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Welcome to Lake Washington School District.

This handbook provides information on the Kindergarten options in our district as well as developmental information you may find helpful as you think through which option is right for your child. If you have questions please contact your neighborhood school. We are glad to have you and your child in our schools.

The Five-Year-Old Child

Five year olds have entered a relatively quiet period of orientation and adjustment to their widening world. While on the growth plateau of five, they put together their newly discovered capabilities, experiences, and learning. Their interests are home-centered. They like to play house and school and like to dramatize everyday activities.

At this time their personality characteristics are fairly well established. They are developing self-control and are usually cooperative and helpful. They want and seek approval from others. They are eager to learn and look forward to school. They sense their limitations and generally want to do things within their range of accomplishment. They will ask for help if they need it.

They live in the present with “I”, “me” and “mine” foremost in their attitudes and behavior. They have strong feelings for their possessions. Their clothes, toys and school materials are important to them; so are **their** place and **their** turn. They do not, however, always make clear distinctions between what is theirs and what belongs to others since they are too limited in experience to make such generalizations. The difference between fantasy and reality is not always clear to them.

For five year olds, the development of self brings a new sense of power and a desire to do things their own way. They experience and test their own feelings of maturity and at times may feel that their way is the only way. Despite usual cooperation, they occasionally may stand their ground to the point of defiance.

Physical characteristics

Five has entered a period of slow physical growth.

Five is constantly active; uses large muscles; is easily fatigued.

Five has little infantile speech articulation but may regress to immature speech in time of stress.

Five is generally in good health and is less susceptible to colds but more so to communicable diseases.

Five tends to be farsighted; his/her sensory-motor equipment may not be ready for reading.

Five shows sex differences in physical development; girls being about a year ahead of boys.

Special Needs

Five needs assurance that they are loved and valued at home and at school.

Five needs opportunities for large muscle activities and equipment for exercise.

Five needs opportunities to do things independently; freedom to use and to develop their own powers.

Five needs training in group effort, work habits that are necessary for successful school life.

Five needs instruction in understanding property rights.

Five needs instruction and practice in good health habits and personal hygiene.

The Kindergarten Child

Kindergarten is like opening a door; a door that has behind it a wealth of experiences and knowledge.

Social awareness

Children will have the opportunity to interact with other students both in the classroom and in play. The teacher will help provide direction and guidance in all aspects of the school environment.

Academics

Special attention is given to meet the individual needs of each child. Basic skills will include development in:

- Language
- Reading
- Math
- Writing
- Science and Health
- Physical Education (P.E.)
- Music
- Art
- Library

Emotional development

The child's self-image and self-reliance are carefully nurtured by providing many positive experiences. Acceptance and encouragement are ever present.

Intellectual stimulation

Children will be stimulated to understand and effectively process information by:

- Improving listening skills
- Following directions
- Problem solving
- Risk taking
- And

The result is satisfaction and pride in achievement.

Kindergarten is a time of close interaction between school and home. By working together, kindergarten can be the beginning of a positive school experience.

Kindergarten Options/Procedures

Entering kindergarten is one of the most exciting times of a young child's education. Developing a strong foundation during a child's early years in school will provide success for their continuing education. We are looking forward to welcoming your child to their kindergarten experience in September. The options for kindergarten are:

Half-Day Program

The Half-Day Kindergarten Program is available at all school sites throughout the District. This educational option offers a traditional 2 ½ hour day and also provides developmentally appropriate academic and social activities. While the Half-Day Program will successfully meet the needs of most students, it is not necessarily appropriate for all students. Parents should make the decision if this program would meet the needs of their child and family.

All-Day Kindergarten Program

The All-Day Kindergarten Program is at school sites that have space available and student enrollment to support the program. The All-Day Kindergarten Program is an optional educational program. Although All-Day Kindergarten can be a successful option for some students, it is not necessarily appropriate for all kindergarten students. Parents should make the decision if this program would meet the needs of their child and family.

