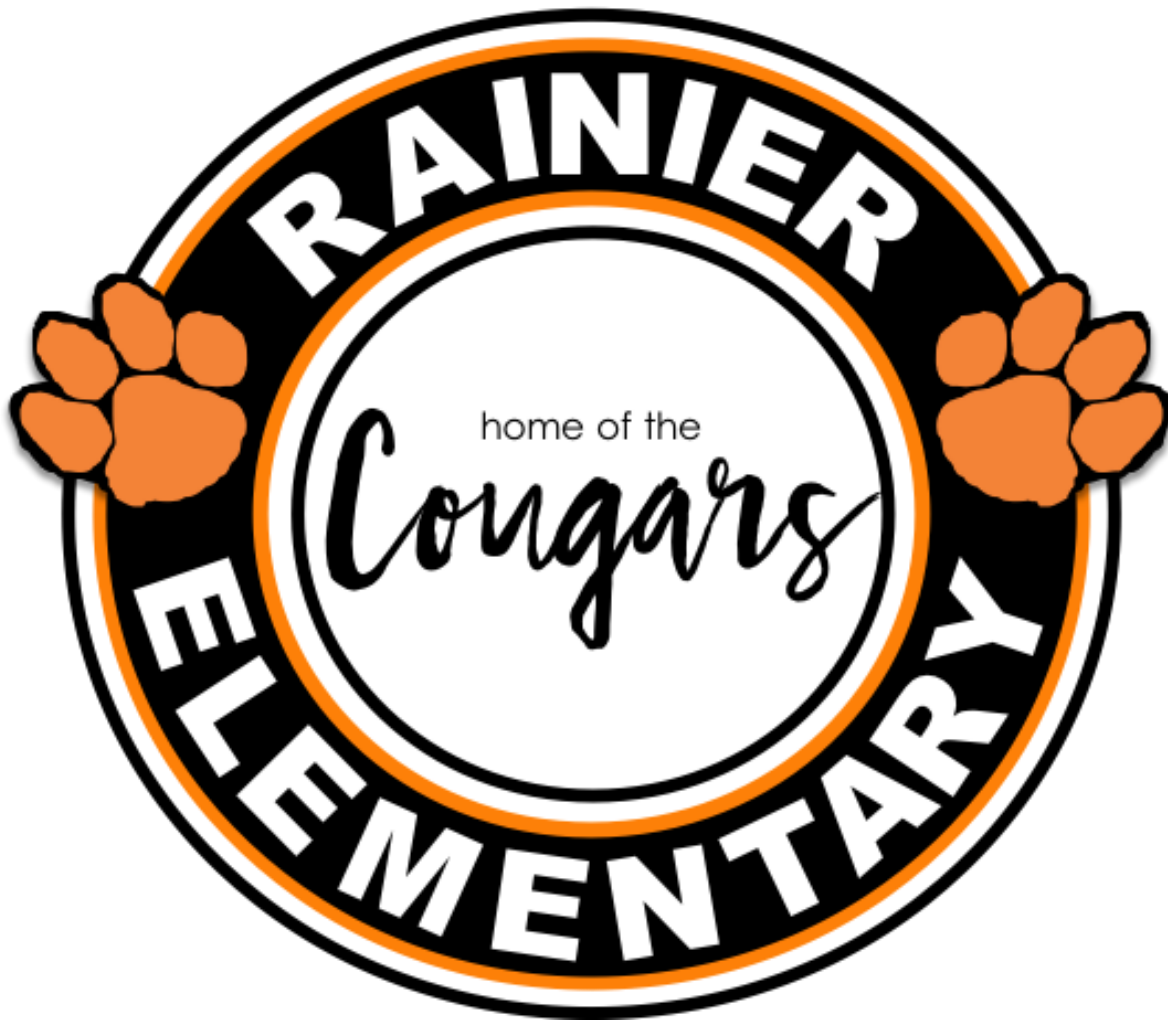


RAINIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student-Parent Handbook

2023-2024



Respect Others
Encourage Good Decisions
Solve Problems

PO Box 98
600 Third Street West
Rainier, WA 98576
(360) 446-4020
(360) 446-4022 fax
www.rainier.wednet.edu

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A Message from Mrs. Meldrum . . .

It is truly an honor to greet you on behalf of the entire staff and welcome you to Rainier Elementary School, "Home of the Cougars!" As a staff, we are committed to providing an environment where all students are able to reach their potential. Rainier Elementary School offers a strong, comprehensive academic program based on the Washington Learning Standards.

An effective and positive educational setting is one where the home, school and community work together. I strongly encourage and welcome parent involvement. Our staff work extremely hard to create a climate and school that is both challenging and loving. We maintain high standards of academic excellence and student achievement. We appreciate all your support as we strive to reach our goals this year.

This handbook contains essential information regarding our school and policies. I hope you find this information helpful in becoming familiar with our school's expectations. I look forward to a wonderful year. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help make this year a success for both you and your children.

Regular Day and Early Release Wednesday Schedule

The safety of our students is of utmost importance to us. Supervision will **begin at 8 am.**

Please no early drop offs as the building does not open for students until 8:00 am.

For the safety of our students, parents and/or guardians are not allowed to walk their students to class.

