

The Ultimate Parent Guide to Island Park Elementary

Everything you need to know, all in one place.

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This document has been put together to help Island Park families find their way around quickly and easily. If you have questions about items not included in this document, please let us know so we can incorporate that information for future families! We encourage you to keep this guide handy for your entire elementary school stay.

The Mercer Island 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, marital status, 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. The Mercer Island School District offers classes in many College and Career Readiness programs, admission to which is non-discriminatory. Lack of English-language proficiency will not be a barrier to admission and participation in those programs.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Compliance Officer:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs, (206) 230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Title IX Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs, (206) 230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Section 504 & ADA Coordinator:

Dr. Lindsay Myatich, Director, (206) 236-3326
lindsay.myatich@mercerislandschools.org

Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs, (206) 230-6227
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Welcome to Island Park Elementary!

Principal's Message

Dear Island Park Families,

Island Park is one of four elementary schools in the Mercer Island School District. It is located in the middle of the island, at 5437 Island Crest Way.

Lisa Deen, Associate Principal, and I lead a staff of approximately 55 who serve 425 students. We are host to one of three district Personalized Learning Programs (PLPs) for students with special learning needs. Other special programs include a Special Education Resource Room; Counseling, LAP (remedial reading); technology integrated classrooms; music, art, library, and PE specialists; technology TOSAs; a K-5 Spanish language program; student council; before school choir, band and orchestra programs; and after school clubs including chess and art clubs.

Island Park uses district adopted curriculum as the foundation for its instructional program. Individual teachers and/or grade level teams assess students' needs and adapt instruction as necessary for learning to occur. Teachers frequently integrate material from several disciplines to make learning more meaningful for students.

Program components that guide our educational decisions include:

- Every student will be taught at a level and in a manner appropriate with his or her potential and ability.
- Teachers will utilize a variety of instructional strategies and grouping practices to address the needs of all learners.
- Student placement involves staff and parent input. Placement is ultimately the responsibility of the Principal. Placement goals take into consideration:
 - Academic, emotional and social needs of each child
 - Relative balance within classes gender, mixed grades, ethnicity, abilities, etc.
 - Appropriate peer groupings that promote a positive atmosphere for learning
 - Unique educational needs (ELL, Special Needs, etc.)

Our school staff also possesses the following core beliefs about our students:

- Pursuit of Academic excellence
- Personalized learning
- Developing a positive sense of self
- Building genuine relationships
- Belonging to a healthy, safe, supportive community
- Celebrating our diversity
- Using technology to access and convert information into knowledge
- Creating innovative solutions
- A passion for lifelong learning

Celebrating diversity is something Island Park values along with equity and inclusion. Our staff is committed to building and sustaining a school community where staff, parents, and learners acquire and build upon the knowledge, skills and attitudes that value and embrace inclusiveness, equity and awareness as a way to unleash creativity and innovation in pursuit of the District's 2020 Vision and Mission.

The District's Diversity Advisory Committee was established in 2014 to serve as a resource and catalyst for helping the school system embrace diversity as we deepen and expand our work as a multicultural organization. Valuing diversity embodies inclusion, mutual respect, and multiple perspectives. In this context, we are mindful of all aspects of human identities, such as socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, language, nationality, sex, sexual orientation,

gender identity and expression, religious/spiritual beliefs and values, geography, mental and physical disability and age.

Inclusion is a core requirement for successfully embracing diversity. Inclusion is achieved by intentionally creating opportunities for involvement, participation, and growth from each of us - nurturing the climate and culture of the school through professional development, education, policy, and practice. Equity also requires mutual respect as we strive for fairness and justice in the way people are treated within our school. Our objective is to create a school climate that fosters respect, belonging, and value for all, while encouraging participation and connection throughout the organization. Island Park supports diversity through various initiatives, including:

- Rich Curriculum and classroom activities that reflect our diverse student population
- School events that celebrate and honor our diverse student body and community
- Staff development that enhances skill sets to meet the diverse needs of our learning community
- Staff, student and parent involvement in committees and activities that study, suggest, and support diversity initiatives

Recognizing that it takes an entire community to educate a child, we welcome and encourage support, participation, and contributions from parents and other community members. This important and valued partnership helps ensure your child's success while maintaining open communication and fostering mutual support. Parent participation in the development of involvement opportunities is also welcomed and valued.

Welcome to Island Park!

Sincerely,

David Hoffman
Principal

Mercer Island School District

The Mercer Island School District consists of four elementary schools—Island Park, Lakeridge, West Mercer, and Northwood, one middle school—Islander Middle School, and two high schools—Mercer Island High and Crest Learning Center. Information about the Mercer Island School District can be found on the [district website](#).

Vision 2020 - Impetus for Change

Mercer Island students are top performers on state standardized test scores but we've realized that's not enough. Therefore, our schools are preparing students for the future by teaching our students how to think, collaborate, and be creative and effective in the interconnected world. We're keeping our standards high while connecting with students through a more personalized, student centered style of learning.

2020 Values

Student-centered classrooms are classrooms where students exhibit:

- Innovation and Creativity
- Personal development & Citizenship
- High expectations
- Global perspective
- Technological fluency
- Entrepreneurism and Collaboration
- Passion for learning
- Personalized learning



2020 Vision Essential

Creating a more personalized learning environment that is responsive to students' strengths, needs, learning styles, interests, passions and affinities.

Fundamentals of the Vision 2020

1. Create a more personalized learning environment where student-centered education is responsive to students' strengths and learning styles, interests and passions.
2. Maintain the highest standards in the areas of fine arts; health/fitness; literacy – reading, writing and communications; mathematics; science; social studies, and world languages.
3. Develop self-awareness, empathy, emotional/social intelligence, responsible decision-making and citizenship.
4. Encourage and enable students to be academic entrepreneurs and risk-takers who can choose to pursue academic passions and interests beyond traditional curriculum and beyond the traditional classroom environment.
5. Cultivate and foster thinking and process skills such as analytical and critical thinking, cross-discipline thinking, creativity, innovation, collaboration, communication, problem- solving, and information and technology literacy in curriculum design.
6. Cultivate Global Awareness and understanding of real-world problems, issues, concerns, commonalities, differences and interdependence.
7. Foster and embrace diversity, inclusiveness, and equity with a focus on respect and acceptance of every student.

The “Nuts and Bolts” of Island Park

Here’s the place to find the basic information you’ll need. From school hours to dropping things off, your most common questions will probably be answered here!

General Contact Information

Island Park Main Office: 206-236-3410
Absentee Alert: 206-236-3411
Transportation Office (Bus): 206-236-3338
District Emergency Number: 206-236-3366
District Webpage: <http://www.mercerislandschools.org>

Current contact information for Island Park staff, PTA, and Parent Advisory Council members can be found in the [Island Park Directory](#), located in the upper right hand corner of our school’s webpage.

