

Frequently Asked Questions by New Wilder Parents

School & PTSA website: www.lwsd.org/wilder

Q: What supplies will my child need for school?

A: You will find the lists on our website: www.lwsd.org/wilder. Go to PTSA/Back to School 2011-2012.

Q. When will I receive the forms and other information from the school?

A: Each family will receive a packet of forms and information from the school district, school and PTSA. These packets will be available to pick-up at the Open House and Kindergarten Orientation. Due to confidential information, a friend or neighbor will not be allowed to pick-up your packet for you. If you are unable to get your packet at either of those times then it will be sent home on the first day of school.

Q: When do I find out who my child's teacher is?

A: You will receive a message from our principal in late August with information on how to access your child's teacher information. This information will be on Parent Access which is located on the district website. www.lwsd.org (search for Parent Access and sign up). However, due to last minute staffing/enrollment changes teacher assignments MAY NOT be posted until the Open House on Thursday September 1.

Q: How many recesses are there?

A: Two fifteen-minute recesses (morning and afternoon) as well as a 30-minute lunch recess.

Q: When will I find out where my child will catch the bus?

A: LWSD Transportation will mail out cards with information on the time and place for pick-up/drop-off. Cards are usually mailed mid-late August. Contact the Transportation Office at (425) 936-1120 with questions.

Q: If my child wants to go home with someone else, whom will I notify?

A: Please e-mail or send a note to the teacher, as well as c.c. the office in case there is a substitute. The teacher will then write your child a bus pass. Your child cannot get on a different bus or off at a different stop without a bus pass.

Q: How does the bus driver and others know that he/she is a Kindergartner?

A: The teachers put name cards on each student with the bus they ride marked on it to help them remember and also for the bus driver to know where they live. You will receive this information at the kindergarten parent meeting in late August.

Q: Do parents follow the bus the first day?

A: Some do, others drive to meet the bus at school. Others go celebrate with other parents!

Q: What is the PTSA and why should I join/volunteer/donate?

Initially PTAs existed only to advocate for children's rights in education and healthcare initiatives. Today, due to severe funding deficiencies from the state, PTAs have taken on many of the responsibilities for providing the "extras" a school offers – classes, programs, school equipment, classroom funds, etc. Wilder PTSA has a great relationship with Wilder Administration and Staff and we work together to support the educational experience of all students in our school.

Q: How can I join the PTSA?

A: Information about joining Wilder PTSA is available on the website. You will also be able to sign up at the Open House or using the online payment system under Membership on the PTSA portion of the school website.

Q: How do I help in my child's classroom?

A: During Curriculum Night (mid-September), teachers have sign-up sheets posted, or you may contact the teacher directly. *All volunteers* in the classroom or for any school event must pass a background check prior to volunteering in the classroom. These forms are available in the office or online by going to the PTSA portion of the school website and choosing Volunteers. Wilder PTSA also provides many opportunities to volunteer both in your child's classroom and for the school in general. You can view these opportunities and programs on the PTSA portion of the website.

Q: Can I come to school/recess/lunch time whenever I want?

A: Whenever you visit the school, you must check in at the office. You may visit during lunch anytime. Other visitation times must be scheduled with your child's teacher.

Q: How can I get to know other parents?

A: Working in the classroom and volunteering at school provide terrific opportunities to meet other kids and parents.

Q: How does my child buy lunch?

A: You will deposit money into his/her account. Checks to Wilder Elementary or Visa/MC charged through LWSD Food Services at (425) 936-1393. Your child will then use his/her card each day to pay. You will be notified whenever the account runs low and can deposit additional funds. You are also able to add funds to your child's account through the Parent Access portion of the district website or at the Open House prior to school starting.

Q: Can my child just purchase milk or juice?

A: Yes.

Q: My child has a food allergy, how does the school handle this?

A: Please inform their teacher and clearly state the allergy(ies) on their Emergency Card which is distributed the first week of school. The office can provide you with specific information related to your child's allergy(ies).

Q: My child needs to take medication at school. What do I need to do?

A: All medications will need a doctor's prescription and a signed medical form available from the office. Parents must also sign off on the form. All medications include over-the-counter and prescription drugs. We are only allowed to administer medications that can be swallowed. We cannot administer eye drops or ointments.

Q: What happens if my child is sick?

A: Please call in absences & late arrivals to Wilder's Absence/Late Arrival Line at (425) 936-2741.

Q: What happens if my child is late?

A: Have your student check-in at the office to pick up a late slip. Please notify the office if your child will be late due to a morning appointment.

Q: What happens if I need to pick my child up early for an appointment?

A: If you know in advance, please notify your teacher ahead of time. You will need to sign your child out in the office. Do not go to the classroom first. The office will call the teacher to request the student's dismissal.

Q: What programs does the PTSA offer during the school day?

A: Wilder PTSA sponsors many programs for all students during the school day. These staff-supported programs are funded by the PTSA and run by parent volunteers – not the teachers. Programs include: Art Docent, Math Adventures, Watershed and Classic Books. You will find more

information on the PTSA portion of the school website. All of these programs need volunteers to keep them going. Contact your teacher or program chairperson(s) if you are interested in helping. In addition to the in-class programs there are other programs going on during the school day that use volunteers including Health Room Coverage, Marathon Club, Wolf PACK and more.

Q: What enrichment classes does the PTSA offer?

A: Wilder PTSA offers a variety of enrichment classes in both the morning and afternoon. Class descriptions can be found on the PTSA portion of the school website. This year registration will be done online through this site. Registration for classes will open September 1. Please review timelines and registration requirements prior to signing up for classes.

Q: How do I find out what is going on at school?

Both the school and Wilder PTSA communicate with parents using Constant Contact, an online email system that sends weekly newsletters on Sunday night. You should automatically receive an introductory email in August to any emails you have submitted to the school for contact purposes. You may then unsubscribe if you do not wish to receive the emails on a certain address. If you are not receiving these emails when school starts then please let the office know.

Q: What if I have other questions?

A: ASK!! The office is extremely helpful and if they don't know the answer they will find someone who does. Also, ask the PTSA presidents or Welcome Committee chair. Their contact information is available on the website. There are no dumb questions and chances are your question has been asked/answered before or it will come up again.