	<u>Regular Day</u>	<u>Wednesday/Activity</u>
Campus Open	8:00 am	8:00 am
Breakfast	8:00 am	8:00 am
First Bell	8:20 am	8:20 am
Tardy Bell	8:25 am	8:25 am
Morning Recess		
Kindergarten and 4 th Grade	9:40 am	9:20 am
1 st and 5 th Grade	10:00 am	9:40 am
2 nd and 3 rd Grade	10:35 am	10:00 am
Lunch		
Kindergarten and 4 th Grade	10:50 am	10:20 am
1 st and 5 th Grade	11:25 am	10:55 am
2 nd and 3 rd Grade	12:00 pm	11:30 am
Afternoon Recess		
Kindergarten and 4 th Grade	2:05 pm	1:20 pm
1 st and 5 th Grade	1:45 pm	1:00 pm
2 nd and 3 rd Grade	1:15 pm	12:40 pm
Student Dismissal		
DLC	2:40 pm	1:40 pm
Kindergarten – 5 th Grade	2:50 pm	1:50 pm

Wednesday Early Dismissal Time – 1:50 pm

½ Day Early Departure Time – 11:35 am

Rainier Elementary School and District Calendar

August

- 23 Kindergarten Orientation & Scavenger Hunt
- 24 Kindergarten Cougar Cub Camp
- 30 Open House 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

September

- 5 First Day of School Grades 1-12
- 5-7 WA Kids (Kindergarten Family Meetings)
- 8 First Day of School Kindergarten
- 18 Picture Day - Individual
- 20 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 27 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM

October

- 4 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 11 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 18 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 25 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 31 Early Departure, 11:35 AM

November

- 1-3 Early Departure, 11:35 AM
- 8 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 10 No School, Veterans' Day
- 15 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 22 Early Departure 11:35 AM, Thanksgiving
- 23-24 No School, Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM

December

- 6 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 13 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 14 K-5 Winter Program, Time TBA
- 15 Early Departure, 11:35 AM, Winter Break
- No School, Winter Break (Dec. 18 – Jan. 1)

January

- 2 Welcome Back, Regular Day of School
- 3 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 10 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 15 No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 17 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 24 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 26 Early Departure 11:35 AM, End of Semester
- 31 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM

February

- 7 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 14 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 16 No School (Possible Snow Make up Day)
- 19 No School, Presidents' Day
- 21 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 28 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM

March

- 6 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 13 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 20 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 26-29 Early Departure, 11:35 AM

April

- 1-5 No School, Spring Break
- 10 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 17 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM
- 24 Wednesday Early Release, 1:50 PM

May

STATE TESTING BEGINS Grades 3-5

- 24 Possible School Make up Day, if needed
- 27 No School, Memorial Day

June

- 12 Field Day
- 13 End of Year Awards Assembly
- 14 Early Departure 11:35 AM, Last Day of School

All dates subject to change.

Please check the website, monthly newsletter, emails, and notes sent home for updates.

Mission Statement

“The students of Rainier School District will be recognized as unique individuals. Our mission is to help them grow academically, socially, culturally, emotionally and physically so they will be prepared for a rapidly changing society. The ultimate goal of our school, parents and community is the development of responsible and productive citizens.”

What is Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS)?

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) is a way of creating a positive and predictable school environment. PBIS is focused on improving climate and culture through three basic ideas:

- 1) Develop consistent school wide and classroom beliefs.
- 2) Teach these beliefs to all students in a variety of ways.
- 3) Recognize students for following beliefs.

PBIS strategies also include using data for decision-making, providing extra support for struggling students, and consequences for not complying with beliefs.

At Rainier Elementary we have expectations for all areas of our school including: hallways, assemblies, office, bathrooms, bus, arrival (morning routine), cafeteria, pick-up and playground. All staff teaches these expectations/beliefs through activities like “Cougar Camp” and assemblies. Staff then will provide recognition for students who follow our beliefs. Self-management strategies and discipline procedures are used with struggling students. Finally, data is collected and reviewed to improve the system.

PBIS creates a culture of respect that allows teachers and students to focus on academics. Through PBIS, misbehavior is minimized and self-management is maximized. The end result is more time for teaching and learning.

Rainier Elementary Cougar Code

- Respect Others
- Encourage Good Decisions
- Solve Problems

Rainier Elementary School-Wide Behavior Expectations

In the Hallway:

Respect Others:	Hands and feet to self, acknowledge adults and peers with a smile, use kind words
Encourage Good Decisions:	Walk to the right of the hallway, walk in a line
Solve Problems:	Accept place in line

On the Playground:

Respect Others:	Control your body, be a good sport
Encourage Good Decisions:	Walk in “Walking Zone”, use equipment properly, put equipment away after use, line up quickly when bell rings
Solve Problems:	Follow playground and game expectations, include others, take turns

In the Cafeteria:

Respect Others:	Throw away all trash, clean up eating area, wait patiently
Encourage Good Decisions:	Table manners, both hands on tray
Solve Problems:	Walking feet, enter/exit checkpoints

In the Office:

Respect Others:	Be patient
Encourage Good Decisions:	Stand on PAW, wait turn
Solve Problems:	Complete task

In the Bathroom: "RULE OF 2"

Respect Others:	2-points (all trash in the garbage can)
Encourage Good Decisions:	2-pumps of soap, 20 seconds of handwashing, 2-minutes or less in most cases, 2-pulls of paper towels
Solve Problems:	Wait turn outside door if bathroom is full, report any mishaps to an adult

On the Bus:

Respect Others:	Be kind, be a good neighbor
Encourage Good Decisions:	Be safe, stay seated until doors open
Solve Problems:	Choose seat partners wisely, full body listening, wear mask

At Pick-Up Line:

Respect Others:	Be helpful, stay in line
Encourage Good Decisions:	Walk on sidewalk and grass area, belongings with you at all times
Solve Problems:	Listen to staff, watch for ride

At Assemblies:

Respect Others:	Enter in a single file line, full body listening, crisscross and hands in lap
Encourage Good Decisions:	Cougar Paw (hand signal), be mindful of others, follow teacher directions
Solve Problems:	Know who you can sit by

Morning Routine:

Respect Others:	Enter through assigned door
Encourage Good Decisions:	Proceed to classroom, put away backpack
Solve Problems:	If eating breakfast, go to cafeteria

Quick Reference

Rainier Elementary Office	(360) 446-4020	Rainier School District Office	(360) 446-2207
Rainier Elementary Fax	(360) 446-4022	Transportation Department	(360) 446-2209
Rainier Middle School	(360) 446-2206	Special Education Department	(360) 446-7406
Rainier High School	(360) 446-2205		

2023 – 2024 Rainier Elementary School Staff

Principal

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Debbie Ortmyer, ortmyerd@rainier.wednet.edu

Director of Special Services

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Technology Director

Jessica VonWendel

IT Help Desk, help@rainier.on.spiceworks.com

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Krista Alwine

Lynette Vandiver

Steve Hentze

Deanna Acosta

Garrett Spivey

Shana Burk

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Amiee Ross

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Annette Diamond, diamonda@rainier.wednet.edu

Custodial

Rick Rossmailer

Matt Porco

Transportation

Bob Marney, marneyb@rainier.wednet.edu

Academic Success

Students who are prepared for school do better in school. Here are some of the things students can do to be ready to learn and allow other students to learn, too.