School Hours

Normal school hours are 9:15am to 3:45pm, Tuesday through Friday and 9:15am to 2:05pm on Wednesdays. The playground and school grounds are unsupervised before and after normal school hours. Children playing on school grounds outside of normal school hours must be under the supervision of an adult. Please plan and provide adult supervision to your child if they are on school grounds before 9:00am or after 3:45pm.

Teachers/staff often are in their classrooms and offices before and after school preparing for the school day, grading papers, collaborating with their peers, attending meetings and working on curriculum. In consideration of their busy schedules, please schedule an appointment if you would like to meet with them during these times.

Visitors

When you visit Island Park Elementary, please check in at the front office window to sign in and receive a badge. Please bring your Driver’s License/Identification Card with you to check in.

If you are visiting a classroom, please silence or turn off your phone. If you must text or take a call, please ensure students are supervised and remove yourself from the learning environment before you do so. Thank you for limiting cell phone usage while at school.

School Calendar

The [calendar for the school year](#) is available online on the district website. Important events will also be included in the Island Park PTS’s newsletters and on the [PTA website](#).

Dropping Off Forgotten Items

It seems that kids are constantly forgetting something! Please drop off any items that you need to get to your children during the school day to the front office so as to not disturb the teaching and learning environment.

Lost and Found

The Lost-and-Found is always full of coats, sweatshirts and other items. Located in the main hall, please check it regularly for your child’s lost items. Please label all removable clothing worn to school. Items not claimed during the year will be donated to local charities at random times during the year.

School Supplies

School supplies are purchased in bulk. A charge, per student, is collected with other student fees as part of the parent pack collected by the PTA.

Logo Spiritwear

Island Park Logo shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase at the beginning of year. You can view the styles at the Opening Day Coffee.

School Lunch and Snacks

It is each student's responsibility to have a lunch from home, a valid lunch account, or the appropriate money for lunch. We cannot loan money for lunch. Additionally, students may want to bring a healthy snack for a classroom snack break. Students are encouraged to eat their own lunches, and trading food items is not allowed as a precaution against food allergens. You can help your child learn the value of nutritious meals by planning for and/or preparing good lunches with healthy drinks together. When packing a lunch, please help your child to open any containers or packaged food items independently so they can manage their own lunch at school. If you have a child with serious food allergies, please consult the school nurse or your child's teacher to get information on establishing a 504 health plan with the school. Unless directed by staff, all food is to be consumed inside the building during the school day. No

snacks or lunches are to be eaten on the playground except during special school events.

School Lunch Program

Information about the school lunch program can be found on the [Food Services Homepage](#). Hot lunches are served daily. A menu is sent home with students each month and is also available on the [MISD website](#). The cost of a school lunch is \$3.50 which includes milk. Students may purchase milk or juice for 40 cents per half pint.

Lunch Accounts

Money may added to your [child's lunch account online](#) or in the front office by either the parent or the child. Checks should be made payable to "Mercer Island School District-Food Services". Cash, credit and debit cards are NOT accepted in the front office.

Free and Reduced Lunches

Under provisions of the National School Lunch Act, free and reduced price lunches are available to children of families who qualify. In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits.

Free and reduced price lunch application forms may be accessed at the following link: <http://www.mercerislandschools.org/Page/85> Occasionally, a change in family income or size during the school year may qualify youngsters who were previously not eligible. Should this be your case, please contact the school office. We encourage all families who might qualify to submit the application.

Healthy Foods Focus

Here at Island Park, we are doing all that we can to foster a healthy and nutritious school environment. At the school we focus on non-food incentives and rewards. As a parent, we encourage you to support this effort by: 1) sending your child to school with healthy snacks and lunches if you don't participate in the school lunch program. 2) providing nutritious party snacks if you choose to bring them for classroom celebrations (e.g. Valentine's Day, Halloween).

Common Q & A Calendar

Q: What's an Early Release Day?

A: Every Wednesday students are released at 2:05 pm to allow planning time for the teachers. After school activities are available to students that are interested.

Q: What's a Noon Dismissal Day?

A: Occasionally, during the year the district schedules a noon dismissal day for various reasons.

Common Q & A Lunch

Q: How does my child buy lunch?

A: Money is deposited into your child's lunch account online, at the front office, or by bringing \$3.50 on the day he or she want to buy lunch.

Island Park Directory

Each year, an Island Park Student and Staff Directory is published by the PTA and distributed to its members. We recommend you join the PTA to get your copy. In the directory you will find current contact information for students, staff, administrators, Parent Advisory Council, PTA, and the district all together in one convenient location. This is the only published information provided with contacts for students in your children's class or any other class or grade at Island Park.

Library Books

Each classroom has a 30-minute library period per week during which children are able to check out and return library books. Guidelines for the number of books and length of borrowing time varies by grade. Remember our wonderful Teacher-Librarian is here to help if you need reading suggestions.

Attendance

Students develop attendance patterns early in their school careers. By keeping students home from school only when necessary, parents can help their youngsters develop good attendance patterns. As soon as you know your student will be absent, please call the school Absentee Alert number at 206-236-3411. Leave the name of your child, the teacher and the dates and reason for their absence on the recording. As a safety protocol, if your child is not in school and you have not reported his/her absence on the Absentee Alert line, a school staff member will call you to verify your child's location.

Student Sign-In/Sign-Out

Students must be signed in and out from the office whenever their arrival or departure is not at the normal time, regardless of the reason. For security reasons, please follow proper school check-out procedures.

Illness

If your child is ill to the extent that it will be difficult to participate in the activities of a normal school day, please keep him/her home. We do not have adequate facilities to care for ill children.

When children become ill at school, the parent/designated person is called to pick them up. *It is extremely important to keep the office up to date with any telephone, address or work changes.* It is important to provide a local Mercer Island phone number for emergency contacts. The school nurse recommends that a child with a fever be kept home for 24 hours after a normal temperature is reached without the aid of fever-reducing medications. A child who has vomited should also be kept home for 24-hours after the last vomiting incident.

Tardiness

Classroom doors are opened and the school day begins at 9:10am. Students are expected to be at school by 9:10am and seated in the classroom by 9:15am or they will be considered tardy. Instruction begins promptly at 9:15am. Tardy students must check in at the front office. Frequent tardiness is disruptive to a child's learning and the classroom environment; please help your child arrive at school on time.

Excused Absences

Excused absences include: illness, medical, or dental appointments, bereavement, and unforeseen emergencies. All absences must be reported on the Absentee Alert number at 206-236-3411.

