***Leading together, we inspire hope and nurture learning.***

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT**

**KINDERGARTEN AT BAIRDMORE SCHOOL**

1. **Kindergarten at Bairdmore School**

* Students in kindergarten will either attend school in the morning, or in the afternoon.
* They attend school for ½ days, every day, Monday-Friday, holidays excluded.
* Parents/Guardians may request a.m., or p.m.; All requests are carefully considered; Please note, not all requests can be honoured, as creating balanced classrooms is a focus/priority.
* Students spend approximately 2.75 hours a day in kindergarten.

1. **When Does the School Day Start and End?**

**A.M. Kindergarten**

* Students in a.m. kindergarten should be at school about 2 minutes prior to the **8:00 a.m.** school bell.
* O Canada is played at 8:10 a.m.
* Students who are late to school are to report to the main doors to buzz in/sign in.
* School is over at 11:00 a.m. with the pick-up window beginning up to 10 minutes prior.
* Students will begin to get ready to go home at 10:50 a.m. so they are ready when the school bus arrives at 11:00 a.m.

**P.M. Kindergarten**

* Students in p.m. kindergarten should be at school about 2 minutes prior to the **12:00 p.m.** school bell.
* Students who are late to school are to report to the main doors to buzz in/sign in.
* School is over at 2:50 p.m. with the pick-up window beginning up to 10 minutes prior.
* Students will begin to get ready to go home at 2:40 p.m. so they are ready when the school bus arrives at 2:50 p.m.

1. **Transportation**

**Who is eligible for busing?**

* Students in Kindergarten-Grade 6 are eligible for transportation to their catchment school, if their home address is more than 1.6 km walking distance from their catchment school and they are being transported to and from a qualifying address.
* Students in Grades 7-12 are only eligible for transportation if their home address is in excess of 1.6 km walking distance from the nearest public transportation stop.
* To learn more, please take a minute to read [our complete policy on eligibility for transportation.](https://www.pembinatrails.ca/Governance/PolicyandGuidelines/DivisionalPolicies/PolicyDocuments/EEAA%20Student%20Eligibility%20for%20Transport%20-%20Walkers%20and%20Riders.pdf#search=transportation)

**How is distance measured?**

* The staff at the Transportation Department have walked all areas with a walking wheel to measure the distances. Google Maps is not used. If you are not sure if your address is eligible, please contact our Transportation Department at 204-488-1757, for assistance.

**Can the pickup and drop off locations be different?**

* Eligible students are routed based on their home address or daycare. The morning pick-up and after school drop-off locations can be different but must be consistent. Only one morning location and one after school location can be used.

**What about seat sales?**

* Pembina Trails will be re-evaluating seat sale availability for the upcoming school year. Traditionally this service was available, space permitting, to ineligible riders. Given the current circumstances, seat sales are temporarily suspended.

1. **Class Size**

* Kindergarten class size varies from year to year.
* On average, there are 18-25 students per class.

1. **Lunch Hour**

* Students in kindergarten do not stay for lunch.

1. **Recess**

* Kindergarten students do not participate in recess at the regularly scheduled times with the other students.
* Traditionally, kindergarten students begin going outside for recess during the third term and often spend most of June learning outdoors.
* During the day, kindergarten students engage in daily outdoor play (weather permitting); Students are, therefore, encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather.

1. **What Does a Typical Day in Kindergarten Look Like?**

* Attendance
* Good Morning Song
* Primary Learning Activity (story, hands-on activity, letters, math, etc.)
* Scheduled Play Time (30-60 minutes, mostly outdoors)
* Specialist Classes: Music, Physical Education, Library
* Primary Learning Activity (story, hands-on activity, letters, math, etc.)
* Home Time
* Please note, establishing routines in kindergarten are very important.

1. **What About a Snack? Water?**

* Snacks for kindergarten students have been eliminated since COVID-19.
* Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school.

1. **Student Fees**

* Students in kindergarten pay a Student Fee of $35.00, which is paid through Permission Click.
* A Permission Click link for payment will be created in the fall.
* Stay tuned for more information.

1. **Specialists**

* All students in kindergarten will participate in Music, Physical Education, and Library.

1. **Other Opportunities**

* Kindergarten students are invited to participate in school-wide events such as assemblies, presentations, dress-up days (i.e.: Canada Day, Pajama Day), etc.
* When school events are scheduled during recess and lunch breaks, kindergarten students generally do not participate, due to their unique schedule.
* We strongly encourage all students to get involved in the activities offered at Bairdmore School, as it helps them build connections and it promotes strong school involvement.
* Involved students are happy students! 😊

1. **Other Points of Interest?**

* Throughout their six years at Bairdmore School, students will have the opportunity to work with an outstanding staff (teachers, counsellor, EAL, resource and support staff, EAs, etc.) who demonstrate leadership in the areas of literacy, numeracy, academics, assessment, technology integration, wellness, athletics, and the Arts, to name just a few.
* Bairdmore School will host one major fundraiser each year…The Cookie Dough Fundraiser. All students are encouraged to participate in this fundraiser as the monies raised go back into the school, directly impacting students positively.
* To keep informed about what is happening at Bairdmore School, please refer to Bairdmore School’s website, and Instagram Account.
* To be successful at Bairdmore, students are encouraged to:
  + Show up.
  + Do the work.
  + Be their best.
  + Have fun!
* Bairdmore School’s Motto: Be your best!
* Bairdmore School’s School-Wide Respect Agreements:
  + We listen and speak respectfully.
  + We respect differences.
  + We challenge ourselves to learn and grow.
* Bairdmore School’s logo is the Barracuda! ***Go, Barracudas, go!***



**TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More**

**----- Accomplish Anything -----**

**Please Note:**

* Bairdmore School will become a Kindergarten-Grade 5 school, effective September 2024-2025.
* Start and end times may be subject to change.