- Come to class prepared.
- Follow adult directions and complete assignments on time.
- Come to school on time and ready to learn.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

The safety of our students is of utmost importance to us. Supervision will be provided from 8:00 am-8:20 am on our playground for your convenience. There is no playground supervision after school. When dropping students off, please drop them off in the student drop-off area at the front of the building so students do not need to cross the parking lot. **PLEASE PULL FORWARD** when dropping off students so that traffic doesn't back up in the parking lot. Please help us keep all students safe!

Upon arriving at school, all students will enter through their grade level designated door. Once they enter, they will go to their classroom. If they choose to eat breakfast, they will do that after checking in with their homeroom teacher and washing their hands. Instruction begins at 8:25 AM. It is very important that students are in class on time. If your student is tardy, he/she must report directly to the office to get a tardy slip before going to class. Once again safety is our number one priority, and these guidelines help your student arrive and leave school as safely as possible:

Morning Drop Off

- The school is open for drop off as early as 8:00 am. If you arrive before 8:00 am you will need to keep your child in your vehicle until a visual signal from school personnel at 8:00 am.
- At 8:00 am, your child will enter the building through the front door.
- Our parking lot is one way. Please pull into the lane nearest the curb and exit by driving around to the left.
- To keep traffic moving please pull forward.
- It would be helpful if students are prepared with backpacks and coats ready to be dropped off quickly in this right lane.
- For your child's safety, please have them exit the vehicle on the passenger side closest to the sidewalk.
- Please do not stop on the crosswalk or exit your vehicle.
- ***After dropping off your student, please take care pulling away from the curb as other cars will be passing through.***

Afternoon Pick-Up

- Please do not park and get out of your vehicle to pick-up your child.
- If you choose to walk to come and pick-up your child, please wait over by the flag pole area and we will release your child to you.
- Our parking lot is one way. Please pull into the lane closest to the school on the curb and exit by driving around to the left, through the back of the parking lot.
- Please continue to pull forward as other cars exit the pick-up zone. Our pick-up line runs more smoothly if the cars advance forward as far as possible when space opens up. Please pick-up your child quickly to prevent a traffic back-up.
- For your child's safety, we will have them enter the vehicle on the passenger side closest to the sidewalk.
- Please do not stop on the crosswalk or exit your vehicle.

- Please have your passenger side window down so we can communicate with you regarding pick-up.

Bike Riders and Walkers

If students walk to the middle/high school area either before or after school, they must board a bus and ride the bus between buildings. Parents who want their students to walk or bike to/from school must notify the elementary office to give permission. We ask all walker/bike riders to wait outside in our designated area until the traffic clears.

Bus Riding

Many Rainier students ride busses. We want the ride to be safe and pleasant. Bus drivers and teachers review bus safety rules and expectations with students. The Rainier School District has provided a handout, [A Safe Ride](#), from the transportation department. This handout is available yearly for all students. It can be located at the school office, on the school website, and an embedded link in the “Annual Student Update” newsletter. These rules and expectations are strictly enforced for the safety of all students. Students can be suspended from the bus if they do not follow the expectations.

Glass items, balloon bouquets, and pets are not allowed on school busses for safety reasons. Students should be extremely careful at bus stops and when crossing streets. Students should understand that bus stops become dangerous when pushing and shoving occur. Students should arrive at the bus stop no more than 5 minutes before the scheduled time. If you have any questions, please contact our transportation department at 360-446-2209.

Change of After School Plans

If you find it necessary to change your student’s after school plans, either send a note to school or call the school office **before 2:15 PM (1:15 on Wednesdays)**. Students are not allowed to change their after school plans without verbal or written permission from a parent/guardian. We will send the student on his/her normal routine unless a parent/guardian lets the office know differently.

Attendance (Policy 3122 & 3122P)

Academic excellence is tied to good attendance. Students who are frequently absent – whether excused or unexcused – miss key components and essential practice. Regular school attendance is one of the most important parts of your school responsibilities. According to state law RCW 28A.225.010: All parents in this state of any child seven years of age and under eighteen years of age shall cause such child to attend the public school of the district in which the child resides and such child shall have the responsibility to attend for the full time when such school may be in session. Our school day is based on a 4 period day. See Rainier School District website for the full school board policy and procedure.

Rainier School District Attendance Guidelines

Any student who misses 50% or more their school day is considered absent. All absences are considered unexcused unless it meets one of the criteria in the RSD policy for an excused absence.

Unexcused Absences:

- After 1 unexcused absence RCW 28A.225.020 = **Inform** the student’s parent/guardian by notice **in writing or by telephone**, in a language the parent is fluent, whenever the student has failed to attend school after one unexcused absence.

