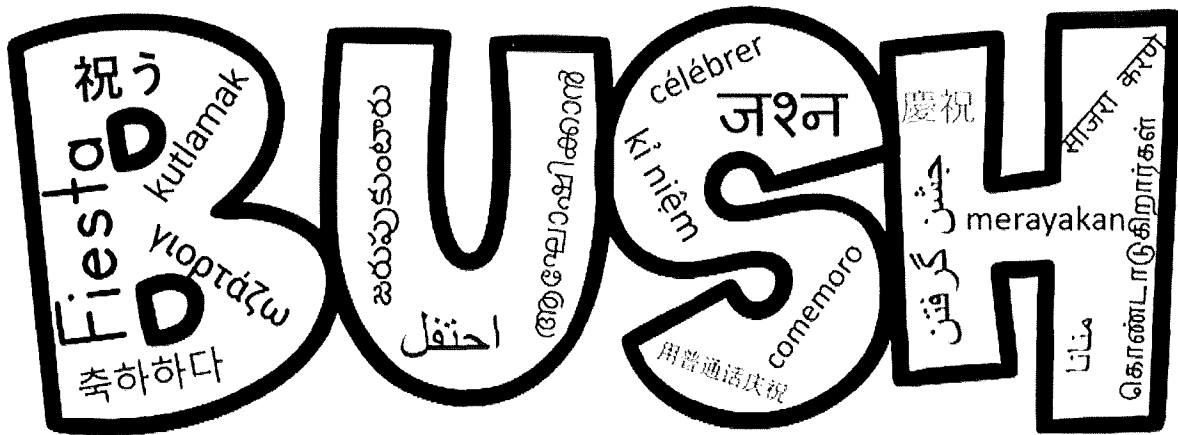


BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY
PROSPECTIVE PARENT TOUR

2022 – 2023



Let's All Cheer for 30 Years of Excellence!

BARBARA PIERCE BUSH ELEMENTARY
13800 WESTERLOCH
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077-1900
(P) 281-368-2150 * (F) 381-368-2153
<http://www.houstonisd.org/bushelem>
School Hours – 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Barbara Bush Elementary School opened at mid-term in 1992. During its history, Bush Elementary has established a tradition of academic excellence. Bush is a neighborhood school that serves students living within the geographic attendance zone. The student body is very multicultural and represents many countries of origin.

Our instructional program is diversified and exciting. It is a balance of tried-and-true methods, such as the systematic teaching of phonics, along with newer, more holistic approaches to learning such as Guided Reading and our Laser i3 science program. All students benefit from instruction by teacher specialists in P.E., Music, Technology, Art, Library and Drama. Beginning in first grade, classroom teachers are “paired” to facilitate the delivery of instruction, so they become experts in their subject areas.

Bush continues to be a highly rated school as compared to neighboring districts. The Children at Risk foundation has rated Bush as an A+ school. In the new TEA accountability system, Bush Elementary earned a score of 97, which TEA ranks as an A school.

There are approximately forty-three different languages spoken by our students at home including: Spanish, French, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, and Korean. Bush has a certified English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher on every grade level to meet the needs of our English Language Learners (ELL).

Bush also offers a Vanguard Neighborhood program beginning in kindergarten. Students identified as GT are homogenously grouped in each grade level. In addition, all our teachers are GT certified to meet the needs of all our students. For more information on the testing process, please refer to the “GT Q & A” section of this packet.

One of the greatest assets of the school is the supportive parent base. Bush began with a high spirit of parental ownership and involvement that has continued to grow through the years. It is evident in the “standing room only” crowds at every school event. The PTO provides funds to support the rigorous academic and enrichment programs that help make our school so successful. For example, they purchase library books, playground equipment, and computers for our students.

Bush Elementary is an example of what can be accomplished when school district officials, building administrators, teachers, parents, and students work together to create an exciting and rigorous learning community for children.

DRESS GUIDELINES

We at Barbara Bush Elementary School feel that attending school is the most important job our children will ever have. We feel that the way our children dress influences their attitude towards school. To provide the best possible learning environment, the Bush Excellence Committee (BEC) approved an official uniform for Bush Students.