Kindergarten Early Entrance

The Kindergarten Early Entrance process is for students who are too young according to state guidelines for kindergarten, however, they are identified as highly capable and ready for school. A formal and informal assessment will be used to determine if your child meets or exceeds specific criteria in the areas of mental ability, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, auditory discrimination, visual discrimination, and emotional/social development.

Kindergarten procedures for placement

Though most students can function quite well in either the morning or afternoon session, we usually receive more requests for the All-Day Kindergarten program than we can accommodate. In order to grant the request on a fair and equitable basis, a **lottery** will be conducted at each school, if necessary, in February. The results of the lottery will be communicated to parents in February. Students registered after the lottery will be assigned to an AM/PM kindergarten depending on availability in session. In order to balance classes throughout the district, some tentative assignments may need to be changed prior to the beginning of school. **A student without immunizations will be enrolled but not assigned a teacher or allowed to begin school until the immunizations are completed.**

Half- Day Kindergarten Program

The Half-Day Kindergarten Program is available at all sites throughout the District. This program is for all children who turn five on or before August 31. This educational option offers a traditional 2 ½ hour day and also provides developmentally appropriate academic and social activities. While the Half-Day Program will successfully meet the needs of most students, it is not necessarily appropriate for all students. Parents should make the decision if this program would meet the needs of their child and family.

Some questions you may want to ask yourself to help make a decision for your child are:

- Would my child be most comfortable with a gradual orientation to school that a five half-day per week program would provide?
- Will my child's social and academic needs be met through a combination of activities as provided by home and school through the Half-Day Kindergarten Program?
- Does my child currently participate in groups that provide social interaction?

Program format

Students are enrolled for 180 days each school year and follow the same school calendar as all 1-12 grade students. Students are enrolled in either a morning or afternoon session. Students are transported to and from school if on regular transportation routes.

Entrance requirements

To enter a half-day program parents must apply at their home school. Parents who apply for variances to kindergarten must also apply at their home school.

Estimated cost

There will be no cost to parents.

All Day Kindergarten Program

The All-Day Kindergarten Program is an optional educational program offered to parents and students.

While All-Day Kindergarten can be a successful beginning for some students, it is not necessarily appropriate for all children. As a parent you know the unique needs of your child and can determine if this program will be the best option for your family.

Some questions you may want to ask yourself to help make a decision for your child are:

- Would my child be able to separate from our family comfortably five full (six hour) days per week?
- Would my child be more comfortable with five half (2 ½ hour) days per week?
- Would my child benefit from the increased exposure to academic (language and math) activities in All-Day Kindergarten?
- Does my child have the maturity and stamina to attend school all day?
- Has my child's preschool experience prepared him/her for a longer school day?

A full-day program offers more time to students to cover curriculum in depth and allows teachers to provide additional activities in learning.

Program format

Students are enrolled for 180 full days each school year and follow the same school calendar as all 1-12 grade students. Students arrive in the morning along with all other students in grades 1 through 6 and leave at the end of the school day with all 1 through 6 graders. Students have lunch at school and are transported to and from schools if on regular transportation routes.

Entrance requirements

To enter the all-day program parents must apply at their home school. Parents who apply for variances to kindergarten must also apply at their home school.

Estimated cost

This program is tuition based. Tuition for 2011-2012 was \$3,300 but the fee is subject to change. Fees are reduced based on a family's ability to pay within the guidelines of the free and reduced lunch program. Those who qualified for a reduced fee paid \$1,180 for 2011-2012. Those who qualified for free lunch paid \$650 for 2011-2012. *(All fees are subject to change)*. This tuition supports the unfunded portion of the full-day program.

Lottery Procedures

Though most students can function quite well in either the morning or afternoon session, we usually receive more requests for the all-day kindergarten program than we can accommodate. In order to grant the request on a fair and equitable basis, a **lottery** will be conducted at each school, on February 9, 2012, for half-day and all-day kindergarten programs.

The results of the lottery will be communicated to parents by February 10, 2012. Students registered after February 9, 2011, will be assigned to an AM/PM kindergarten depending on availability in session.