- After 3 unexcused absences within any month RCW 28A.225.020= **Schedule conference** with parent/guardian and student for the purpose of **identifying barriers** to the student's regular attendance and the **supports and resources** that may be made available to the family and the **steps to be taken** to support the student to attend.
- Between 2 and 7 unexcused cumulative absences in a school year RCW 28A.225.020 = **Take data-informed steps** to eliminate or reduce student's absences. **Convene the IEP or 504 team** if the student has an IEP or a 504 Plan to consider the reasons for the absences and adjust the IEP or 504 Plan as necessary. This is required and is in addition to the requirement to have a parent conference after 3 unexcused absences.
- Not later than the 7th unexcused absence in a month RCW 28A.225.030 = District shall do one of the following:
 - **Enter into an agreement** with the student and parent establishing attendance requirements, OR
 - **Refer student to a Community Engagement Board (CEB), OR**
 - **File** petition under subsection (1) of RCW 28A.225.030
- After 7 unexcused absences in a month and not later than 15 cumulative unexcused absences in a school year RCW 28A.225.035 = **File truancy petition** with Juvenile Court. Court must **stay** the petition. **Refer** the parent and child to a **community engagement board (CEB)** or other coordinated means of intervention if referral did not take place before the petition. CEB meeting must take place within **twenty days** of the referral. The CEB must meet with the child, a parent, and school district representative and enter into an agreement.

Excused Absence Guidelines:

- After 5 excused absences within any month or 10 cumulative excused absences in a school year RCW 28A.225.018 = **Schedule conference** with the parent of an elementary student and the child for the purpose of identifying barriers to attendance and supports/resources available to assist the family. If the student has an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan, the IEP or 504 team must convene.

A conference or IEP/504 team meeting is **not required if prior notice has been given** or a doctor's note has been provided and an academic plan has been put in place. This step of holding a conference for excused absences is only required for elementary school students.

https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/ossi/k12supports/Legally%20Required%20Steps_Elementary.pdf

Picking up Students from School Early

We encourage parents to wait until school is dismissed before picking up your student. Those last few minutes are often spent establishing homework and reflecting on the learning for the day. Your student misses out on the chance to extend their learning or be productive the next day if they miss this important closing time. Students will be marked absent for the periods of the day they are not at school.

If you need to pick-up your student early, please come to the foyer (located through the first set of double doors) to sign him/her out. Once you are in the foyer, **please push the button to call the office (doorbell)**. Your student will be called from the classroom at that time. Please do not go to the classroom to pick-up your student. If someone other than the parent/guardian will be picking up your

student, please notify the office. Your student will only be released to someone on your student's Emergency Contact Form. Please have your ID ready for verification.

Planned Absences

Extended planned absences affect student learning and should be limited during the school year as much as possible. We encourage parents/guardians to schedule doctor appointments and vacations during non-school days. Please avoid planning events that will cause your student to be absent during the state assessment window of April and May. There is a pre-arranged absence form available in the office or on the following webpage (please download and fill out):
<https://www.rainier.wednet.edu/domain/49>

Required Attendance Conference

If an elementary school student has five or more excused absences in any month, or ten or more excused absences in the school year, the school district is required to contact you to schedule a conference at a mutually agreeable, reasonable time with at least one district employee, to identify the barriers and supports available to you and your student. A conference is not required if your student has provided a doctor's note, or pre-arranged the absence in writing, and the parent, student and school have made a plan so your student does not fall behind academically. If your student has an Individualized Education Plan or a 504 Plan the team that created the plan needs to reconvene.

If your student has three unexcused absences in one month, state law (RCW 28A.225.020) requires we schedule a conference with you and your student to identify the barriers and supports available to ensure regular attendance. The district is obligated to develop a plan that may require an assessment to determine how to best meet the needs of your student and reduce absenteeism.

If your student has seven unexcused absences in any month or ten unexcused absences within the school year, we are required to file a petition with the Juvenile court, alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010, the mandatory attendance laws. The petition may be automatically stayed and your student and family may be referred to a Community Truancy Board, or you and your student may need to appear in Juvenile Court. If your student continues to be truant you may need to go to court.

Tardy

Students are expected to be in class on time. Class begins at 8:25 AM. Students arriving after school begins will be marked tardy until 9:00 AM. It is very important that students are in class on time. If your student is tardy, he/she must report to the office to get a tardy slip before going to class. After 9:00 AM, students will be marked absent for the periods of the day they are not at school.

When Your Child Is Absent

When your student is unable to attend school, please call the office, 360-446-4020, by 9:00 AM.

- Messages may be left before and after school hours.
- Please leave your student's name, teacher and reason for the absence.
- In order to excuse an absence, we must have contact with a parent or guardian.
- If unexcused, parents/guardians will receive an automated phone call from our School Messenger service.
- You may also enter attendance online using the Family Access System.

Booster Club

The Booster Club is a parent group that raises funds in order to enrich our children's curriculum. Membership is free to all school and community members. Without a committed group of motivated individuals, the Booster Club would not exist. The club is always in need of new members to renew the club's energy, ideas and enthusiasm. Meetings are held the first Monday of each school month at 6:30 PM in the elementary library. Please come help us improve your child's educational experience; give one hour a month and join the Booster Club.

Cell Phones (including Smart Watches)

Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones to school. However, we do recognize that occasionally parents permit their students to have a cell phone for personal security before and after school. We require students to turn cell phones off upon arrival at school and leave them in their backpack or book bag until they leave campus. Cell phones are not to be in the student's possession during class, lunch or recess. At no time are cell phones to be used during the school day. Students may wear smart watches at school; however, students may not use their watch during the school day for text messaging, phone calls, or any other use unrelated to school. We are happy to facilitate communication between students and parents through our office phones.

Childfind

The Rainier School District is committed to addressing the unique needs of students with disabilities ages birth through 21 residing within the boundaries of the Rainier School District. This includes children with disabilities enrolled in private schools, including religious, as well as children who are homeless (if your family is living in a temporary situation, you may contact the district where you are currently staying for a screening). Disabilities can be in any one of the several areas that ultimately affect a child's learning, such as the ability to think, to express oneself, to see or hear clearly, to get around or understand instructions given. Birth to 5 years old, children have access to free developmental assessment. Areas could include: approaches to learning, physical/motor, social/emotional, cognitive, communication and language, literacy, math/numeracy, sensory function, temperament, behavior, specific disabilities such as autism. If you have a child who you think might have a disability requiring special education instruction or significant accommodations at school or if you know of such a child, please feel free to contact the Rainier School District Special Education office at 360-446-7406.