Pre-Arranged Absences

On an increasing basis the Mercer Island Elementary School administration and teachers are experiencing difficulties because students are missing school for prolonged periods of time associated with family vacations. It is likely that parents are not aware of the impact such absences have on their child's education and on the ability of the school to function in a manner that serves the children best, particularly with the cumulative impact of several children missing school during the same time period, for example pre-Thanksgiving holiday. It has become necessary for Island Park Elementary to institute a policy for non-illness or non-emergency absences lasting three consecutive days or more.

- Families must fill out an [absence form](#) for each child and send it to the teacher at least two weeks before the pre-planned absence occurs. These may be obtained in the school office or on the [school website](#).
- Teachers will not prepare special homework packets in advance for families to take with them on vacation.
- WHEN APPROPRIATE teachers will save (all) work that was handed out during the child's absence. This work should be completed AT HOME when the child returns to school.
- Upon a student's return from an absence, parents are responsible for reviewing with their child/children work that was missed.
- Parents should not request that teachers make-up work with students.
- Children will miss some learning that cannot be made up.
- It is recognized that there is educational value to travel. It is highly desirable for vacation activities to be blended into a child's education. Examples include keeping a journal or scrapbook for travel; digital records of trips, reading related books, maps or other educational material. At the discretion of the teacher, some makeup work may be substituted for travel experiences.

Early Dismissals

If your child needs to leave early from the classroom for any reason, please report to the Main Office for your child to be called out of the classroom. Allow 10 minutes for your child to gather belongings and walk to the front office. You need to sign the student out at the Main Office. For security reasons, please follow proper school check-out procedures.

Common Q & A Attendance

Q: What time should we get to school?

A: Please have your child to school no earlier than 9:10am and no later than 9:15am. Prior to 9:10am, there is no supervision on the school grounds. School doors open at 9:10am. School officially starts at 9:15. Another reliable transportation mode available to all students is the school bus. If you are interested in obtaining more information about this free service, please call the Transportation Office (Bus) at 206-236-3338.

Q: Can my child play on the playground after school until I can get there?

A: Unfortunately, no. The playground is unsupervised after school. If your child is there, an adult will need to be with him/her supervising.

Q: How do I pick up my child for an appointment during school hours?

A: Please send a note in with your child informing the teacher of the appointment in the morning. When you arrive, check in at the front office, sign out your child and he or she will be called from class by the office staff.

Q: What do I do when my child is sick?

A: Call the school Absentee Alert number as soon as you know your child will be absent: 206-236-3411.

Q: If the teacher knows that my child is leaving early, can I just go get my child from the classroom?

A: For security reasons, we need you to check in with the office and sign your child out. The office will send for your child.

Vacations

We encourage families to follow the school vacation schedule when scheduling a family vacation. When children are missing from the classroom, the dynamics of the classroom and learning are affected. Scheduled district vacation days are identified on the [school calendar](#). If you cannot follow the school vacation schedule and you will be gone for 3 or more days, you must complete the school's absentee form and have it signed by your child's teacher. The absence will fall under the pre-arranged school's absence policy above. [Pre-arranged absence forms](#) can be found on the Island Park Elementary website.

Communication

Island Park is a busy place with a lot going on! To ensure clear and open communication, each teacher maintains his or her own classroom communication plan which he or she will share with you at Curriculum Night. Both parents and teachers have busy schedules, so be sure to note the best form of communication for your particular teacher. If you would like to meet with your teacher in person, please make an appointment ahead of time. This allows the teacher time to focus and prepare for your meeting. As a general rule, telephone calls and email messages will be returned within 48 hours.

Island Park Website

Lots of good information is on the [Island Park website](#).

Island Park Directory

The Island Park Directory is distributed free with an Island Park PTA membership. Don't miss getting one of these—it contains contact information for the staff, administration, Parent Advisory Council, PTA, and of course all of the other children's names and contact information! Additional copies are available for a nominal fee.

District Announcement Emails

The email address that you provide in your parent pack will be added to what is termed the Announcement Listserv. The listserv will post the school newsletter and will be used for District Informational (non-emergency) announcements

Email Distribution Method: Parent email addresses from the Skyward system will be used as the initial distribution list for Island Park communication. If you wish to subscribe to our communication with a different email address, log into your parent Skyward account to make this change.

Common Q & A Communication

Q: How do I find out what's going on at the school?

A: The best resources are the school, district and PTA websites.

Q: If I have a question about my child and his/her school learning experience, with whom should I speak?

A: Contact your child's teacher directly about your child's school experience.

Backpack Mail

Check those backpacks! Notices, communications, homework, and completed student work will come home regularly from your child's teacher, school staff, room parents or the PTA through "backpack mail". Check your child's backpack daily.

Classroom Email Lists

Each classroom teacher collects email addresses and utilizes them for classroom communication. Classroom emails might include information about classroom activities, special events, and teacher questions. Teachers use the "blind cc" feature so that your email privacy is protected.

Parent Advisory Council

The Parent Advisory Council is an advisory team consisting of parents and school staff that oversees the school improvement plan, safety issues, special events and programs, extracurricular activities and other issues as they arise. If you have a question or concern about the school community, ask your Parent Advisory Council representative; Parent Advisory Council contact information can be found in the school Directory.

PTA Bulletin Board

In the main hall of the school, you'll find the PTA Bulletin Board containing notices and printed copies of current happenings.

PTA Website

You can find out more information about our very active [PTA](#) or like us on [Facebook](#).

Signs

There is an announcement board near the main entrance that tells the weekly happenings, and you'll see signs posted on our fence to remind you of upcoming fun!

Emergency Contact Information

Each fall parents are requested to fill out forms which give information to the school about who to contact in an emergency and who is authorized to pick up your child from school. It is essential that this information be kept up to date as it is vitally important when your child is ill, in need of something, or in an emergency. Please keep us informed of any changes. It is important to have at least 2 emergency contacts. It is strongly preferred that these be Mercer Island contacts for ease of access.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The parent of each child will have one formal parent/teacher conference scheduled in the fall. If you want to discuss your child's school work or progress at any other time, please schedule an appointment in advance with your child's teacher. This allows your child's teacher adequate time to prepare for a meaningful exchange of information. "Drop-in" conferences tend to be non-productive and take away valuable learning time from all students.

Parent Packs

Our PTA [Back-to-School forms](#) and payment information are [ONLINE!](#) The E-Parent Pack contains information on School Supply Payment, PTA Membership, Special Classroom Fee, and other donation opportunities.

Privacy Policy

You will find a link on our school's home page entitled "FERPA". This link will contain a Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act which outlines information collected by the school and its scope of use. As a part of that form, parents and/or guardians of children can submit an **annual exception request***. If families desire to be opted out of various information uses for the current school year, return this completed form to the school on or before the 10th day of school.