In order to balance classes throughout the district, some **tentative** assignments may need to be changed prior to the beginning of school.

All Day Kindergarten Payment Procedures

The district is offering two payment options this year:

- 1) Prepayment for the full year with a 5% discount approximately \$3,135 by August 15, 2012.
- 2) Payments made monthly through the use of an automated clearing house (ACH) for approximately \$330.

A deposit equal to your monthly tuition payment is due when you are admitted to the All Day Kindergarten program. The deposit check will be applied to your last month's tuition.

Automated Clearing House (ACH)

Automated Clearing House is an electronic way for you to make your monthly payment. With your prior authorization, an automatic withdrawal will occur on the 6th day of each month (September through June) from your checking or savings account. This program eliminates the need for you to write a check or worry about missing payments. The payment is a debit to your checking or savings and works the same way as any other withdrawal or check. The bank will notify us if you have insufficient funds and you will be charged a processing fee of \$10 for each NSF transaction.

Payments can be split between parents/guardians?

Each parent/guardian will need to fill out an ACH authorization form and indicate their percentage of payment responsibility. If more than one parent/guardian is responsible for payment, all ACH authorizations will need to be on file before the child can attend All-Day Kindergarten.

What if I have made my monthly payment and my child stops attending?

When the district office receives notification of your cancellation and a refund is due, a refund check will be issued immediately and the ACH authorization cancelled.

What happens if I am unable to continue with the payments?

All-Day Kindergarten is an optional program offered by the Lake Washington School District, and these fees are required in order to finance the program. If you fail to make the monthly payments, your program coordinator will be notified and your child will be placed in the closest half-day kindergarten program available.

If you have any questions regarding payment please contact Deanna Cruikshank at (425) 936-1471.

Free and Reduced Fee Applications

Families who wish to request a reduced fee for All-Day Kindergarten must complete a Free and Reduced Kindergarten Application. The application will be sent in with your All-Day Kindergarten Payment Option Sheet. You must still supply the information requested on the Payment Option Sheet.

You will not be receiving notification that you have qualified for the Free or Reduced Fee. Your request will be based upon the guidelines set-up for the previous school year. These guidelines are subject to change for the school year. In the fall, you will need to complete the “updated” Free and Reduced Application. These will be available, in the office, the first week of school.

You may call Deanna Cruikshank, in the Accounting Department, after August 1 to verify the amount of the All-Day Kindergarten monthly payment that will be automatically deducted from your bank account.

If you have any other questions regarding All-Day Kindergarten payments, contact Deanna Cruikshank at (425) 936-1471.

Kindergarten Early Entrance

Early entrance for children younger than five years old on August 31

Note: The Early Entrance Policy has changed. Please read and follow these instructions carefully.

Underage children whose birthdays fall between September 1 and November 30 and whose parents believe them to be exceptionally qualified for early Kindergarten entrance may apply to the school district. Children whose fifth birthday falls after November 30 are not eligible for early entrance.

Instructions for Kindergarten Early Entrance 2012-2013, Spring Evaluations	
<p>1. Apply for Early Entrance Kindergarten via the Early Entrance Office. Download the Early Entrance Packet.</p>	<p>November 15</p>
<p>2. Submit the Early Entrance application and evaluation fee (not yet set for this year, last year it was \$175) to the Early Entrance Office, LWSD Resource Center, PO Box 97039, Redmond, WA 98073-9739. Checks should be made payable to Lake Washington School District or LWSD. Applications must include a copy of the student's birth certificate or passport and completed Parent Questionnaire. There is an additional Preschool Questionnaire that should be completed by your student's child care provider. Parents who request a fee reduction will also need to complete a free and reduced lunch application.</p>	<p>Applications accepted until February 1, 2012 for Spring testing and until July 31, 2012 for Summer testing</p>
<p>3. Early Entrance evaluations will be scheduled and completed on one of six dates; families will receive a letter informing them of the date and time of their student's evaluation. Testing will take place at the LWSD Resource Center, located at 16250 NE 74th St, Redmond, WA 98052 (in Redmond Town Center).</p>	<p>Specific dates are assigned to students</p>
<p>4. Kindergarten Early Entrance results are sent to parents within two weeks of the evaluation. If your child qualifies, results are sent to the neighborhood school as well. You will need to notify your neighborhood school within two weeks of your decision regarding early entrance should your child qualify.</p>	