Class Placement

Rainier Elementary staff meets as a team to discuss class placement. Classes are developed using the following criteria: academic, behavioral, social, and learning styles of the students. Due to balancing class loads we do not accept parent requests. Our staff of highly qualified teachers work hard to place students for academic success.

Closed Campus

Students are required to remain on the school grounds during the entire period of required school attendance. Students that have ridden the bus to school or have been dropped off before school by an adult are not allowed to leave the school grounds for any reason; students are considered truant if they leave. Permission to leave the school grounds during school hours will be granted only with written permission from a parent, teacher and or the office.

Covid

Covid regulations may change throughout the year to be consistent with TCHD, OSPI, DOH, and CDC guidelines. Staff and students are required by state law to comply with all directives from the governor, the DOH and OSPI as guidance changes. It is expected that students comply with these directives.

Custody Issues

Custody disputes must be handled by the courts. The school has no legal jurisdiction to refuse a biological parent access to their child and/or their child's school records. The only exception is when a signed restraining order or proper divorce papers, specifically stating visitation limitations, are on file in the school office. Any student's release to an adult which leaves the student's welfare in question will be handled at the discretion of the administrator or designee. Should any such situation become a disruption to the school, law enforcement will be contacted and an officer will be requested to intervene. Parents are asked to make every attempt not to involve the school in custody issues. The school will make every attempt to reach the custodial parent if any other person not listed on the emergency card attempts to pick-up a child.

Discipline

The Rainier Elementary School staff is dedicated to creating and maintaining a positive, productive environment for all students which is why we implemented PBIS. Since student behavior and a quality learning climate are closely related, we believe it is worth the effort to encourage and reinforce cooperation and responsible behavior from our students. The students at Rainier Elementary School are expected to follow the following expectations throughout the building and on the playground.

The expectations at school are:

- Respect Others
- Encourage Good Decisions
- Solve Problems

Since we believe discipline to be a positive learning experience where children learn to manage their own behavior in a responsible manner, all consequences will have a learning component. We believe for any discipline plan to be effective, it must be consistent, communicated between staff, students, administration, and parents, and contain consequences.

Our school-wide behavior management is designed to bring about an increased recognition and promotion of good behavior. If problems arise, we work positively to find solutions. We listen carefully when a student is upset or misbehaving, redirect (especially with our youngest students), model appropriate behavior, talk informally with the boys and girls, and guide them through the process of making good choices. Consequences will be progressive and may include a verbal warning, a stop and think with a para educator, teacher or principal, timeout, change of activity, change of location, loss of privileges, in school suspension, out-of school suspension, or expulsion. Parents may be asked to conference with us and/or support us in developing an appropriate plan for greater success.

The three expectations apply to all students at Rainier Elementary School. For serious infractions of the three school expectations, the student will receive a Behavior Referral Form; the parent/guardian will receive a phone call, and student will have loss of privileges. Example offenses include: foul language, disrespectful to people and/or property, acting in an unsafe manner, and fighting.

Dress Code

Dress and grooming should not interfere with the right to learn or teach. School is a place for learning and hard work. Students must dress appropriately and according to school rules. The Rainier dress code helps students focus on learning, teaches students important life skills, and contributes to our safe and orderly school environment. Students who do not comply with the dress code will face disciplinary action.

- Clothing should be neat, clean and in good repair.
- Students are required to wear shoes as required by state law.
- Clothing and/or accessories displaying or making reference to drug, alcohol, and/or tobacco or clothing displaying profane, vulgar, violent, discriminatory or sexual language or pictures shall not be worn.
- Apparel, accessories, or manner of grooming which indicates gang membership, affiliation, or promotion of gangs is prohibited.
- ***Hats (baseball caps) shall not be brought to school unless it is for a special occasion.***
- Stocking hats and/or other headgear, (i.e. hoods on sweatshirts, bandanas, sunglasses (unless medically justified), etc.) shall not be worn in the school building during the school day.
- Attire which exposes the torso or shoulders (i.e. halter tops, tank tops with “spaghetti straps”, strapless shirts, see through clothing, and clothing that does not cover undergarments) is not appropriate school wear and are not allowed at school. Pants will be worn at waist level, even if a shirt covers the body.
- Jewelry and other accessories or clothing which may represent a safety hazard or danger to the welfare of the student or others shall not be worn (including wallet chains and spiked accessories).
- Shorts and skirts must be fingertip length (not running shorts or Spandex).
- Shirts and blouses must be free from holes and pants must not be cut or have holes above mid-thigh.

Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to correct the problem. Students who cannot correct the problem may not attend class, lunch or other school activities until the problem is fixed.

PE Dress Code

- When your student has P.E., they must wear rubber sole/tennis type shoes (no backless tennis shoes). No open-toe sandals, flip-flops, platform, or dress shoes.
- Students may bring shoes to change into for P.E.
- Please wear shorts under dresses.
- A parental note is required for all students who are unable to participate in P.E. If the time is longer than 2 days, a note from their doctor will be required.

Drug, Tobacco and Weapon Free School (Policy 5201, 4215, 4210)

Drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco products of any kind, alcohol, and weapons are all illegal for students to have at school. Serious penalties have been established through District Policy and state laws for violations involving illegal items at school. Weapons of any nature, including knives, guns, and at times, facsimiles of weapons, carry automatic school suspension or expulsion provisions in state law. See Rainier School District website for the full school board policy.

Electronic Resources (Policy 2024)

Throughout the course of the school year students will use electronic devices as an important piece of their learning in multiple classes and subjects. This might be, to name a few, accessing information, creating

documents and presentations to demonstrate learning. In doing this, Rainier School District will ensure that the access provided to students is filtered and protected per the Children's Internet Protection Act or CIPA. In turn, students are expected to follow the Rainier School District Network and Information Systems Use that aims to promote positive and effective digital citizenship among students and staff. Digital citizenship represents more than technology literacy. Successful, technologically-fluent digital citizens live safely and civilly in an increasingly digital world. They recognize that information posted on the Internet is public and permanent and can have a long-term impact on an individual's life and career. Expectations for student and staff behavior online are no different than face-to-face interactions. See Rainier School District website for the full school board policy.

