

Rhino Roar



News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

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

The Washington community mourns the sudden passing of Ken Hunter, our beloved School Campus Monitor. He knew the names and families of hundreds of children and made each one feel safe and special. You are forever in our hearts, Ken.

How to access your child's report card in Illuminate - [see this video](#) just 2 minutes!

Thank you to Washington Science teacher (and BUSD parent) Abby Paske for

making this quick video!

Elementary Family Town Halls on Tuesday, March 16

The district plans to host an informational meeting for elementary families on Tuesday, March 16 from 6:00 - 7:00 in English, and a meeting from 7:30-8:30 in Spanish. We hope that you will join us. At the meeting, we'll share more about elementary schedules for both in-person and distance learning, and review health procedures for students and families who are choosing to return.

March 16: Elementary Town Hall in English from 6:00-7:00

Here is the [link](#) to attend.

Match 16: Elementary Town Hall in Spanish from 7:30 - 8:30

Here is the [link](#) to attend.

Special Education Town Hall, March 17, 6:00 - 8:00

We look forward to hosting a Town Hall event that is specific to the questions and concerns of Special Education students. Please join me, Executive Director for Special Education Shawn Mansager, and other members of the Special Education team for an evening of live questions and discussion about Special Education services in this coming stage of school reopenings.

Special Education families, please take a moment to respond to this [Thought Exchange survey](#) to help us know more about your questions, interests, and concerns.

The link to the Zoom meeting is [here](#).

[Here is the link to this week's presentation to the Board of Education by our](#)

[Special Education team](#). Please scroll forward to 3:05.05 for the start of the presentation.

BUS TRANSPORTATION Due to the social distancing guidelines, the maximum number of students we are able to transport on our school buses is 154 total. Currently we have 9 large buses (12 to 14 students total), and 10 small buses (4 students, including w/c) available for transportation. Numbers are based on the school bus total capacity and 6-foot social distancing.

Special Ed student transportation is mandatory. Eligible General Ed students will be based on space availability. Information on procedures and process for bus transportation requests is as follow:

a) Parents should email their request to transportationdept@berkeley and provide a child's name, grade, address, morning and/or afternoon service.

b) General Ed students are not eligible for bus transportation if they live within 1.5 miles of the school site.

c) For Special Ed students, parents must contact the BUSD Special Education Department and request transportation with their child's program supervisor. BUSD Transportation will receive transportation requests from Special Ed staff to process.

For students who are eligible for bus transportation, the parent or guardian will be contacted when the bus route is created and a driver is assigned. Please visit our webpage on the district website for more information on procedures for bus transportation requests and review our BUSD Transportation Safety Guidelines for COVID19.

<https://www.berkeleyschools>.

AFTER SCHOOL: Extended Learning Enrollment

The BEARS and LEARNS programs will be operating in a limited capacity.

If you are interested in enrolling your student in BEARS, please contact our administrative assistant, Ashley Stepney: ashleystepney@berkeley.net. Please note the BEARS program is funded through the California Department of Child Development and all families must meet both income requirements and must demonstrate a need for care.

If you are interested in enrolling your student in LEARNS, log on to <https://berkeleylearns>, starting on Tuesday, March 16 after 9:00 a.m. to complete the application. Priority will be given to families based on need.

Washington playground is now closed to the public from 12:30 - 4 pm every day except Wednesday so that limited small group instruction may take place as part of Phase 1 reopening. Please schedule your visits to campus outside of these times, as the playground will not be accessible. Materials pick up is still taking place in the courtyard.

Each student will need their own **water bottle** once school reopens, as water fountains have been turned off. Please write your child's name on their water bottle. Students will be able to refill water bottles in classrooms and at several water bottle refilling stations located around campus.

In addition, students will need a **mask** (we will have extras at school for anyone who forgets). They may wish to bring an extra to change to after lunch. Acceptable masks are surgical masks, dust masks, cloth masks and clear masks. Unacceptable masks are bandannas, gaiters, cloth masks with vent or N95 with vent. Face shields are allowed but also require a mask.

Ed Hub is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5pm.

Calendar Reminders:

- March 16 Elementary Town Hall
- March 17 Special Education Town Hall

- March 29 Kindergarten, First and Second grade students return to in-person instruction
- April 5 - 9 Spring Break
- April 12 Third, Fourth and Fifth grade students return to in-person instruction

If your child is absent for any reason, please email washingtonattendance@berkeley and copy your child's teacher. Thank you!

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

Katia Hazen
Principal