Immunizations

Washington State law requires that all children entering school must show proof of having received the required immunizations. **Students will not be allowed to attend classes in the new school year if their immunizations are not current or their immunization status does not meet Washington State Law. Students will not be assigned a teacher until this information has been returned to the school secretary.**

If possible your child's immunization information should be returned to the school secretary before the end of the school year. Otherwise school secretaries will return to school in mid August. *Be advised that the information needs to be given to the school secretary no later than the third week of August for your child's name to appear on the class list. The class lists are generally posted the middle of the last week of August.*

To help protect our children, Washington State requires documentation of the following vaccines for kindergarten attendance:

HEPATITIS B

- 3 doses are required

DTaP

- 4 doses are required
- 4th dose must be given on or after the 4th birthday

POLIO

- 3 doses are required: The last dose required on or after the 4th birthday

MMR

- 2 doses are required
- 1st dose must be on or after the 1st birthday
- 2nd dose must be given at least 28 days after the 1st dose

VARICELLA (CHICKEN POX)

- 2 doses are required
- 1st dose must be on or after the 1st birthday and given the same day as the MMR or at least 28 days apart
- 2nd dose must be given on the same day as the MMR or at least 28 days apart
- Parent reported history of the disease is **NOT** acceptable

Kindergarten Transportation

Morning Drop-Off

ADK/AM Kindergarten students who are within the walking distance of their elementary school will walk to school in the morning with their 1st – 5th grade peers.

AM Kindergarten students whose address is within the bus route will take the bus to school with their 1st – 5th grade peers.

Mid-day Bussing

Students who attend AM kindergarten will be bussed home even if they are within walking distance of their home school and must be met by a parent/guardian or the student will be returned to the school. Students who attend PM will be bussed to school even if they are within walking distance of their home school.

End of the Day

ADK/ PM Kindergarten students who are within the walking distance of their elementary school will walk home from school in the afternoon with their 1st – 5th grade peers.

PM Kindergarten students whose address is within the bus route will take the bus home from school with their 1st – 6th grade peers.

Early Release

Early release Wednesdays

The Lake Washington School District has a different schedule on Wednesdays, with students getting out an hour and a half early. As a result, your kindergarten student will also be on a different, shorter, schedule on Wednesday. Check with your neighborhood school for the specific times. These early release Wednesdays enable teachers to improve student learning through teacher and staff development, collaboration, and focused, team-based improvement efforts. These regular, weekly times for teachers to work together also mean there are fewer full-day teacher in-service days during the school year, when students do not attend.

Helping at Home

1. Talk with your child as much as possible. Spoken language is the basis for reading. Ask questions that require more than yes or no answers.
2. Read books to your child. Discuss the book before, during and after you read. Questions like “What do you think this book will be about?”, “What do you think will happen next?” and “What was your favorite part?” all help your child make sense of the book and help him or her to remember what the book was about.
3. Provide materials for writing. Making your child a special “writing box” with pencils, crayons, pens and different kinds of paper (including paper headed for recycling) will encourage writing efforts.
4. Restrict, as much as possible, the amount of time your child spends playing video games and watching television.
5. Provide your child with a consistent sleep schedule. Children who are rested learn better.
6. Make sure your child arrives to school on time, so that they have every opportunity to learn.

Why read to children?

1. If children are read to, they find it easier to learn to read themselves.
2. Reading to children is good for their curiosity, their imagination and their vocabulary. It helps them pay attention longer, think better and communicate more successfully.
3. Children’s ability to understand what they read depends a lot on background knowledge – what they already know. The more children are read to, the more they will learn for use in reading later.
4. Reading to your child leads to great conversations that give you a chance to share thoughts and feelings. It helps your child grow emotionally and it brings you closer together.
5. When you read to your children you let them know that reading is a valued activity in your home.
6. Children love being read to.

LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT # 414 2011-2012 Calendar (Revised)

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29★	30★	31★			

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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30	31					

NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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22	23	24★	25	26	27★	28
29	30	31★				

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30★	31

APRIL

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29	30					

MAY

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27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JULY

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

School year may be extended due to inclement weather. Calendar subject to change.

Important Dates

Aug. 29-31	LEAP Days
Sept. 1	LEAP Day
Sept. 5	No school – Labor Day
Sept. 6	First Day of School
Oct. 3-4, 6	Half-Day Elementary Conferences
Oct. 7	No school – LEAP Day
Nov. 3	Last Day 1st Quarter Secondary
Nov. 11	No school – Veterans' Day Observed
Nov. 14	Secondary Grades Due
Nov. 23	Half-Day
Nov. 24-25	No school – Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 19-30	No school – Winter Break
Jan. 2	No school – Winter Break
Jan. 16	No school – Martin Luther King Jr.
Jan. 24	Elementary Grades Due

Jan. 27	Last Day 1st Semester Secondary
Jan. 31	Half-Day Elementary Conferences
Feb. 2-3	Half-Day Elementary Conferences
Feb. 3	Secondary Grades Due
Feb. 16-17, 20	No school – Mid-Winter Break
March 16	No school – LEAP Day
March 30	Last Day 3rd Quarter Secondary
April 2-6	No school – Spring Break
April 13	Secondary Grades Due
May 4	No school – LEAP Day
May 25	No school – LEAP Day
May 28	No school – Memorial Day
June 18	Elementary Grades Due

June 22	Half-Day – Last Day of School
	Last Day - Secondary 2nd Semester
	Secondary Grades Due

Key

★ Check Important Dates Section		
■ No School	□ Half Day	□ First/Last Day

Wednesday schedule 1.5 hrs. early release for students.
LEAP = Learning Enhancement Academic Planning

Revised 6/11

August 2012

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September 2012

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30						

October 2012

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28	29	30	31			

November 2012

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December 2012

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30	31					

January 2013

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27	28	29*	30	31*		

February 2013

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24	25	26	27	28		

March 2013

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24	25	26	27	28	29*	30
31						

April 2013

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28	29	30				

May 2013

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June 2013

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July 2013

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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Important Dates

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Sept. 3	No school – Labor Day
Sept. 4	First Day of School
Oct. 1-2, 4	Half-Day Elementary Conferences
Oct. 5	No school – LEAP Day
Nov. 6	Last Day 1st Quarter Secondary
Nov. 12	No school – Veterans' Day Observed
Nov. 13	Secondary Grades Due
Nov. 21	Half-Day
Nov. 22-23	No school – Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 19-31	No school – Winter Break
Jan. 1	No school – Winter Break

Jan. 21	No school – Martin Luther King Jr.
Jan. 22	Elementary Grades Due
Jan. 25	Last Day 1st Semester
Jan. 29, 31	Half-Day Elementary Conferences
Feb. 1	Half-Day Elementary Conferences Secondary Grades Due
Feb. 14-15, 18	No school – Mid-Winter Break
March 15	No school – LEAP Day
March 29	Last Day 3rd Quarter Secondary
April 4	Secondary Grades Due
April 8-12	No school – Spring Break
May 3	No school – LEAP Day

May 27	No school – Memorial Day
June 12	Elementary Grades Due
June 18	Half-Day – Last Day of School Last Day – Secondary 2nd Semester Secondary Grades Due