Internet Policy

Rainier School District requires a signed internet use policy form prior to a student's internet access at our school. Our district has filters in place to restrict inappropriate websites. Students are closely monitored by staff. Any student attempting to purposely access unapproved or inappropriate websites may lose computer privileges.

Emergency Information

The Rainier Elementary staff is committed to maintaining a safe school environment. To keep our school safe, we all need to work together. If we all respect one another, make good decisions and report unsafe behavior to staff members or administration, our school will continue to be safe.

Drills & Procedures

We conduct regular fire, earthquake and lockdown drills to acquaint the children with emergency procedures. These drills are in accordance with state guidelines and the emergency plan coordinated throughout the school district. In the event of an emergency or other unusual circumstance, it might be necessary to dismiss school early. School personnel will make every attempt to reach parents or emergency contacts on file. Our School Messenger system will also be activated. Parents should formulate emergency plans in advance to make sure their child(ren) know what to do and where to go as it may not be possible to alert parents ahead of time. In some cases, students will be required to remain at school. Even in emergency situations, students may only be released by authorized school personnel.

Emergency Contacts

It is very important that emergency contacts are updated annually either through Family Access or contacting the office. If you have any changes in address, phone number, or place of employment and employment phone number, please update through Family Access or contacting the office.

Locating Your Student in an Emergency

We have special procedures in place to keep your student safe in an emergency. Please help us keep all students safe by doing the following:

- Please do not call your student on a cell phone during an emergency. Rainier staff members will provide students with directions on how to keep safe. Outside calls will be disruptive and confusing for everyone.
- If you want to pick-up your student from school, come to the Student Release Center which will be clearly marked.

School Closure

The school district makes every effort to ensure that parents are informed when school has to close due to inclement weather, unforeseen situations or an emergency. Our School Messenger system will call the primary number for each family. Information is put on the school website at www.rainier.wednet.edu. In addition, local TV and radio stations are alerted.

Expectations for Participation in Virtual Meetings

Rainier Elementary will utilize virtual online formats to provide instruction if distance learning is needed. These formats involve video conferencing between school staff and students. These resources will be used for the purpose of supporting instruction to only the students who are in the scheduled class. During any use of these online formats, there are student expectations that every student must adhere to in order to maintain the safety and integrity of those participating.

Listed below are the expectations that Rainier students must follow when participating in virtual online formats.

Student Expectations and Guidelines for Participation

1. Students must abide by all acceptable practices regarding digital network usage as stated in the student handbook.
2. School appropriate dress is required during participation at all times.
3. Appropriate and polite language shall be used at all times.
4. Students will not record or take screenshots during virtual meetings without prior teacher and classmate's approval.
5. Please attempt to keep all background noise and distractions to a minimum. Teachers reserve the right to mute all individuals when background noises become a distraction.
6. Find an acceptable area in your house that provides enough space for necessary items like a Chromebook, notebook, and remote learning supplies.
7. Speak in a clear manner so everyone can hear.
8. Promptly exit the meeting when your session is up. Your teacher will be the first one on and the last one out of the meeting.
9. Only accept invitations for meetings from school staff, and do not create your own.
10. Give your best effort online as you would in the classroom.

Family Access

Rainier School District recognizes many parents would like to play a greater role in their child's education. To make it easier for you to get involved, we are providing you with the ability to view your student(s) information anytime day or night. Parents can view their child's schedule, grades, attendance, demographic home information, meal account balance and pay any fees such as preschool tuition or field trips. You can pay online directly through Family Access. Family Access is also ideal for non-custodial parents to keep informed of their student's school activities.

If you do not know your login or password to access this site, please contact the office and we will gladly help. Please keep your username and password safe as they are only assigned to you and are confidential. If you feel your password has been compromised, you can change your password on the site by following the prompts.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible student”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parents or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. To amend a record, the parent or eligible student should write to the school principal (or appropriate official) clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses educational records, without consent, to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. {NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.}

The right to file a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington DC 20202-4605

Health Emergencies and First Aid

State law limits the first aid we may give your child at school. In case your child becomes ill or receives a serious injury, you will be notified. In the event that the primary parent is not available, we will attempt to reach an emergency contact person. If your child seems to be ill in the morning, please do not send him/her to school. Please keep us advised of any health status, activity restrictions or other relevant information.

First Aid Station

First aid services are provided throughout the school day by office personnel. Most visits to the office can be fixed with a quick ice pack, band aid and rest. In case of a head injury or serious injury, we will contact a parent or guardian.

Illness

Students with the following symptoms will be sent home: a fever >100.4 , cough, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, fever, diarrhea/vomiting, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, unusual fatigue. Return date will vary depending on symptoms and guidance from, *Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) and Thurston County Schools COVID-19 Student Pathway*. Students must be symptom free for **24 hours before returning to school**.

Insurance

Insurance is available at a nominal cost through a private group who provides us with enrollment forms and information explaining the various plans and premiums. The information is available in the office and on the district website. The school does not provide insurance for the students.

Life Threatening Health Conditions

Washington law requires students with life-threatening illnesses or allergies to have treatment orders and medication orders, from your doctor, at school before the first day of school.

- A life-threatening condition is a health condition that could put your child in danger of death during the school day if medication or treatment orders are not in place.
- Examples include: severe food allergies, severe insect bite allergies, bee sting allergies, severe asthma, diabetes, heart disorders and bleeding disorders.
- Students with food allergies need to have a written notice, including a physician's signature, listing foods the child should not eat. This information will be shared with school staff and the Food Service staff.

Medication at School

Medication, either prescription or over the counter, will be dispensed by school personnel **ONLY** when a parent has provided the medication in its original container along with a signed permission slip from a physician. **This is a State Law.**

- When it is necessary for the school to administer prescription or nonprescription medication to a student on a daily basis, the parent AND physician must fill out and sign an authorization for medication form.
- All medications must be in the original container with manufacturers and pharmacy instructions, as well as dosages and expiration date printed clearly on the label. For prescription medication, some pharmacies will provide a second bottle for school.
- Prescription/dosage changes cannot be taken over the phone; changes must come directly from the doctor.

