



Banff Elementary School
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June 5, 2025

Dear Kindergarten Families,

We look forward to having your child join the Banff Elementary School Kindergarten program for the 2025-2026 school year! To facilitate a successful start, Kindergarten Gradual Entry consists of two parts:

Part One: Kindergarten students will come to the classroom one at a time to participate in initial assessments and meet our Kindergarten teachers. During this time, BES Kindergarten teachers will be working with your child to determine their strengths and interests. ***Parents/Guardians will stay during this time.***

An email will be sent in early August with a link to sign up for a 20 minute time slot on ONE of the following days: Tuesday August 26, Wednesday August 27 or the morning of Thursday August 28.

We will create initial classes after meeting and assessing our new Kindergarten students and inform parents of who their child's teacher is on the afternoon of Thursday August 28. Should there be any changes to your child's class placement after this date, parents will be notified by administration.

Part Two: Kindergarten students will be given an opportunity to experience two half-days with half of their class. This provides a gentle introduction to Kindergarten in a smaller class setting. At this time the students will be under the school's direct supervision, so **parents will not attend. Please provide a healthy snack and water bottle for your child.**

Part two classes will take place on Friday August 29 and Tuesday September 2; your child will attend one day in the morning (8:30 am - 12:05 pm) and one day in the afternoon (12:55 - 3:02 pm). **You will receive an email in mid-August with these details.**

Bus transportation will be available on August 29 and September 2 for those students signed up with CRPS Transportation. If your child is scheduled for the morning session, they can take the bus to BES at their regular morning bus pick-up time, but a parent will need to pick up from BES at 12:05 pm. If your child is scheduled for the afternoon, a parent will need to drop off at BES at 12:55 pm, but the child can take the bus home at the end of the day at 3:02 pm.

Regular classes for all Kindergarten students will begin on **Wednesday September 3, 2025**. During this first full-day, students will attend school from 8:30 am until 3:02 pm. There will be regular bus service on this day in the morning and afternoon.

Please note, after the initial introduction, there are no Kindergarten classes on all Fridays until Friday November 14, 2025 (first full-day Friday for Kindergarten students). After November 14, Kindergarten students attend school on full-day Fridays, but there are no Kindergarten classes when Grades 1 - 8 have half-day Fridays. Please refer to the Kindergarten calendar ([BES Kindergarten 2025-2026 Learning Calendar](#)) for more information.

Additional Information:**IN SCHOOL SERVICES:**

Our school Speech Language Pathologist, Gillian Kastendieck and Occupational Therapist, Megan Taylor will be visiting and observing the Kindergarten classes at the beginning of the year. Gillian will be observing how your child articulates their words, understands language, and communicates their thoughts to others. Megan will be observing how your child completes daily living tasks, uses their hands to complete drawing and cutting activities, and how they manage their energy levels, emotions, and behaviours in the classroom. The intent of observation is to provide relevant strategies to the classroom staff as well as to identify children who may benefit from receiving more targeted support.

TRANSPORTATION:

If bus transportation is required and you haven't already completed the online registration form for the bus, please complete a School Bus Registration Form that can be found within your student's profile in SchoolEngage. If you have questions regarding bus routes etc., please [click here](#) for more information. Please note that BES Kindergarten students are always picked up from the bus and escorted to their classrooms in the morning, and picked up from their classrooms and escorted to the bus in the afternoon, all year.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

Please [click here](#) for more information on the 2025-2026 School Supplies required for students.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CLUB (OSC):

OSC is a licensed childcare program run by the Town of Banff at Banff Elementary School. The OSC program hours compliment the Canadian Rockies Public School calendar - providing care during after school hours, PD days, parent/teacher interviews and school breaks. **OSC also provides full day care during the kindergarten gradual entry into the school year.**

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year opens Wednesday June 18 at 8:30 am. For more information about this Town of Banff program and their fees, please visit [Banff.ca/kids](https://banff.ca/kids), email outofschoolclub@banff.ca or call 403-762-1251.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE:

Juggling work and family can be challenging. Banff Elementary School supports families by offering Before School Care. This drop-in program starts at 7:45 am and students enter through the Den doors by the Elk field courtyard. Kindergarten students can start dropping in to Before School Care on the first full day of Kindergarten (Sept 3). This is a free service for BES families and registration is required each year. Please [click here](#) to register for the Before School Care program for the 2025-2026 school year.

AHS IMMUNIZATION FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS:

Please [click here](#) for information on immunizations from Alberta Health Care. The routine preschool appointment is the last clinic appointment for children with Public Health before transitioning into the school immunization program.

The Banff Elementary School office will reopen after summer break on August 21, 2025 at 1:00 pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us then.

Kind Regards,



Jason Billings, Principal