



Neah-Kah-Nie School District Preschool Programs

2024-2025

Nehalem Elementary School Preschool

We learned all about following directions in preschool! Our favorite way to practice following directions was by following a recipe and making our very own pumpkin pie cups! We very quickly realized there were big fans of pumpkin and not so big fans!



People thought we were a little wacky taking 15 preschoolers all the way to the Oregon Zoo but what an amazing time was had! It was a wonderful way to learn about animals and watch families connect with each other!



All year we have been taking part in Habits of Mind professional development with Preschool Partners and it's been so inspiring! One activity we did with our preschoolers was life size self portraits. It was such a fun way for students to demonstrate self-expression and creativity!



Garibaldi Grade School Preschool



This year, we've had a blast diving into the world of science! Whether we were dissecting pumpkins, planting sunflower seeds, or magically creating rain clouds in a jar, students had endless opportunities to explore and play with the wonders around them.

In line with our focus on science, we hosted OMSI at our school, turning our classroom into a space for exploration. They set up stations for us to learn about different scientific fields, encouraging curiosity and understanding throughout.



Our Habits of Mind professional development has introduced a variety of fresh ideas into the classroom. This year, two major Ah-ha moments have emerged: adjusting our schedule to better cater to students' needs and introducing loose parts; small items that inspire students to their imagination and foster creativity.

Changes to the 2025-2026 School Year

Nehalem Preschool:

- Our preschool will be adopting a four-day school week, moving from the traditional five-day schedule.
- We will be updating the hours in order to make sure we meet the preschool promise hour requirement of 900 hours.
 - **School Days:** Tuesday through Friday
 - **Hours:** 7:45 AM – 2:15 PM

Why the change?

- **Synchronized Drop-Off Times for NES PK-5:** Aligning our preschool schedule with K–5 siblings allows families to have a consistent drop-off time, simplifying morning routines and reducing logistical challenges.
- **Reduced Disruptions:** The four-day week minimizes interruptions caused by district professional development days, meetings with the Northwest Regional ESD on individualized family plans, and sessions with our Preschool Promise coaches, ensuring a more consistent schedule for families.
- **Enhanced Teacher Planning Time:** The additional day off allows our dedicated educators more time for planning, professional development, leading to an even more energized and effective teaching team.
- **Improved Student Focus:** With one less day in the week, students can enjoy a longer weekend, reducing fatigue/illness, and helping them return to school more refreshed and ready to learn and play.

Changes to the 2025-2026 School Year

Garibaldi Preschool

- Our preschool will be adopting a hybrid schedule of four-day and five-day school weeks.
- Our hours will stay the same. By not taking off every Monday, we are well above the 900 hour Preschool Promise Requirement.

Why the hybrid calendar?

- **Drop off and Pick up times:** Garibaldi preschool has a different drop off zone than the K-5 students, it would have been very difficult to adjust our day to make the 900 hours required by Preschool Promise.
- **Reduced Disruptions:** The hybrid week minimizes interruptions caused by district professional development days, meetings with the Northwest Regional ESD on individualized family plans, and sessions with our Preschool Promise coaches, all the while allowing us to meet the needs of the families in the Garibaldi Grade School Boundary
- **Teacher Planning Time:** The additional day off allows our dedicated educators more time for planning, professional development, leading to an even more energized and effective teaching team.
- **Improved Student Focus:** With more days off, students can enjoy a longer weekend, reducing fatigue/illness, and helping them return to school more refreshed and ready to learn and play.