- Parents or guardians must bring the medication to school. Both the school and the parent must sign in and sign out any type of medication. **Do not let your child transport any type of medication to school. It could be considered a violation of the school drug policy.**

Infectious Diseases (Policy 3414)

See Rainier School District website for Policy 3414

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is located by the gym. Please have your student check for lost items. Twice yearly, articles that have not been claimed are donated to charity. Items left on buses are usually kept by the bus driver and given to the office the next school day if not claimed. It would be helpful if parents put the child's name on articles in order to help us return them if lost.

Lunch/Breakfast Program

Breakfast and lunch are served daily through our school lunch program.

Money, Valuables and Toys

The school is not responsible for your lost or stolen items. You should not bring to school any items of value such as toys, electronic devices, fidget spinners, and trading cards. Toys and other distractions negatively affect the learning process and are a temptation to other students.

Nondiscrimination (Policy 3210 & 3210P)

Rainier School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Lack of English language proficiency will not be a barrier to admission and participation in career and technical education programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, refer to the Rainier School District website. Rainier School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational programs. See Rainier School District website for the full school board policy and procedure.

Nondiscrimination and Sexual Harassment (Policy 3205 & 3205P)

Under state law, information about every school district's sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure must be included in staff and student handbooks, or other publications that set forth the rules, regulations, and standards of conduct for the school or district (WAC [392-190-058](#)). Every school district must also annually inform all students, parents, and employees about its discrimination complaint procedure (WAC [392-190-060](#)).

The Equity and Civil Rights Office at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has developed the following sample language that districts can include in student and staff handbooks to meet these requirements.

Discrimination

Rainier School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. See Rainier School District website for the Civil Rights Coordinator; Title IX Office; and 504 Coordinator.

You can report discrimination and discriminatory harassment to any school staff member or to the district's Civil Rights Coordinator, listed above. You also have the right to file a complaint (see below). For a copy of your district's nondiscrimination policy and procedure, contact your school or district office or view it online here: <https://www.rainier.wednet.edu/Page/817>

Sexual Harassment

The Rainier School District is committed to a positive and productive education free from discrimination, including sexual harassment. Students and staff are protected against sexual harassment by anyone in any school program or activity, including on the school campus, on the school bus, or off-campus during a school-sponsored activity.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome behavior or communication that is sexual in nature when:

- A student or employee is led to believe that he or she must submit to unwelcome sexual conduct or communications in order to gain something in return, such as a grade, a promotion, a place on a sports team, or any educational or employment decision, or
- The conduct substantially interferes with a student's educational performance, or creates an intimidating or hostile educational or employment environment.

Examples of Sexual Harassment:

- Pressuring a person for sexual favors
- Unwelcome touching of a sexual nature
- Writing graffiti of a sexual nature
- Distributing sexually explicit texts, e-mails, or pictures
- Making sexual jokes, rumors, or suggestive remarks
- Physical violence, including rape and sexual assault

You can report sexual harassment to any school staff member or to the district's Title IX Officer. You also have the right to file a complaint (see below). For a copy of your district's sexual harassment policy and procedure, contact your school or district office, or view it online here: <https://www.rainier.wednet.edu/Page/817>

Complaint Options: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

If you believe that you or your child have experienced unlawful discrimination, discriminatory harassment, or sexual harassment at school, you have the right to file a complaint.

Before filing a complaint, you can discuss your concerns with your child's principal or with the school district's Section 504 Coordinator, Title IX Officer, or Civil Rights Coordinator, who are listed above. This is often the fastest way to resolve your concerns.

Complaint to the School District

Step 1: Write Our Your Complaint

In most cases, complaints must be filed within one year from the date of the incident or conduct that is the subject of the complaint. A complaint must be in writing. Be sure to describe the conduct or incident, explain why you believe discrimination, discriminatory harassment, or sexual harassment has taken place, and describe what actions you believe the district should take to resolve the problem. Send your written complaint—by mail, fax, email, or hand delivery—to the district superintendent or civil rights compliance coordinator.

Step 2: School District Investigates Your Complaint

Once the district receives your written complaint, the coordinator will give you a copy of the complaint procedure and make sure a prompt and thorough investigation takes place. The superintendent or designee will respond to you in writing within 30 calendar days—unless you agree on a different time period. If your complaint involves exceptional circumstances that demand a lengthier investigation, the district will notify you in writing to explain why staff need a time extension and the new date for their written response.

Step 3: School District Responds to Your Complaint

In its written response, the district will include a summary of the results of the investigation, a determination of whether or not the district failed to comply with civil rights laws, notification that you can appeal this determination, and any measures necessary to bring the district into compliance with civil rights laws. Corrective measures will be put into effect within 30 calendar days after this written response—unless you agree to a different time period.

Appeal to the School District

If you disagree with the school district's decision, you may appeal to the school district's board of directors. You must file a notice of appeal in writing to the secretary of the school board within 10 calendar days after you received the school district's response to your complaint. The school board will schedule a hearing within 20 calendar days after they received your appeal, unless you agree on a different timeline. The school board will send you a written decision within 30 calendar days after the district received your notice of appeal. The school board's decision will include information about how to file a complaint with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

Complaint to OSPI

If you do not agree with the school district's appeal decision, state law provides the option to file a formal complaint with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). This is a separate complaint process that can take place if one of these two conditions has occurred: (1) you have completed the district's complaint and appeal process, or (2) the district has not followed the complaint and appeal process correctly.

