcripts (not middle school or elementary report cards).

**WORLD LANGUAGE CREDIT**

Students can get a World Language Credit if they take tests and meet scoring requirements. This is a great way for bilingual/ELL students to get credit for fluency in their first language. Ask your high school counselor for details.

**COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER**

Schools have excellent resources for students and parents who need information about post-secondary education and career decisions like financial aid, part-time jobs, volunteer opportunities, etc. Look for all this information on the school's website.

**DANCES**

Schools organize optional dances for students. Homecoming is during the fall. Although it is a formal event, girls usually wear short dresses. This event is linked to a football game. TOLO is a spring dance

where traditionally the girls ask the boys to go as their date. There is always a fun theme, so students wear costumes. In addition, at the end of the school year, schools organize the Prom, a very formal event, where girls wear long dresses and boys wear tuxedos.

**DRUG FREE ZONES**

Schools in the Issaquah School District are protected as drug free zones, as established by the City of Issaquah and King County. Drug free zones provide for possible double penalties for anyone caught trafficking controlled substances within 1,000 feet of a designated school, school bus stop, or public park.

**HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING**

If a student feels that he or she is being harassed, intimidated, or bullied because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, or disability, the student should immediately report such incidents to a teacher, counselor, or building administrator. A complete copy of Regulation #3207 may be obtained at any school or at [www.issaquah.wednet.edu](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu).

**GIBSON EK HIGH SCHOOL**

This is the District's newest high school that opened its doors in September 2016. This school uses a Big Picture Learning model that encourages students to use "out of the box" methods of learning. At Gibson Ek, students learn through projects that have been carefully chosen instead of attending classes like ones at a regular high school. New learning methods work better for some people. If you have questions or want to learn more about the school, visit:

[www.gibsonek.org](http://www.gibsonek.org).

# Resources for Families

## Support for Food, Clothes & Supplies

**Snack program** - A program at every school offering small breakfast and/or snack options – check with your nurse, teacher, or school counselor.

**Free and Reduced-Price Lunch sign up** <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/operations/foodservice>. Assistance may be available for families who do not qualify but still have financial need. Call 425-837-5060 for details.

**Lunch for the Breaks, Summer Lunch Program, and weekend PowerPacks** - Check with the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank: <https://www.issaquahfoodbank.org/special-programs/> or call 425-392-4123 ext. 16.

**Clothing Closets** - Each High School can provide students with new or gently used articles of clothing. Talk to your student's counselor. The Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank is another good resource <https://issaquahfoodbank.org/>.

**Tools 4 School** - Register in the spring/summer to receive a free backpack and school supplies in August. Registration and other details are posted at: [www.isfdn.org/tools4school](http://www.isfdn.org/tools4school). Backpacks and supplies also available at every school year-round. Check with the school office staff.

**Band Instruments** - Most middle and high schools have access

to band instruments for free or reduced rental cost. Talk to your school's band teacher.

**Tuxes & Tiaras** - A free event open to Issaquah School District High School students where they can pick up a free dress, suit, shoes, and accessories for dances.

## Support for Academics

**After School Academic support** is often available for free at each school. Programs differ by building and grade level, but there are many opportunities to ask questions of a teacher, work on homework, use the computer, and at the secondary level, ride the free activity bus home. Ask the office staff about opportunities at your school.

**Mentor for your student** – the District VOICE Mentor Program may be able to provide a one-on-one mentor for your student. Talk to your school's counselor or teacher to see if they qualify.

**Scholarships for: PSAT/SAT/AP/IB testing** are provided at the High School level. Ask the bookkeeper at your school for more information.

**Scholarships for field trips, PE uniforms** as well as yearbooks, dance tickets, senior party etc. may also be available. Ask the bookkeeper at your school.

**Student Academic Grants** The Issaquah Schools Foundation offers grants for tutoring and other outside academic support. <https://isfdn.org/our-purpose/advancing-academic->

[achievements/student-academic-grants/](https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/counseling-services/)

## Other Support

**School counselors** Each school has counselors to help support academics and mental health. <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/counseling-services>.

**Before/After-School Care (BASC) Program Financial Aid (K-8)** may be available for Issaquah School District's BASC Program. Call 425-837-5080 to request an application.

