



Bushland Blackhawks

State Qualifying

Prekindergarten Program

Parent Handbook

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Welcome to Bushland ISD

Dear Parents:

The early childhood programs of Bushland ISD focus on the education and well-being of each individual child participating in a prekindergarten program. In addition, we understand the importance of involving parents and are here to serve as your partners in the education and care of your child(ren).

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher or the school principals.

Thank you for your support of the Bushland Blackhawks State Qualifying Prekindergarten program of Bushland ISD.

Sincerely,

Brandi Rankin, Elementary Principal

Kelli Wigginton, Elementary Assistant Principal

Bushland ISD

State Qualifying Prekindergarten Program

The Bushland ISD State Qualifying Prekindergarten Program currently offers a 36-week, school-based educational program for 4-year-old children. The State Qualifying Pre-K program consists of children who qualify for the state pre-k/ECSE program as well as tuition-based children.

Mission

The mission of the Bushland ISD (BISD) program is to ensure that all Bushland 4-year-olds have access to comprehensive, high-quality prekindergarten options and support on a developmental continuum.

Working within the context of children, families, and communities, BISD is committed to creating an engaging learning environment that supports and respects the unique potential of each individual through best practices.

Because of common goals and high expectations, BISD is dedicated to building a strong foundation and igniting a passion for lifelong learning for children and their families in order to prepare them for the future.

Selection Criteria

- Children must be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2022.
- Children **must** meet the general criteria for state entitled Pre-K through one of the following: homeless, military, income-based, language acquisition, or foster care.
- Families must agree to the guidelines associated with the inclusive program.
- Parents must provide transportation

Supply Fee--OPTIONAL

- The \$150 will cover all supplies and materials as well as snacks. Parents have the **OPTION** to pay a \$150 supply fee or provide the supplies requested on the supply list.

Cancellation of Participation in the Program

By the school district -

A child's participation in the program will be canceled for the following reasons:

- Cancellation of the program: The BISD Board of Education has the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel the program at the end of any school year if there are not sufficient enrollment numbers.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Staff Qualifications

The classrooms are staffed with certified early childhood teachers in which one is certified in special education. The classroom will maintain an appropriate student-teacher ratio. All staff have cleared the State of Texas background check.

Report on Child's Progress/Conference and Progress Reports

Parent conferences are scheduled once during the Fall Semester. Appointments should be made with the teacher to discuss your child's progress if needed.

Conferences are available by request at any time.

Students will receive a progress report as determined by the elementary reporting dates on the district student calendar. The progress report will give parents valuable information on how well their child is progressing.

Your child's teacher will keep a communication log in your child's folder. It will contain communication topics for parents and students. This will also be a place for parents to ask questions or inform parents of anything they need to communicate. Please leave these in the folder and do not remove them.

Parents are asked to immediately advise teachers of changes of address, phone numbers, or emergency numbers. It is also advised that parents let teachers know

if there is a change in the child's home (hospital, illness, death, divorce, trip, new baby, etc.). These events do affect children and their performance in class.

Bushland Blackhawks Pre-K Education Program

Special features include:

- Integrated, thematic curriculum organized on a continuum of how young children learn and grow, emphasizing early literacy and early mathematics skills.
- Literacy program based on current research on how young children acquire literacy skills.
- A developmentally appropriate practice that considers both age and individual appropriateness, and incorporates all learning domains and styles.
- Developmentally appropriate assessment that utilizes ongoing observation and systematic recording of the children's behavior to improve and individualize instruction and to communicate to parents' children's growth and development.
- Parent involvement through education, training, and support.

Program Guidelines

Students must follow Bushland ISD guidelines for behavior. If persistent negative behaviors interfere with the learning of others and consistently require an adult's supervision, the parent/guardian will be notified of a teacher/parent conference and/or conference with the principal.

If at any time the school staff determines the student may be a student with a disability, they will follow the procedures for referral for an evaluation. If the student is evaluated and qualifies for special education services, special education services will be provided in the appropriate setting determined by the ARD. Tuition will be refunded based on the prorated procedures. Note: The parent/guardian has the option of denying services the child may qualify for.

Nutrition Education

Nutrition education is incorporated into daily activities. Science and math skills are developed as children learn to prepare foods or snacks, provided by request from the teacher through classroom communications or the school supply list. For instance, staff and children may prepare banana bread or "ants on a log."

Outdoor Activities/Motor Lab

The daily schedule includes going outdoors for large motor activities except during inclement weather. Your child should come to school **properly dressed** to participate in gross motor activities. It is required that children wear closed-toe shoes or tennis shoes with velcro.

Napping

A nap time of approximately one hour is provided each day. **A nap mat and small blanket or towel for nap/rest time is recommended.** Your child may also bring a small doll or stuffed animal that will help him/her to rest or take a nap. These will be sent home on the last day of the week to be washed and returned on the following first day of the next week. Children who do not nap will engage in "quiet" activities.

Change of Clothing

Occasionally accidents do happen. For this reason, please keep a change of clothing (shirt, underwear, pants/skirt, and socks) in a clear plastic bag with your child's name written on the outside of the bag inside the student's backpack.