You have 20 calendar days to file a complaint to OSPI from the day you received the decision on your appeal. You can send your written complaint to the Equity and Civil Rights Office at OSPI:

Email: Equity@k12.wa.us | **Fax:** 360-664-2967

Mail or hand deliver: PO Box 47200, 600 Washington St. S.E., Olympia, WA 98504-7200

For more information, visit our [website](http://www.k12.wa.us/equity), or contact OSPI's Equity and Civil Rights Office at 360-725-6162/TTY: 360-664-3631 or by e-mail at equity@k12.wa.us.

Other Discrimination Complaint Options

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education

206-607-1600 | TDD: 1-800-877-8339 | OCR.Seattle@ed.gov | [OCR Website](#)

Washington State Human Rights Commission

1-800-233-3247 | TTY: 1-800-300-7525 | [Human Rights Commission Website](#)

Office Telephone Use

Many times students need to use the office telephone to reach parents for school related matters. Teachers also have a phone in their classroom and may allow students to use it to make calls home. More often than that, parents need to call the office to relay important messages to their children. The office phone is a business phone and students are required to have a written note from a staff member in order to use the phone. We do not allow students to use the phone to make after school plans with friends.

Online Payments

As a convenience to families, Rainier School District provides a way to make online payments from home or work, 24/7 through InTouch. The link and instructions can be located on our website:

www.rainier.wednet.edu/domain/60. You will be able to make payments for any child in your household using Discover, VISA or MasterCard credit or debit cards. Online payments can be made for food service, field trips, and any fees. There is a \$0.60 convenience fee.

OSPI State Report Card

For information about the State Report Card for Rainier School District please use the following link: <http://www.k12.wa.us>

Parent Conduct

According to RCW 28A.635.100, it is unlawful for any person, singly or with others, to intimidate by threat of force or violence any school employee or student who is in the conduct of his/her duties or studies.

Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (Policy 3207 & 3207P)

Rainier School District is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, parents/legal guardians, volunteers and community members that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any intentionally written message or image—including those that are electronically transmitted—verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, mental or physical disability or other distinguishing characteristics, when an act:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's education; or
- Is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

*Any person wishing to report harassment, intimidation or bullying may do so using the Rainier School District HIB reporting form available in all school offices and the counselors' offices. See Rainier School District website for the full school board policy and procedure.

Report Cards and Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held for students in grades K-5 at the conclusion of the first and third quarters. Report cards will be issued at the end of second and fourth quarter. Information regarding conferences will be sent home in the monthly newsletters.

School Board Policies

All Rainier School District Board policies can be accessed on the Rainier School District website at www.rainier.wednet.edu.

School Newsletter

Information concerning school activities, events, general items of interest and the breakfast/lunch menu are published and emailed to families as close to the last day of the month as possible. The newsletter will also keep you informed of important days and changes in the schedule. Check the school district website for any changes or updates as well. Please contact the office if you need paper copies sent home with your child.

State Assessments

- Students in grades 3-5 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment in May.
- Students in 5th grade will also take a Science Assessment in May.

Textbooks, Library Books

- **Textbooks** are provided free of charge; it is the parent's responsibility to pay for lost or damaged books. Final report cards are held on all unpaid lost or damaged textbooks.
- **Library Books:** Students have one library class per week and are free to check out books on an individual basis at other times. Students are expected to use library books with care. A fine will be assessed for lost or damaged books and final report cards are held on all unpaid fines. Students with outstanding lost or damaged library book fines will not be allowed to check out another book until the lost book is returned or fines are paid.

Treats for School

For student health and safety, any snacks brought in to share with other students must follow these guidelines:

- Prior to sending snacks to school, please contact your child's teacher for approval.
- Due to growing concerns regarding severe food allergies, please do not bring products containing peanuts or peanut oils.
- ***Store packaged treats only.***

Visitors

Due to the safety of our students, we do not allow parents and/or guardians to walk their child(ren) to their classroom. If a parent or guardian wants to observe in their child's classroom, they must schedule with the principal or designee. A one (1) day notice is required for any classroom observation. The principal or the teacher may request that the parent leave if the observation is a disruption or distraction to the

instructional process at any time.

With principal and teacher permission it may be possible for a friend or relative to visit during school lunch. However, we do discourage students visiting during instructional time as we believe it disrupts the educational process.

Volunteers

We welcome and encourage parents and guardians to volunteer in our school. The Rainier School District is required by Washington State Law (Child/Abuse Information Act RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.845) to have all volunteers complete a background check and criminal history disclosure statement. All volunteers must be cleared through the Washington State Patrol Criminal History (WATCH) program before volunteering.

- Please fill out the Volunteer Form included with the August Welcome Packet if you anticipate that you will be volunteering to work with students or going on any field trips. Volunteer Forms are also available at the office and on the elementary website.
- Once you arrive at school, please sign in at the office and pick-up a badge. These badges are to be worn by all volunteers.
- Confidentiality is of the utmost importance in your association with teachers and students. What you see and hear at school is private. You are in a unique position when you volunteer in the classroom to have information that is not to be shared. Students you observe in the classroom or the school cannot be discussed with other parents, faculty or staff. You may not discuss a child even with that child's parents. You must always refer any questions regarding students at Rainier Elementary to the child's teacher or the principal.
- When you are volunteering at Rainier, you are demonstrating your support for education. Please understand that in academic settings it is important to be able to give your full attention to the task at hand. For this reason, do not bring any children with you when you are volunteering during school hours.
- If you are on a fieldtrip, we assume you are chaperoning. We are expecting your full attention for the children you are supervising on the field trip.
- Cell phones are to be turned off in the classrooms.
- Volunteers are not to discipline students.
- If you are unable to help out during the school day, there are other school related activities that could use your help. Feel free to call the office for more information. Your involvement is important to your child.

Withdrawal from School

A parent or guardian should come to the office stating when the child will be leaving and where they will be going. If it is impossible for a parent or guardian to come in person, please call or send a note to the school with the above information. Make sure your student(s) have returned all textbooks and library books and that all fees, including breakfast/lunch fees, have been paid before withdrawing. If your child has a remaining balance in his or her meal account it will be necessary for the school to have a forwarding address in order to mail you a refund check for the balance due to you.