** Please note that if you determine that signing this form is best for your family, your child's name and/or work will NOT appear in the directory, on 5th grade sweatshirts, in the yearbook, on websites or in other public contexts. This means that you will not receive any PTA communications or key pieces of information from the PTA including monthly newsletters, unless you sign up with the PTA directly.*

Transportation

At Island Park the safety of our children is paramount. Our busy location will always be a challenge. If your child's neighborhood is provided bus service, the safest and most socially conscious way to get him or her to school is to send your children on the bus. If you are in a walking zone, please review the designated safe walk routes and teach your children to walk to school safely. We strongly encourage it!

Buses

Bus service is available for many students based on their home location in the Island Park boundaries. Students in a bus zone are highly encouraged to use bus transportation to and from school in order to keep traffic in and around the parking lot to a minimum. There is a separate parking lot for bus use only and students will be dropped off there in the morning and will line up by bus number after school in the same place. You can find information about bus transportation through the [district Transportation Services website](#).

Note that Kindergarteners will not be dropped off at their bus stop without an adult meeting them unless a release form has been signed.

Bus service is available to some of the places frequented by students for after school activities. Contact the transportation department for details, 206-236-3335.

Students will not be allowed on a bus they don't normally ride without a signed and dated note from a parent or guardian. The school office cannot issue bus passes.

Walking

If your child will be walking home without an adult, please do a practice walk both to and from school so that the child is familiar and comfortable with the route you have chosen and has safe walking practices. When approaching the school, students should use designated crosswalks with Safety Patrol personnel present.

Bikes and Scooters

A student must be in 3rd grade to ride a bike or scooter to school without parent/adult supervision. Bikes and scooters must be walked at the crossings and while on school grounds. Students are required to wear helmets while riding to and from school. During the school day bikes must be locked to the bike racks which are provided on the school grounds. The racks are located throughout campus and are "off limits" during the school day.

Going Home with a Friend / Play date

Your student's day will follow a routine, and we require a written note if you request a schedule change (e.g. riding a different bus, being picked up by someone else, walking home/riding a bus when not routine). This note must be dated and signed by the parent or guardian. In the absence of a note, we will proceed with your child's typical routine. For a change in routine, please do not rely on an email sent to a teacher during the teaching day. Teachers are often unable to check email until after students are dismissed at the end of the day.

Common Q & A Transportation

Q: I need to pick up my child early, should I just go get them at the classroom?

A: No. Please see the Attendance section for details. You will need to go to the school office and sign out your students(s). The office staff will then call the classroom to have the teacher send out your student.

Q: Where do I pick up/drop off my child when they don't ride the bus?

A: Give yourself plenty of time and follow the carefully prescribed parking lot procedures to safely drop off or pick up your child in a car.

Q: What if my child misses the bus coming home?

A: Your child will need to return to the main office where a staff member will contact a parent.

Q: How early can I drop my child off in the morning?

A: Please do not drop your child off before 9:10am.

Q: Can my 2nd grader ride their bike to school with their older sibling?

A: No. Children must be in 3rd grade or above to ride a bike to or from school.

Kiss-and-Go Zone (Parking Lot Pick-up and Drop-off)

The Kiss-and-Go Zone and the parking lot is at the front of the school building. Our Kiss-and-Go Zone can accommodate an efficient drop-off and pick-up process if all parents and students follow these guidelines:

- Use the school bus or walk whenever possible.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended at the curb, even for “a minute.”
- Use the inside curb lane for picking up or dropping off your children. Do not allow your children to dash across the lot to find you.
- Children should enter/exit cars on the curbside for safety.
- As you enter the lot, pull up as far as you can when dropping off or picking up your child.
- Be ready. Please have backpacks ready, coats on, breakfast eaten BEFORE you enter the drop-off line so your child is ready to “Kiss-and-Go” when you stop the car.
- Please exercise patience at all times.
- Refrain from cell phone use while moving through the parking lot. It’s dangerous and illegal.
- If your child care provider or other family member will be dropping off or picking up your children, it is your responsibility to make sure that those designated persons are also familiar with these policies and routines.
- If you need to park, please use a designated parking spot, get out of your car, use the crosswalk to meet your child(ren), and use the crosswalk to escort them back to your car.
- There are parking lot “attendants” present at pickup and drop off. Their primary responsibility is student safety.
- The parking lot layout can be confusing. The goal is to get the children to school safely and keep the cars moving. Please follow the “parking attendants” directions when in the parking lot.

Field Trips

Field trips are taken both on buses and in private cars. Permission slips must be signed by parents and/or guardians before the trip.

Transportation Department Contact Information

The Transportation Services department can be contacted at 206-236-3335 if you have specific questions about your bus route or transportation questions. See the [district website](#) for more information.

Health Services

A Mercer Island School District Nurse is “on call” in emergencies. For care of ill or injured students, office personnel are trained in first aid and CPR procedures. Because of the limited facilities for the care of ill or injured children, it is important for the school to have up-to-date information about what parents would like us to do in case of emergency. Please be sure we have a local Mercer Island emergency telephone number where you, or a person you designate, may be reached (see communications). All of the [district’s policies and procedures on health and immunizations](#) may be found on the district website.

Food Allergies

If your child has serious food allergies, please contact the school nurse about a plan for your child.

Health Information

Each fall parents are requested to fill out forms which give information about student health problems. Please keep us informed of any change in your child’s health status and activity restriction.

Medication

We are unable to give any medication at school without a written request from a doctor or dentist. This ruling also applies to all over-the-counter medications including aspirin, vitamins, cough drops, throat lozenges, etc. Inhalers are categorized as medication and will require written permission and instructions. Forms for "[Medication Authorization](#)" are available in our school office or on the [Health Services district webpage](#).

Lice Policy

In the Mercer Island School District, we maintain a lice policy in the effort to control the spread of lice among classmates. Students will not be admitted to school if there is any visible sign of lice. If lice are discovered while the student is at school, a parent will be called and asked to take the child home from school. Students may return to school when: (1) they have been properly treated for the lice problem, and (2) NO lice are visible in the hair. It is important that a case of lice discovered outside of school be communicated to the health room at the school confidentially at 206-230-6298 so that a communication can go out to the class to be aware and check their own children. You can access the district's lice policy #3420 and procedures on the district webpage under [Health Policy and Procedures](#).

Health Screening

Vision screening for near-sightedness and hearing screening are given at the school. Parents are advised if the results show a need for additional follow up. These are screening services only and do not take the place of regular examinations performed by your eye specialist or family physician.

Immunizations

Washington State law requires that all students K-12 must be immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus (DPT), polio, measles (rubella) and rubella (three day/German measles). Mumps vaccine is required for kindergarten students only. The law states that parents must fill out and sign a certificate of immunization status form giving the month and year of each dose of vaccine; or evidence of initiation of a schedule of immunizations; or exemption for medical, personal, or religious reasons.

