

# Riverside School District 96

## Blythe Park Elementary School



### Blythe Park School Family Information Guide 2025-2026 School Year

<b>Communication</b> To find out about current happenings at Blythe Park or district-wide, please take advantage of the following electronic resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">Blythe Park Website</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Under “<b>Our School</b>” on Blythe Park’s webpages, select the <b>ALL THINGS BLYTHE PARK</b> option. Use this site to access school documents and view periodical messages from Mrs. Gorman regarding upcoming events, programming and general communication.</li></ul></li><li>● <a href="#">Blythe Park Instagram</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b><i>Please follow Blythe Park on Instagram!</i></b> Beautiful pictures that capture Blythe Park students learning and playing can be found here each week.</li></ul></li><li>● <a href="#">Subscribe to Blythe Park’s Calendar</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Select SUBSCRIBE which is located on the right-hand side of <a href="#">this webpage</a>.</li></ul></li></ul>						
<b>Students Leaving the Building During the School Day</b> In order to ensure that children are safe and accounted for at all times, District 96 adheres to the following steps when dismissing students midday:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Send a note or email (email prior to 8:00 AM that day) indicating when your child will be picked up from school. Please specify the first and last name of the adult who will be picking up your child.</li><li>● Your child will be sent to the office at your indicated pick-up time (11:25 for lunch).</li><li>● Parents/guardians should come to the main entrance (south doors) of Blythe Park and enter the school foyer. Parents must sign-out their child before he/she is dismissed from the building.</li><li>● Upon returning to the building, the adult must reenter the office to sign the child back into school. <b>*Please note that for lunch dismissal all students need to return to their classrooms by 12:20 PM, or they will be considered tardy.</b></li></ul>						
<b>In-person School Hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Kindergarten- 5th Grade</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 8:10 AM- 3:00 PM</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Families opting for ½ day Kindergarten</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 8:10 - 11:20 AM</li></ul></li></ul>						
<b>Supervision</b>	<b>Outdoor Adult Supervision Times:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 7:50-8:10 AM</li><li>● 3:00-3:15 PM</li></ul>						
<b>Lunchtime &amp; Free Lunch and Milk Program for the 2025-2026 School Year</b>	<table><tr><td>11:20-11:50</td><td>1st, 3rd &amp; 5th- Eat</td><td>Kindergarten, 2nd, &amp; 4th- Recess</td></tr><tr><td>11:50-12:20</td><td>Kindergarten, 2nd &amp; 4th-Eat</td><td>1st, 3rd &amp; 5th- Recess</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Students going home for lunch should return to school by the 12:20 PM bell.</li><li>● Parents/guardians who are taking students home for lunch should sign them out at the main office.</li><li>● <b>Soda and fast food lunches are not allowed in the Blythe Park lunchroom.</b></li><li>● Children should not share food with one another.</li></ul>	11:20-11:50	1st, 3rd & 5th- Eat	Kindergarten, 2nd, & 4th- Recess	11:50-12:20	Kindergarten, 2nd & 4th-Eat	1st, 3rd & 5th- Recess
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	<p><b>Student Lunches:</b> If you believe your student would qualify for free or reduced-cost lunches, please visit the following website for information about fee waiver qualifications and the application for free and reduced lunch: <a href="https://www.district96.org/apps/pages/free_reduced_application">https://www.district96.org/apps/pages/free_reduced_application</a></p> <p><b>Student Lunch/ Milk Purchases:</b> Students purchase lunch and/or milk using an ID card that is connected to the parent's PushCoin account. If you would like your child to receive a school lunch or milk, please access <a href="#">PushCoin</a> to load funds onto your account.</p> <p><b>Kindergarten Snack</b> Kindergartners will have the opportunity for a morning snack. Approved snack items may be accessed <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>Please contact District 96 at (708) 447-7893 or <a href="mailto:lunchprogram@district96.org">lunchprogram@district96.org</a> if you have any questions regarding the lunch program.</p>
<b>Arrival Procedures General Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When driving to school, <b>drop children off on the school side of Leesley</b>. This prevents children from crossing in front of moving traffic. Leesley is a one-way street headed south on school days.</li><li>• During general arrival, you may drop off at either Door A or B. After 8:10 AM, all students must enter through the main entrance (Door A).</li><li>• If walking to school, only use specified crosswalk areas. Do not cross in the middle of the street and instruct your child to do the same.</li></ul>
<b>Student Arrival Procedures: Entry into Blythe Park School</b>	<p><b>Students will enter and exit the building through the following doors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. Kamego's Kindergarten, 1st &amp; 2nd Grade: Main entrance (south) doors on Leesley Road: Door A</li><li>• Mrs. Bassing's Kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, &amp; 5th Grade: North entrance doors on Leesley Road: Door B</li></ul>
<b>Dismissal Procedures</b>	<p><b>General Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School is dismissed at 3:00 PM. Staff members will assist students as they exit the building.</li><li>• Students walking home, either on their own or with an adult, should immediately leave the school campus upon dismissal.</li><li>• Students who are picked up by a parent/guardian in a vehicle will wait in front of the main entrance. <b><i>This is the only designated area for pick-up if using the car line.</i></b></li><li>• If walking home from school, students should only use specific crosswalk areas. Do not cross in the middle of the street and instruct your child to do the same.</li></ul>

