



Rhino Roar

News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

August 6, 2021

Links to [calendar](#) and past [newsletters](#) on [PTA website](#)

COVID-19 Safety Protocols at Washington for 2021-22 school year

Masks: Masks are required for all students and staff on campus.

Visitors and Volunteers: Parent/guardians and community volunteers are not allowed on campus at this time. Please contact Principal Hazen @ katiahazen@berkeley.net if you need to come on campus when children are present.

Eating/drinking: Meals will take place outside as the weather permits. Students will sit with their class cohort and will be distanced to the extent possible. All students should bring their own personal refillable water bottle to school.

Sanitizing: frequent hand sanitizing and surface sanitizing will continue.

Social Distancing: There are no longer social distancing requirements inside classrooms. Students will be seated with their class cohort and distanced to the maximum extent possible when they remove their masks outside for eating or drinking. Grade levels will be assigned to designated play areas each day.

Daily Screening for Symptoms: BUSD has discontinued the requirement for families to complete a daily online health form to screen for COVID-19 symptoms. This year, families will be asked to screen their children for COVID symptoms each day using a **symptom list** provided by City of Berkeley Public Health. A child with symptoms must stay home and should be tested for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.

Positive Cases on Campus: BUSD will continue to be required to closely track cases of COVID-19 on our campuses and follow all state quarantining and reporting requirements. Families are expected to comply with all quarantining rules in the event that their child is determined to have been exposed to a COVID positive individual. Positive cases on school

campuses will continue to be reported on BUSD's [Confirmed On-Site COVID-19 Case Dashboard](#).

Quarantining: The rules for quarantining are now different for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals:

- Vaccinated people who are asymptomatic do not need to quarantine after close contact with a COVID positive person.
- Unvaccinated students must quarantine after a close contact with a COVID positive individual, but if both the person positive for COVID-19 and the contact were masked during the exposure, the close contact may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
 - (1) Are asymptomatic;
 - (2) Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
 - (3) Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
 - (4) Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.
- Additional quarantine protocols will be detailed in the BUSD Fall 2021 Safety Plan, available to the school community next week.

COVID Testing: BUSD will continue to provide COVID testing at Washington. More information to follow.

For more information, please visit the [BUSD COVID Safety Website](#)

School breakfast and lunch is **free for all students** during the 2021 school year. Check [here](#) to see school lunch menu

Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten and First grade students are invited to a brief, informal orientation in the Washington courtyard. We will be explaining how the first days of school will happen, drop off and pick up and Kindergarten Balanced Beginnings. This is not required. It's a chance for families to understand how the first days of school will work and see where children will go after they are dropped off, as families won't be allowed on campus. We will not be entering the building and there will be no bathrooms available. Please use [this link](#) to sign up for a slot.

Back to School Night is August 26! We'll have more information soon, so save the date.

Independent Study Option for K-12 Students Not Returning To Campus

From BUSD Admissions: We understand that some families may not be able to return to in-person learning. In keeping with new state law (Senate Bill 130) that describes Independent Study as the only permissible remote learning option in the new school year, we hope you will look into Berkeley Independent Study. BIS is prepared to offer a variety of remote learning options to students, and is led by experienced BUSD teachers and an administrator.

Please start your learning about independent studies by visiting the [BIS website](#) for more information about the program. For families more interested in SB130, please view this [informational letter](#) about the law.

Calendar Reminders:

- ★ August 16 First Day of School!
- ★ August 26 Back to School Night 6 - 8 pm (probably on Zoom, stay tuned for more information)

Once school begins, if your child is absent for any reason, please email washingtonattendance@berkeley.net and copy your child's teacher. Thank you!

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at katiahazen@berkeley.net

2021 22 Washington Bell Schedule

School year calendar [here](#) * Please follow our [traffic safety plan](#) for drop off and pick up

Please note there is no before school play allowed on the playground.

Morning Start Time 8:10 am (Students who arrive at school after 8:45 am should go directly to the office to get a late slip)

Morning Recess

8:55-9:15 am | TK & Kindergarten

9:20-9:35 am | Grade 1

9:40-9:55 am | Grade 2- 3

10:00-10:20 am | Grades 4-5

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| Lunch is eaten outside in the forest, weather permitting | Grades TK-1 | 11:00-11:45 am |
| | Grades 2-3 | 11:30am-12:15 pm |
| | Grades 4-5 | 12:00-12:40 pm |

Afternoon Dismissal

1:30 pm | Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten

2:25 pm | First through Fifth grades