Full-Day/Full School Year Program

The daily schedule provides a routine designed to meet the needs of the children. Classroom schedules may differ; however, all schedules provide for:

- A balance between active and quiet activities.
- Individual, small, and large group activities (centers).
- Outdoor play/gross motor activities.
- A balance between child-initiated and teacher-directed activities.

- Children being read to individually and in small and large groups.
- Literacy rich classrooms to facilitate reading and academic readiness.
- Meals - Breakfast and lunch can be provided through the cafeteria. Cost depends on State Free/Reduced Qualification. Snacks provided through supply list or by teacher request. Water bottles, ice cream, and snacks in the cafeteria are not included as part of the Pre-K program.
- Rest or quiet time.

Health and Wellness

- The campus will have access to a registered nurse.
- The classroom staff will follow universal precautions when dealing with bodily fluids.
- If a student becomes hurt or seriously ill during the day, all efforts will be made to contact the parent/guardian or person listed on the emergency contact list. If the parent/guardian or emergency contact person cannot be reached by telephone, the student will be transported by ambulance to an emergency room and the parent/guardian will be held responsible for all expenses.
- Students must be free of fever (without the help of medicine) and communicable diseases for 24 hours or have a doctor's release in order to attend school.
- Medications will be dispensed according to the district guidelines.
- Students aged four (4) years and older will receive vision and hearing screening.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks

- Students are able to eat breakfast and lunch through the school cafeteria or a parent may provide a lunch box. No "restaurant" meals may be brought in. If a child is going to eat breakfast, the child will need to be dropped off at the cafeteria. Money will need to be placed on the child's account unless he/she qualifies for free meals. Water bottles, ice cream, and snacks in the cafeteria are not included as part of the Pre-K program.

- Snacks will be provided for the classroom through the supply fee unless the student has special dietary restrictions. If this is the case, the parent/guardian is encouraged to provide the student with a snack.
- Occasionally the teachers may choose a cooking activity and request for parents/guardians to bring certain foods to school.
- If a student has any allergies, please notify the classroom teacher and the school nurse.

Materials and Supplies

All supplies and materials will be purchased with the optional \$150 supply fee or the parent may choose to purchase the supplies and materials on the pre-k supply list. Parent/guardian will be responsible for the student's backpack, nap mat, small blanket/towel, and an extra set of clothing. Parents are encouraged to label backpack, mat, and clothing with the child's name.

Curriculum

The Bushland Blackhawk Program will follow the Pre-Kindergarten Standards which are based on the TEA Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines. The program provides a language and literacy enriched environment with many opportunities for hands-on learning. For more information, visit the TEA Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines online at <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=2147495508>.

Daily Schedule of Activities

The classroom teacher will provide the parent/guardian with a general daily schedule. Students in the Bushland Blackhawk Pre-K program will be included in the campus activities as much as is appropriate.

Attendance

This is a full day; school program and regular attendance is expected. The classroom teacher will submit attendance each day. Although State Qualifying Pre-k is not required, once a child is registered in school, they are required to meet the 90% attendance rule. All students are expected to arrive on time. When your child(ren) arrives late it disrupts his/her learning and the learning of others.

Dress Code

Students should follow the dress code of Bushland ISD. Because of the active nature of Pre-K, students should wear clothing and shoes that allow for easy movement. It is advisable that your child dress in clothing that is easily washed since much of the time is spent painting, cooking, and exploring our world. Clothing should be easy for your child to remove for bathroom purposes. Appropriate clothing includes tennis shoes (velcro), pants, shorts, skirt (with shorts underneath), socks, and a shirt.

Your child should NOT come to school wearing overalls, jumpsuits, sandals, boots, or clothing with too many buttons.

WORKING TOWARD KINDERGARTEN READINESS

To get ready for Kindergarten and beyond, Bushland's youngest learners need opportunities to develop **academic**, **social-emotional**, **language**, and **motor skills**.

As learners, Bushland students:

- are engaged in intellectually stimulating work that is developmentally appropriate;
- receive the supports they need to do the thinking in a developmentally appropriate way;
- are supported in learning and practicing developmentally appropriate social-emotional skills.

By the end of Pre-K, they will have mastered or worked on the following skills:

Academic: Foundational Reading	Academic: Foundational Math	Language Development	Social-Emotional	Motor
Letter Naming Can name X letters in a minute Letter-Sound Correspondence Correctly identify X/12 sounds	Counting Rate count to 20 Can count 10-20 objects Numeral Identification Identify numerals to at least 10	Students are understood by most people when speaking, but may mispronounce new or unusual words Students make	Students can follow classroom rules with reminders Students can ignore distractions and interruptions while working	Students can write their names Students use a "pencil grip" to write

Phonological Awareness Decode 2 and 3 syllable words Match beginning sounds Identify onset and rime Identify rhyming words	Patterns Recognize & extend ABAB patterns	requests to communicate wants and needs Students follow two and three step directions	Students will change their plans if a better idea is proposed Students can identify feelings in others and recognize causes Students initiate sharing	Students can cut using scissors
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In school settings, Bushland students practice these skills through a variety of ways including small-group instruction, meaningful play opportunities, and learning centers.

Bushland teachers believe that it takes a partnership between home and school to develop a child in their early years. When we focus on what is developmentally appropriate for our youngest learners, they grow in these many different areas.

Contacts

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher, campus principal, or campus assistant principal.