

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT

4th GRADE TRANSITION TO SAKAI

VISITS

Do the fourth graders have a chance to visit Sakai?

Yes, fourth grade students have an opportunity to visit Sakai in the Spring with their school. Please look for further communication regarding these tours in the Spring. Sakai hosts a fourth grade guardian night in February. Sakai counselors and/or administrators will also visit each 4th grade class this spring.

SCHEDULES

What does the daily schedule in fifth grade look like?

Students are placed in a homeroom, and will be in a teaching team. While individual classroom schedules may differ, all fifth grade classrooms follow the same curriculum including: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Specialists. Specific schedules will be shared at Fifth Grade Open House in September. Students also go to one specialist each day for 45 minutes.

RECESS

How many recesses are there, do all students have recess, and what are the options?

Yes, students at Sakai get two daily recesses. There is a 10 minute break in the morning or afternoon with the entire grade level and a 40 minute lunch and recess combined. There are three different lunch periods for students. Students typically play outside or they can go to the library, art room or Makerspace.

Are friends able to connect during lunch recess if they have a different teaching team?

Students in different teams can share the same lunch. Lunch recesses also overlap, so it is possible to connect with friends during lunch. Grade levels share a daily break, so friends on different teaching teams can meet up then as well.

PLACEMENT

How will my child be placed in a classroom at Sakai?

Placement is made by the Sakai counselors and administrators attempting to achieve classroom balance while combining all the fourth graders from Bainbridge Island.

When will I know what class and teacher my child will have?

Class assignments will be available through Family Access in mid-August.

May I request a certain teacher or teaching style?

A specific teacher may not be requested, however, you may share information about your child's learning needs using the Sakai form that is available in all elementary school and Sakai offices or on the [Sakai website](#).

BUSES AND TRANSPORTATION

Do students need notes to ride a different bus?

Yes, students should take their bus notes to the office in the morning. At that time, office staff will convert that note to a bus pass. Students will need to keep track of it throughout the day.

How do they load buses? Are there sign holders?

Buses are loaded quickly. There are no sign holders, but the bus route number is posted on the window of the bus and a staff member has a chart listing bus numbers and bus stops.

COMMUNICATION

What is the best way to learn about school activities?

The Coho Connection newsletter is posted on the school website every week and sent electronically to all guardians' email addresses listed in Family Access. Other important email messages are also sent via the email addresses listed in Family Access.

What is the best way to communicate with my child's teacher?

Guardian conferences are scheduled in October and January. Teachers read email every day, and each teacher has a phone in his/her classroom.

What is the best way to know my child's homework assignments?

All students are provided a Sakai planner. Students learn to write daily assignments in their planner. In addition, students will be asked to join their Google Classrooms for each of their subjects.

HOMEWORK

How much homework is there in fifth grade?

Generally, there is one hour's worth, but this could be more or less depending on a student's focus and how well class time is used. Students need to get in the habit of using homework time each night. Student's write their homework assignments in their planner every day.

RESOURCES

In addition to the classroom teacher, are there other resources available to assist our child's learning?

Yes, there are several resources available including:

- Principal, Associate Principal and Counselor

- Title I Reading Intervention – This program continues at Sakai. The reading teacher at Sakai is aware of all the students that have been helped at the elementary schools in this program. All students at Sakai are given a reading and math screening test at the first of the year.
- Speech and Language Specialist
- Occupational/Physical Therapist
- Resource Room and ILC Teachers
- Highly Capable Teacher
- English Language Learner Teacher

What is the Student Support Center?

Known as the SSC, students are referred (or self-referred) for social, emotional, academic or behavioral support. Our SSC is open most of the day and is staffed at all times by a Para educator.

Where do students go if they need help during the day?

Many students get the help they need in their own classroom. Others see the school counselor, or might be referred to the SSC.

Is there any standardized testing in fifth grade?

Yes, fifth grade students take the Science, Math, and Reading Smarter Balanced Assessments in the spring. BISD and Sakai also use FastBridge assessments to assist teachers in their lesson planning and differentiation of instruction.

GENERAL

When are lockers assigned and how often can you visit them during the day?

Lockers are assigned at the beginning of the year; there are no locks on them and students can't put a lock on them. Backpacks are kept in the locker. Students can go to lockers between classes.

How does a student check in if they are tardy?

A student goes to the office and signs in on the sign in sheet on the counter giving their name, teacher, and time arrived. The student picks up a "T" slip and gives it to their teacher.

Is there an attendance hotline?

The number is 780-6600. guardians are asked to call this number before 9:30 when their child is absent.

VOLUNTEERING

Are there opportunities to help in the fifth grade classroom as I did in fourth grade?

Although not the robust menus of opportunities we normally have, during the 2021-22 school year we were able to start welcoming families into our building to volunteer. Sakai tries to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities that support educational opportunities for students. The PTO recruits many volunteers for a host of activities, or your child's teacher might appreciate a classroom volunteer. Also, please look for opportunities in the weekly Coho Connection.

IN AUGUST

What can we do in August to help the transition and prepare our child for fifth grade?

In the last week of August, Sakai PTO welcomes families to come to Sakai for ice cream and to meet teachers and find classrooms. Attending this event and using the opportunity to tour the school with your child, meet the teachers, and locate classrooms helps to ease some anxiety.

HOW TO CONTACT SAKAI

Principal:	Drew Crandall	780-6501	dcrandall@bisd303.org
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