Beginning September of 1991, Washington State Immunization Regulations were changed to require proof of a second dose of measles vaccine for all children entering sixth grade. Since September 1997 Hepatitis B* vaccination has been required for all children entering day care, preschool or kindergarten.

The immunization form must be turned into the school by the student's first day of attendance at school. Forms are available in each school office. Required immunizations may be obtained from your doctor. Be sure to keep a record so you will be able to supply the necessary information.

*Hepatitis B series (all three shots required)

Volunteering

Parents are the first teachers of their children. The public schools extend a cooperative and professional hand to foster life-long learning skills and interests. We welcome your involvement at school and your attention to the program at home. There are many ways we invite parents to participate.

Island Park Elementary has a great tradition of volunteerism. Volunteer hours during the year add up to the equivalent of over eleven full time staff every year! It's easy to get involved and you'll find welcoming volunteer veterans around every corner ready to show you the way. To learn more about volunteering please access the following link:

<http://www.mercerislandschools.org/domain/1622>

PTA

The Parent and Teacher Association is a vital part of Island Park School. Your membership dues support the school program and your active involvement keeps you informed, as well as offering enrichment to the students. Many one-time and on-going activities need your help; if you can offer, please do!

Maybe you'd like to be a regular classroom volunteer to support learning centers or other classroom routines. If you're more comfortable in the Like background, maybe join the Copy Corp, help organize a family event, or do the finances for the PTA. Come to the opening day coffee to see all of the choices, contact the [PTA Executive staff](#), or simply visit the [Island Park PTA website](#) <http://islandparkpta.org/>.

Opening Day Coffee

Volunteer opportunities abound at our "Opening Day" coffee. Held on the first day of school, the coffee is a great place to meet other parents, see all of the volunteer opportunities available to you and talk to others about what might work best for you. Parents of Kindergarteners who don't start school on the first day should also plan on attending. Supervised children are welcome.

Mandatory Volunteer Orientation

All volunteers at MISD elementary schools are required to watch the [volunteer training video found](#) under the heading "Parents & Students, Volunteer Training" on the school website. Once you have viewed the video, print the quiz page, complete the quiz, sign it and return it to the office. Only those who have a signed form and completed background check will be allowed to volunteer in the classroom.

Background Checks

All school volunteers must undergo a background check. Forms are on the school and PTA websites, or in the school office.

Common Q & A

Volunteering

Q: Can I volunteer in my child's classroom?

A: Yes! Most teachers have things they would like help with in the classroom. Attend Curriculum Night or talk with your teacher about the opportunities.

Q: I work. Does that mean I can't volunteer?

A: There are plenty of volunteer opportunities that don't require you to miss work. Come to the Volunteer Coffee on the first day of school or contact the PTA president for ideas!

Q: I went to volunteer training last year; do I have to go again?

A: All volunteers must view the volunteer training video and turn in the completed and signed quiz page each year.

Island Park Support Services

We are fortunate at Island Park to have a broad range of support and specialists on staff to aid in the education, development, and welfare of the entire student body.

Counselor

The elementary school counselor works with students, teachers and parents in order to provide students with the best available learning environment. This position is funded by Mercer Island Youth and Family Services. To help students, the counselor provides guidance and counseling in the areas of educational and social-personal-behavioral concerns. In working with teachers, the counselor helps identify and provide appropriate programs for students with special learning difficulties. The counselor also works closely with parents to help them better understand the school environment, the way their children function, and provide referrals to parents who need further support.

English Language Learners (ELL)

The ELL program brings a rich cultural diversity to our school. ELL students receiving instruction four times per week during the morning. The small group instruction emphasizes oral language development as well as reading, spelling and some writing. The remainder of the day, students are included in the general education classroom with program adaptation done by the teacher in conjunction with the ELL teacher.

The first step in determining if students qualify for ELL services is to ask parents/guardians during the registration process to complete a home language survey which identifies the child's primary language. Parents who indicate on the home language survey that their student has a primary language other than English will be assessed before starting school or within ten days of attendance using a Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment (WELPA) test to determine eligibility for the ELL program. The test covers listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Any student who scores a level one (beginning/advanced beginning), two (intermediate), or three (advanced) will be eligible for English language instruction in the program. Parents/guardians are notified soon after testing. Upon meeting with the parents/guardians after initial testing and gathering more information about the student, the ELL coordinator will recommend appropriate placement. Please note that all eligible K-5 students are placed at their neighborhood schools and all ELL students will attend regular class(es) while participating in the ELL Program. For more information about our ELL program, please visit the district website under [Learning Services, English Language Learners](#).

Special Education

Special Education services are available to students who qualify for specially designed instruction. Island Park has a Resource Room (RR) which serves children with mild to moderate learning challenges. Students with specific learning disabilities and health impairments are most commonly seen in the Resource Rooms.

We also house a Personalized Learning Program (PLP) which serves children with moderate to severe cognitive challenges. This program provides students who need to have most or all of their instruction in a separate classroom. Significant changes to content, methods and/or pacing of instruction are made. Students in these programs are also integrated into general education classes as much as possible. These programs may also provide instruction in life skills, recreation and leisure and vocational training.

Learning Support

Island Park students benefit from additional support inside and outside of the classroom. State funded programs provide early intervention which is essential to the success of our students. The goal of the Learning Support Program (LSP) is to improve educational opportunities for students by helping them: 1) succeed in the regular classroom; 2) obtain grade-level proficiency; 3) improve achievement in basic and more advanced skills that all students are expected to master. The purpose of the Learning Support Program team is to provide a problem-solving forum for school personnel working with struggling or at-risk students as identified by teachers, parents, and or/counselors. The team may include a broad range of staff members as well as outside professionals, as necessary, for the particular child.

Highly Capable Program

In accordance with the philosophy to develop the special abilities of each student, the Mercer Island School District offers appropriate instructional programs to meet the needs of highly capable students of school age. The framework for such programs shall encompass, but not be limited to, the following objectives:

- Expansion of academic attainment and intellectual skill;
- Stimulation of intellectual curiosity, independence and responsibility;
- Development of a positive attitude toward self and others; and
- Development of originality and creativity.

Highly Capable Program Design

Primary Enrichment Program K-2: The Primary Enrichment Program (PEP) is an enrichment program at Island Park that offers pull-out instruction to K, 1, and 2 students. Students who qualify for this program remain in their general education classrooms with enrichment pullout and/or push-in once a week. This program is separate from the Highly Capable Program and qualification for PEP does not guarantee qualification for the 3-8 Highly Capable Program.

Highly Capable 3-8: The grades 3-8 Highly Capable Program is self-contained in grades 3 through 5 at West Mercer Elementary and Lakeridge Elementary only. Students in the Highly Capable Program remain with their class throughout the day and move to their elective studies (PE, art, music, and library) with their class.