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<b>Dismissal/Pick-up Procedures for the Car Line</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The car line will begin at the main entrance of Blythe Park on Leesley Road.</li><li>• Drivers should remain with their vehicle while in the car line. <b>At no time should drivers park and exit their vehicle, leaving it unattended.</b></li><li>• Drivers should have their name identification tag clearly displayed in the window (this will be provided to you at this year's Meet &amp; Greet). A staff member will escort your child to your vehicle.</li><li>• Make sure your child is secured in the vehicle and safely buckled prior to driving away.</li><li>• Wait until the car in front of you moves before pulling away. <b>DO NOT PASS</b> any cars in front of you, as this is a significant safety hazard..</li><li>• After pick-up, vehicles should turn left on York Road to gain access to neighboring streets.</li><li>• An illustrated explanation of our pick-up and drop-off process may be accessed <a href="#">HERE</a>.</li></ul>
<b>Additional Safety Practices for Arrival &amp; Dismissal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Refrain from parking in front of the driveways and crosswalks of our neighbors across the street. Throughout the school year, we receive numerous calls/complaints about vehicles blocking homeowners' driveways. Please be aware of your surroundings and courteous of others when picking your child up from school.</b></li><li>• Do not move or obstruct the view of any cones, traffic signs or traffic horses.</li><li>• Do not pass or move around the car of a driver who is dropping off/picking up a child. This is a significant safety hazard.</li><li>• Refrain from using your cell phone while driving. <b>A driver who is operating a cell phone in a school zone while the car is not in park is in violation of state law.</b></li><li>• For the safety of our students during drop off and pick-up times, we ask that dogs are kept off school property, remain only on the parkway areas, and be leashed at all times.</li><li>• Students riding bicycles to school must obey safety rules and use the bike racks located behind the school (rear main entrance doors).</li><li>• During arrival and dismissal, students should walk with their bikes in front of the school as large groups of children and parents will be gathered in this location.</li><li>• Scooters, skateboards or wheeled shoes should not be used on school property.</li></ul>
<b>Parents Who are Late or Unable to Pick up Their Child from School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An after school supervisor is on site in front of the school for a limited time. Any children not picked up by 3:15 PM will be sent to the office to phone a parent or guardian.</li><li>• Parents/guardians who arrive after supervision has ended will need to go to the main entrance of Blythe Park (south doors on Leesley Road) and enter the school's foyer to meet their child.</li><li>• Parents/guardians who are consistently unable to pick-up their child at dismissal time must:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ arrange for another caregiver to pick up their son/daughter</li><li>○ enroll their child in the <a href="#">Riverside Parks and Recreation Before and After School Care</a> located at Blythe Park School</li></ul></li></ul>