Key

- * Check Important Dates Section
- No School
- Half Day
- First/Last Day

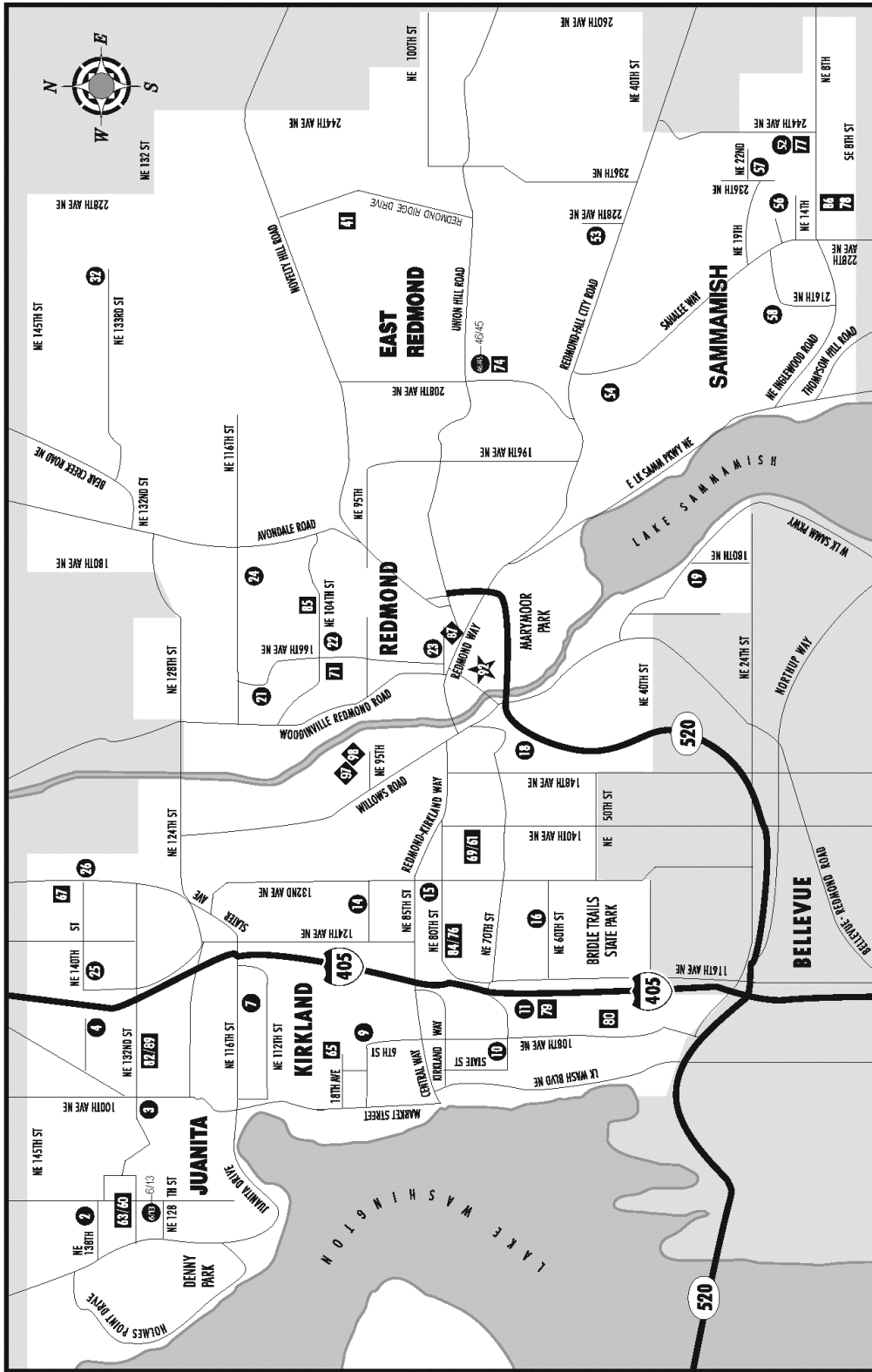
Wednesday schedule 1.5 hrs. early release for students.

LEAP = Learning Enhancement Academic Planning

Revised 2/11

LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Updated 3/2011



This map is intended to show general district boundaries. For more information call the LWSU Transportation Department at (425) 936-1120.