For more information about Mercer Island School District's Identification and selection process, please visit the district webpage under [Learning Services, Highly Capable](#).

Occupational Therapist

Island Park has an Occupational Therapist for students who qualify for help with daily living functions to support well-being. OT's use self-care, work, and play activities to increase independent function, enhance development, and prevent disability. In the school setting, this means helping students with their main occupation, being students.

Speech Therapist

Also known as a Communication Disorder Specialist or Speech Language Pathologist, this professional is available to provide individual speech and language therapy for students who have difficulty pronouncing some speech sounds and/or correctly putting words together into sentences. Parents who are concerned about their child's speech, language, or hearing should contact Speech Therapist or their child's teacher.

School Psychologist

School psychologists are assigned to all elementary schools within the district. They work cooperatively with the elementary school counselor to aid teachers and parents in understanding their children's learning and social abilities. Children are referred to the psychologist through the Building Guidance Team (see below) which is managed by the building principal.

World Language Program

Update: Spanish Language program to begin in the fall of 2016! The district is moving forward with a new Spanish language program to begin in the fall of 2016. This will be a great enhancement to the K-5 curriculum. Spanish will be part of the specialist weekly rotation along with P.E. and Music. For more information about this program, please visit the district website under [Departments, Superintendent Services, Elementary World Language Program](#).

Instruction and Assessment

Curriculum

Adopted curriculum and district targets can be found on the [district website](#) or on our school website under the Learning Services tab, [Subject Resource Links](#).

Curriculum Nights

In the fall of each school year, the school holds "Curriculum Night" in each classroom. The teacher presents the curriculum for the year, their teaching philosophy, operational guidelines and policies, answers questions and has classroom volunteer sign-up sheets available. Attending Curriculum Night will give you a great sense of what to expect in your child's classroom for the year. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for volunteer spots in your child's classroom at Curriculum Night.

Assessment

State mandated assessments include:

- 3rd grade: Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Math Assessments.
- 4th grade: Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Math Assessments.
- 5th grade: Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Math Assessments.
- 5th grade: Measure of Student Progress Science

For more information on state testing, please visit [OSPI's State Assessment](#) webpage. In addition to state testing, Mercer Island School District assesses all students in 4th grade for math class placement.

Placement

All of the elementary schools use the same process for class formation. Balanced class groupings are created that accommodate individual needs by distributing student abilities, behaviors and interests evenly among the classes. Teachers are then randomly assigned to the balanced class groupings. This process achieves a learning environment that will enable all children to grow to the maximum of their abilities. Please be aware that we are unable to accommodate parent requests for specific teachers. It is the principal's responsibility to assure that all teachers are qualified and work hard to meet the needs of all children. Notification of placement for the next school year will be available through Skyward at the end of August, just prior to school opening.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports are given each trimester (November, March and June). They are distributed via Skyward. Click [here](#) for information about Skyward.

Teacher Conferences

The parent of each child will have one formal parent/teacher conference scheduled in the fall. If you want to discuss your child's school work or progress at any other time, please schedule an appointment in advance with your child's teacher. This allows your child's teacher adequate time to prepare for a meaningful exchange of information. "Drop-in" conferences tend to be non-productive and take away valuable learning time from all students.

1:1 iPads - 4th and 5th Grades

Beginning in September 2015, all 4th and 5th grade students were assigned an iPad. These iPads are for **in class use only** as directed by teachers and **may not be taken home**.

In the first few weeks of school, each class is introduced to the iPads and our Intermediate Student iPad Agreement which covers key points for successful use of iPads in the classroom environment. Students are expected to follow the guidelines found in the [Intermediate Student iPad Agreement](#).

As an instructional tool, app focus is on productivity and creation. A few foundational apps include Safari, Word and/or Docs, PowerPoint and/or Slides, Notability, and Pic collage. Cloud access available through Office 365 OneDrive and/or Google Drive make it possible for intermediate students to access documents beyond the school day from any internet connected device.

With their district account, students have the ability to install Office on their computer at home. Follow this link for full instruction. <http://www.mercerislandschools.org/studentadvantage>

Additionally, an extensive list of apps aligned to the curriculum needs and Common Core Standards is available at no cost to students through the app catalog. To view this list of apps, please visit our school webpage under the [Learning Services, 1:1 iPads tab](#).

School Expectations

Code of Conduct

The Island Park Code of Conduct incorporates the belief that our students are capable of making positive choices and taking responsibility for their choices. We work to have students consciously aware that they can choose positive thoughts, actions and feelings. We believe in students. The development of personal responsibility will empower them to become successful learners and productive citizens. We encourage you to read our [Code of Conduct and Safety guidelines](#) on our school webpage under Popular Links (on the left side of the home page).

Classroom Preparedness

Students are expected to make choices in preparation for their day, and we believe they can take responsibility for these choices. Preparation for the day includes supplies, homework, lunch, musical instruments, and appropriate clothing.

Dress

Dress for the school day should reflect good choices. We ask that students dress for safety, for comfort, and for the job. If clothing is distracting to the student himself/herself or to others, it is inappropriate. If there is no provision for the weather, it is not healthy or comfortable. Skirts and shorts must be longer than the extended arm; no spaghetti straps; no flip flops; no cropped shirts; midriffs must be covered. Clothing which promotes or contains references to alcohol, drug, or tobacco use, or school violence—through pictures, messages, innuendo, or slogans—is prohibited. Hats are only to be worn outside of school buildings. Please help your child with these choices for their own well-being. Please label all items of clothing with your child's first and last name.

Cell Phones, Electronic Devices and Headphones

Electronic toys and music listening devices—including (but not limited to): cell phones, I-pads, Nintendo DS games, Gameboys, CD Players, DVD players, and headphones - are not to be used on school grounds. If students must bring cell phones, they should remain turned off and inside backpacks throughout the day.

Food/Gum/Beverage

We appreciate clean hallways, classrooms, and classroom equipment. Students are expected to be responsible for making appropriate use of trash cans and drinking fountains. Gum chewing is not permitted at the school.

Pets

In order to maintain an environment that is healthy for everyone, including those with allergies, please do not bring pets to school. No pets, other than approved service animals, are allowed on school grounds at any time as it is against state law.

District Policies and Procedures

This section of the handbook provides general guidelines for the operation of MISD elementary schools. To view District policies and procedures applicable to our school, please see [Appendix A](#), Mercer Island School District Board Policies.

School Safety

The safety of our children is of key concern and gets regular attention. The building and grounds are inspected and monitored consistently for repair needs and safe conditions.

Hours

Students are to be on campus only between 9:10am and 3:45pm. Please instruct your child that going “straight home” at dismissal is best for safety. Students will line up by classrooms before school and wait for buses and rides after school in designated areas, not on the playground. Students on the playground before 9:10am or after 3:45pm must have parent/adult supervision. There is no before or after school supervision provided by school personnel. Before and after school care is available on-site through [Kids Company](#). In addition, there are approved before and after school activities such as choir, languages, chess club, etc. which do have supervision.