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<b>Student Absence/Tardiness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student absences should be phoned into the school office (708-447-2168) by 8:45 AM.</li><li>• <b><i>We ask that families make a concerted effort to not schedule vacations during student attendance days.</i></b></li><li>• It is critically important that students be at school on time. Punctuality allows students to feel good about the start of their school day, supports their ability to organize and focus, and avoids lost instructional time. Please help your child arrive at school on time every day.</li><li>• Students late to school should go to the main entrance and check-in with the school secretary prior to going to their classroom.</li></ul>
<b>Supervision</b>	<p><b>Before School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supervision is provided at entrances beginning at 8:00 AM. Students should not be on school grounds prior to this time.</li></ul> <p><b>After School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students should leave the school grounds and head directly home at their designated dismissal time (3:00 PM). A supervisor will phone parents/guardians if a student is not picked up at their dismissal time. Students who have not been picked up should wait by the main entrance doors with a school supervisor (South doors on Leesley Road).</li></ul>
<b>Visitors to Blythe Park</b>	Throughout the school year, classrooms and PTA events will offer opportunities for parents and guardians to visit and/or volunteer within the school. All visitors to the school must check-in at the main office. Additionally, <b><u>all visitors must present a valid driver's license or State ID</u></b> and clear a background check before gaining admittance into the school.
<b>Messages to Students and Teachers</b>	<p>Please help us avoid classroom distractions that impact students' learning by making all after school plans <i>before</i> the school day begins. Phone call reminders to children interrupt the instructional day.</p> <p>If you are dropping off an item for your child, please leave it on the cart in the foyer outside the main office. Someone will deliver the item to your child's classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you need to speak with a teacher, you may either leave a phone message with the office (708.447.2168) or email the teacher (last name followed by first initial @district96.org).</li><li>• Please note that teachers will often not read an email message until the end of the school day as they are working directly with students. All staff are asked to respond to messages within a 24-hour window on school days.</li></ul>
<b>Birthday &amp; Holiday Guidelines</b>	<p>Parents are asked not to send cake, cookies, toys or any treat on a child's birthday or holiday. Please be mindful of this policy, as teachers are required to turn away any unapproved treat that is brought to the classroom.</p> <p>Birthday invites <b><i>that include the entire class</i></b> may be given to the classroom teacher to pass out (a birthday invite link for the whole class may also be shared with the teacher). Invites for only select students may not be passed out during the school day. The staff understands that, often, an entire classroom/grade level is not invited to a child's birthday party. That</p>

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	said, not receiving an invite can lead to hurt feelings. In this circumstance, please pass out birthday invites outside the school day.
<b>Cellular Phones &amp; Smartwatches</b>	Any student who brings a cell phone to school must have it powered off and in their backpack throughout the school day. Smartwatches may be worn as students enjoy counting their steps and tracking their fitness levels. However, <b>smartwatches may not be used for calling, texting, or social media purposes.</b> Students who do not follow this practice will be instructed to place the watch in their locker. Any violation after this first warning will result in the watch being confiscated. The student's parent/guardian will be notified to pick the watch up in the main office. Any future violations will result in the student not being allowed to bring the watch to school.
<b>District Wellness Policy</b>	All classrooms at Blythe Park are peanut-free/tree nut-free.  The lunchroom will provide peanut and tree nut-free areas.  For the safety of students with allergies, we ask that students refrain from sharing food during the lunch hour or snack time.
<b>Blythe Park Bathroom Facilities</b>	Bathrooms located inside of Blythe Park School are intended to be utilized by the students <b>during their school day.</b> Once students are dismissed from Blythe Park, they should not return inside the building to access the bathrooms.  The Blythe Park staff certainly understands emergency situations, but generally speaking, students should use the bathroom within their home after their school day is completed.
<b>Dressing for the Weather</b>	Colder temperatures will be here before we know it. Students should pay attention to the weather forecast and dress accordingly. Please note that students will be outside for arrival procedures, during movement breaks and for various learning experiences unless the temperature, with windchill, falls below 10 degrees.  Some classrooms may be cooler than others. Please send your student with a sweater or sweatshirt should they need an extra layer during the school day.
<b>Before/After School Programming:</b>	The <b>Riverside Parks and Recreation</b> will offer before and after school care. For more information regarding this fee-based program, please visit their website <a href="#">HERE</a> or contact Riverside Parks and Recreation at <b>708-442-7025</b> .

*Empowering Learners for Life*

**Riverside School District 96**  
**Blythe Park Elementary School**



Thank you for your cooperation with regard to the aforementioned information.  
Your consistent support will help guarantee a safe and successful school year for  
our students!

Sincerely,  
The Blythe Park Staff

*Empowering Learners for Life*

**Riverside School District 96**  
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