**Translation for transcripts** - The Foundation's Cultural Bridges Program can help with transcript translations. Contact [culturalbridges@isfdn.org](mailto:culturalbridges@isfdn.org) for assistance.

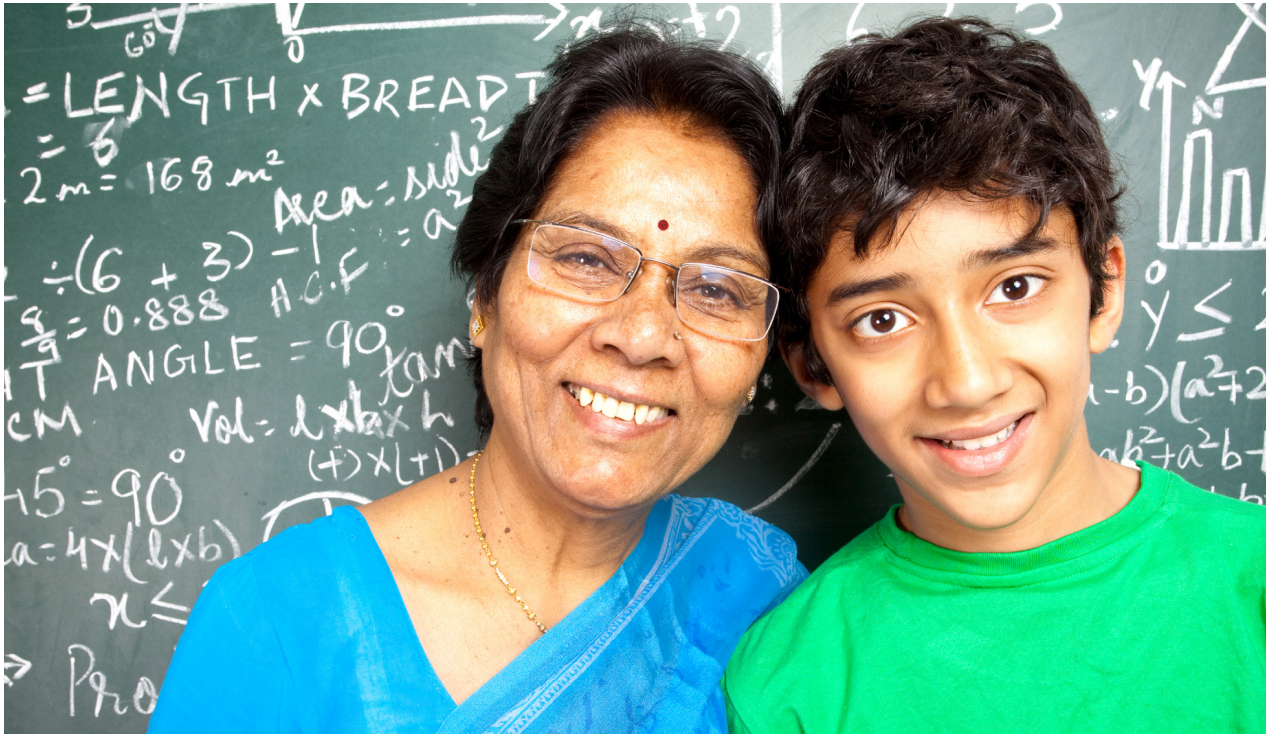
**Vision Checks** are done at school. Any student needing further vision help or eyeglasses can contact their school nurse to access low and no cost optometrist appointments and glasses.

Each school building has access to the nurse's fund to help support basic needs. You can reach out to your school nurse or counselor about this resource.

Many schools have PTSA/PTA Angel or Outreach programs with opportunities for support. Be sure to ask the office staff.

For information on other resources in our area, see the community resource directory at: <https://www.issaquahwa.gov/268/Human-Services>.

# Fueling Success for Every Student, Every School.



Established in 1987, the Issaquah Schools Foundation drives resources to help students achieve the promise of their potential. With your help, we fund district-wide programs serving all 26 schools. Academic support, basic student needs, mental & behavioral health, student & teacher grants, STEM & robotics, fine arts, community outreach and more! Help us to ensure that students have what they need to learn, grow, and thrive. Donate or volunteer today!



**ISSAQUAH  
SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION**

To learn more information about the Issaquah Schools Foundation, visit our website, or contact us at 425.391.8557

**isfdn.org**