Visitors

We ask that all visitors (parent and community) come to the office when visiting or volunteering at school. Because safety and security is of the utmost importance at the school, it is important that we know who is in the building at all times. Please check in at the Main Office and obtain a badge. It is required that you wear a badge while in the school building or on campus during normal school hours. You will need your Driver’s License/Identification Card to check-in at the office. Only pre-arranged volunteers or parents with appointments should go to the classrooms. No children may be left unattended in the office while parents are in meetings or other activities at the school. Please do not bring siblings to wait in the office. You must find alternative childcare arrangements for meetings and activities.

Safety Drills

Safety drills are done during the year to practice for emergencies such as fire, earthquake, bus exiting, and incidents which require the school to lock down. These are taken seriously and done on a routine basis.

Student Insurance

Student insurance is available to parents through the school. Participation in this insurance program is strictly voluntary and your own insurance policy should be reviewed prior to your final decision regarding the purchase of school insurance. Please be aware that the school does not have accident insurance to cover parents’ medical bills if your child is injured.

Money and Valuables

Because of the danger of loss, pupils are requested not to bring more money to school than is needed during the school day. Valuable jewelry, sporting goods, cameras, radios, video games, and playthings are not to be brought to school. Personal items of any kind are brought at the student’s own risk.

Emergency School Closure

It is the policy of the Mercer Island School District to hold school whenever possible. However, there may be days when school must be closed or start later than usual due to weather or emergency conditions. A school closure message may be accessed by calling the District’s emergency number at 206-236-3366 or on the [district website](#). The District also uses several local radio and TV stations to inform the community. Detailed explanations are published and distributed to all families prior to our winter weather season and can be accessed on our district webpage under [News & Events, Emergency Information](#).

Emergency E-mail Lists

Island Park can inform parents by email of emergencies, school closures and other important administrative information through a third party organization. All you need to do is subscribe in order to obtain this valuable information.

The Emergency listserv is housed by an outside organization and is tied directly to the school closure and late start media broadcast system. We will use this system to broadcast emergency or safety related messages.

In order to get immediate updates via email and/or text you must register with the [Flash Alert Network](#). The old School Report system has migrated to Flash Alert so even if you were previously receiving alerts, you must re-register with Flash Alert.

Questions about Flash Alert should be addressed to Director of Transportation [David Bynum](#).

Emergency Procedures

During any Emergency Procedure, we ask that telephone inquiries be made to the Mercer Island School District Emergency number at 206-236-3366. The comfort, safety, and preparedness of our Island Park School community are our greatest priorities.

Parents should know:

- The school has monthly drills
- The school interfaces with Fire, Police, and City of Mercer Island personnel as needed
- The school has a container with emergency supplies that provide for at least 48 hours of student and staff needs
- The school has a School Safety Team that meets regularly

Fundraising

The generosity of the Mercer Island Community is astounding every year. Fundraising efforts allow us to differentiate curriculum and resources and increase the enjoyment of learning for our children. Go to [Island Park PTA](#) webpage to find information about the latest community fundraisers.

Mercer Island Schools Foundation

The Mercer Island Schools Foundation is an active and important part of our successful school system. Money raised by the foundation funds programs in every school. Their annual phone-a-thon takes place in the fall. Additionally, the Mercer Island Schools Foundation hosts community business fundraising breakfasts during the year. The Mercer Island School Foundation can be reached at 206-275-2550, or by visiting their [website](#).

Common Q & A Fundraising

Q: This is a public school. Why do we need to fundraise?

A: Island Park values and supports an excellent education for our children. The Legislature does not adequately fund public school education in Washington. The funds raised support enriched opportunities and more individualized attention for IP students.

Q: Why are there so many fundraising activities at the beginning of the year? Can't you spread them out a little?

A: Funds raised during the early part of the year support the enrichment programs through the year. By holding them in the fall, we know how much money we have for the school year.

School Activities and Events

This section of the Ultimate Guide contains information on various school events. Some occur during school hours and some are after school extra-curricular activities. Activities are subject to change each year.

Early Release Day Activities

Various art and science class are offered throughout the school year on early release Wednesdays. Look for these opportunities throughout the year via backpack mail and your Island Park PTA Parliament Press Express. These opportunities are administered by outside groups. Island Park donates the classroom space as a courtesy to families seeking after school enrichment, and PTA volunteers serve as a liaison between the program vendors and the school.

Art Docent

Art Docents are parent volunteers who visit classrooms to give an art history lesson using reproductions of artworks from the PTA's collection of prints or online resources. Usually, the art docent will select a theme, such as a genre of art (impressionism, abstract art, etc.) or theme (children in paintings, dogs in art, etc.) The class discusses the artwork and then completes an art project exploring the theme.

Artist in Residence

This program exposes students to art and the creative process. Professional artists and art instructors work with each classroom on art projects that complement the curriculum.

Assemblies

Island Park is lucky to have great assemblies each year that tie into the curriculum or citizenship focus of the school. Some assemblies are for the entire student body, while others are for specific grade levels.

Band

Fifth grade students may participate in Band or Orchestra twice weekly before school at Islander Middle School. Specific information comes home with 4th graders in the spring.

Birthday Celebrations

If you wish to send a birthday treat to school, please schedule it in advance with your child's teacher and be conscious of our school's healthy snack efforts. Balloons, flowers and birthday surprises are disruptive in the school setting, so please save them for home. If your student has a birthday party planned outside of school, please deliver invitations through the U.S. mail—not receiving an invitation can make other children feel left out, and teachers are asked not to support for facilitate their distribution in class.

Book Swap

This event takes place during the student's library time for a week in June. Used books are brought in by students 2 weeks prior to the event. Books are sorted into age groups and placed on tables in the library the day before the event. Students are then able to select a new book to keep from the assortment of books that students have donated to the Book Swap.

Classroom Buddy Program

At Island Park, we value a community atmosphere. Older students help promote this through our classroom buddy program. Younger and older students are paired for special projects during classroom time.

Chess Club

The Island Park Chess Club is committed to improving chess playing skills in children of all levels from beginning to advanced players. At each after school session, students receive a lesson from professional chess coaches. Available for students in grades 2-5, chess club is a parent run activity.

Eagle Tickets & Extended Recess

Throughout the year the students are eligible to receive Eagle Tickets for exhibiting school spirit, excellent citizenship for being all around great kids! These tickets earn the kids extended recess opportunities and a chance to be drawn for a monthly lunch with Principal Hoffman. The kids will come home talking about it!

Field Day

Each spring, during a designated school day, classes participate in outdoor athletic activities to celebrate fitness and spring.

Field Trips

The PTA enrichment budget provides funds to classrooms for field trips throughout the year. All field trips are directly related to the current curriculum. Your teacher will provide information regarding specific field trips either by backpack mail, email, or both.

Fine Arts Showcase

The district-wide Fine Arts Showcase is a not-to-be-missed art extravaganza at the high school. All elementary students will have an art piece in Showcase, and our 3rd graders perform in a very special choral and dance program. Artwork is displayed from elementary through high school, and all of our school music programs perform over the course of this two-day event.

International Night

A night to celebrate our international population through music, crafts, games, food and literature. Students and parents can gather to celebrate with an evening of true international flair.

New Family Coffee

The first month of school there is a coffee for all parents new to Island Park Elementary. More information will be available in your parent pack.

Opening Day Coffee/Volunteer Sign Up

Held the first day of school, the Opening Day Coffee is a time when parents can socialize with each other and learn how to get involved at school. Volunteer signup sheets are available, and parents familiar with the programs are available to answer any questions. The Principal and PTA president will also address the group. Parents of Kindergarteners who don't start on the first day of school should also attend. Children are welcome. It is a great way to make connections and start the school year!

Parent Education Library

Parent Education materials are available for sign out from the library. The materials are located on a cart near the library entrance. Sign out instructions are on the cart.

Common Q & A

School Activities

Q: Is the 5th Grade Sweatshirt a big deal?

A: Yes! The tradition of having sweatshirts with all of the names of the graduating 5th graders in the district is a big deal. We've had a few occurrences where parents have not ordered their child a sweatshirt or have chosen to not include their name on the shirt—resulting in disappointed children. So, carefully consider these choices.

Parent Education Events

Regular parent education events are scheduled throughout the school year on a broad range of topics. Watch for scheduled events in the Island Park. PTA members are automatically a member of Parent Edge. Find out more about upcoming Parent Edge events by visiting their [website](#) or “like” them on [Facebook](#).

Principal's Coffee

This informal and comfortable forum provides parents with direct two way communication with our principal. These meetings are typically held bi-monthly during selected PTA meetings.

PTA Meetings

The PTA holds regular general membership meetings that are open to everyone. We count on you to help shape our programs for the year. A meeting calendar is published at the beginning of the year. Meetings are meant to be informative, participatory and fun! The meeting schedule can be found on the PTA website.

Reflections

Reflections is a great chance for children to express themselves through literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, film/video and choreography/dance. Reflections is a Washington State PTA-sponsored art show, held in the late fall, and open to all K-12 children. Entries are judged according to age and grade level. Watch for information about how students can participate in this program via PTA publications.

Safety Patrol

Open to fourth and fifth grade students who are at least 10 years old. The safety patrol student volunteers provide before and after school crossing help at supervised crosswalks and in the parking lot. All training is provided and the program has a staff coordinator.

Science Fun Night

The Science Fair will be held in the spring and is open to everyone. Students engage in fun science learning through a variety of activities.

School Pictures

Each fall, arrangements are made for a photographer to take individual pictures of boys and girls for student records. As a service to the parents, these pictures may be purchased on a prepaid basis. Classroom pictures are taken in the spring and may also be purchased on a pre-paid basis.

Hoe Down

This fun dancing event is for the whole family--typically held in the spring.

Student Council

Two representatives from each third, fourth, and fifth grade class participate on the council. Representatives are selected based on specified class criteria.

Yearbook

Island Park PTA puts out a yearbook at the end of the year which provides wonderful memories of classmates, teachers, and activities. Information about purchasing the book is available in the PTA Parent Pack.

5th Grade Special Events

In their final year of Elementary school, Island Park fifth graders enjoy several unique events and activities.

Outdoor Education Experience. Fifth-grade students at Island Park Elementary School have the opportunity to participate in a four day/three night program at an Outdoor Education School. This outdoor learning experience is designed to educate and inspire environmental and community stewardship with a focus on science and sustainability. Our students stay onsite with parent chaperones and teachers and receive instruction from the site educators and staff. The curriculum ties into our state science and social studies standards.

Fifth Grade Activity. This culminating event held at the end of the school year celebrates the culmination of the elementary school experience. The scope and type of event will change from year to year, with the objective being to give students a unique and memorable experience. The event is held towards the end of the year.

Sweatshirts. The PTAs create sweatshirts each year that list all 5th graders across the district. The tradition of having sweatshirts with all of the names of the 5th graders in the district has come to mean a great deal to students. Specific ordering information is provided to students via backpack mail. ****Please note:** if you have signed the privacy policy and opted for your child's name and picture to not be used, you will need to provide special permission for your child's name to appear on the sweatshirt.

Middle School Transition Day – Gator for a Night. A very special opportunity for 5th graders to spend a half day at Islander Middle School for orientation. Prior to transition day, IMS staff come to IP to provide information and answer student questions.

Your Mercer Island Community

Happy kids are active in their community. Here on Mercer Island we are lucky to have a rich set of community resources to choose from for children and families. Don't know where to sign up for soccer? For summer camp? Want to know where to go swimming? Here are some of the places and things Mercer Island kids (and their families) enjoy. While kids often do things off Island, we've limited this guide to Mercer Island-based resources. Please let us know if we've missed anything! Check out our [PTA webpage](#) for current community and kids' activities.

Community Resources

Mercer Island Parks and Recreation

The "Recreation Guide", published seasonally by the City, contains listings of classes, camps, and activities for youth, adults and seniors. You can reach MI Parks & Rec at 206-236-3545 or visit their [website](#).

Youth and Family Services

Another department of the City, Youth and Family Services is located in Luther Burbank Park. MIYFS provides family and community services to the MI community through collaboration with many groups, including the Mercer Island School District. They can be reached at 206-236-3525 or by visiting their [website](#).

Mercer Island Library

Our local library, located at 4400 88th Ave SE, is part of the King County Library System. This local branch has an extensive youth section serving elementary students and even has a "teen area" for kids to do homework after school. Providing more than just great books, our library also sponsors a full calendar of activities for children and adults. See their [website](#) for the calendar, library hours and additional information or reach them by phone at 206-236-3537.

Boys and Girls Club

The Mercer Island Boys and Girls Club of King County is a non-profit organization serving children ages 6 – 18 with a broad range of programs from arts and sports, to career development with a concentration on themes of citizenship and leadership. It's great to be on their email list, as they send reminders of sign-up periods and other notifications. You can contact the MI Boys and Girls Club at 206.232.4548 or visit their [website](#).

Mercer Island Swimming Pool (formerly Mary Wayte)

Operated by Northwest Center Pools, the Mercer Island Pool offers public swim and family swim time for a nominal fee. Check their schedule by calling 206.296.4370 or [online](#).