Bush Uniform Policy

Clothing Item	Styles	Colors	Special Comments
Tops	Long or short sleeve polo-style shirt	Solid red, white or navy	Official Bush Logo shirts are permitted. Oversized shirts are not permitted
	Oxford cloth, button down shirt	Solid white	Long or short sleeve
	Official Bush Logo T-Shirts	Red, white or navy	ONLY official Bush logo T-shirts are permitted.
	Long sleeve shirts worn under uniform tops	Solid Red, White or Navy	No other colors are permitted under uniform tops.
Bottoms	Pants or Capri pants	Solid navy or khaki	Must fit at the waist.
	Walking shorts, skorts or skirts	Solid navy, blue denim or khaki	Must be school appropriate length.
	Plain blue jeans	Blue denim only	No holes, or rips, no low riders, no fringe, no oversized legs, no embroidery
	Bush plaid skirt, walking shorts or skorts	Bush plaid only	Available at Flynn O'Hara Uniforms. Must be finger-tip length or longer.
	Tights, leggings, pants worn under skirts, shorts, or jumpers	Solid red, white, navy, blue denim or khaki	Leggings are permitted only under skirts, shorts, or jumpers, and <u>cannot be worn by themselves as pants.</u>
Dresses/Jumper	Long & short sleeved	Solid red, navy, or Khaki; official Bush plaid	Must be school appropriate length.
Sweaters	Solid colored sweaters	Solid Khaki, navy, red, white	Solid colors with no embroidery.
Jackets worn in the classroom	Jacket, sweater, or sweatshirts	Solid red, white, or navy	Official Bush logo fleece jackets are permitted.
Outdoor Jackets	Jacket or coats worn outdoors only	Any color	Jackets worn to and from school and at recess only.
Shoes	Closed toe and closed heel rubber soled shoes (flat heels only) No Crocs or Croc-like shoes	Any color	Laces must be a proper length. Shoes must be worn with socks. No cowboy boots. (Except for Go Texan Day)
Masks	Masks may be worn on campus	Any color	Bandanas and Neck Gators are not permitted

Official Bush logo wear may be purchased at the Bush PTO School Store online by visiting their website <https://bbpto.3dcartstores.com/>.

Uniform items may be purchased at many area stores including Target, Academy, and Walmart. Other uniform clothing, including our "Bush plaid", may be purchased at **Flynn O'Hara Uniforms, Shoppes at Memorial Villages, 1022 Wirt Rd, Suite 322, Houston, TX 77055, phone number 346 201-3490.** Also, you may purchase items via their website www.flynnohara.com/school/TX099. **Promo code for free shipping is FREESHIP50** This link is for ordering Bush Elementary approved dress code items.

General Guidelines

- On days that the students attend P.E., girls wearing a skirt, dress, or jumper should wear modesty shorts underneath these items.
- Stud earrings are recommended for safety purposes.
- No caps, hats, or bandanas are allowed inside the building.
- No hoods are allowed to be worn inside the school building.
- Solid Color = no stripe(s) or logos (Bush Elementary logos are the only logos allowed.)
- **Only solid red, white, or navy long sleeved shirts will be permitted under uniform tops on cold days.**
- **Only plain headbands or headbands with bows are allowed.**
- Students may wear scout uniforms on meeting days.

Items considered inappropriate for school:

- Cosmetics
- Oversized or skin-tight pants
- Bicycle pants/shorts, compression shorts, gym-type shorts
- Exercise pants/sweatpants/yoga pants
- Extreme hair styles and extreme hair colors

The following procedures will be followed when a child is not dressed in compliance with dress code guidelines:

1. Classroom teacher will notify student and parent of the dress code infraction.
2. Upon a second occurrence, the student will be sent to the clinic so that an office staff member can call the parent.
 - Parent will have the option of providing dress code clothes or the child will be given clothes to wear for the school day. (Please wash and return clothes the next day.)
 - If clothes cannot be provided, the parents will be asked to bring dress code clothes.
 - Students will not return to class until dress code infraction has been corrected.
 - A Dress Code Violation letter will be sent home with the student to inform the parent of the infraction. Please sign and return this letter.
3. Chronic and repeated dress code infractions may result in a Discipline Referral to the office.

NOTE: HISD Code of Student Conduct states: Violation of a school's mandatory school uniform policy is a Level II Act of Misconduct.

We appreciate the cooperation of the Bush parents in supporting the uniform policy and dress guidelines

General FAQs

- **How do we get into Bush?**
 - Students must currently live in our attendance zone and we must have space available.
 - Principal is unable to grant transfers into Bush due to our overcrowding.
- **Do we have to be zoned to Bush to attend there?**
 - Yes
- **When will registration dates be announced?**
 - Registration dates are typically announced in the spring (continue to check the school website and weekly school newsletter at the beginning of April).
- **What are the school hours?**
 - 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Can my child ride the bus?**
 - Buses are only available for students who reside over 2 miles from school. The only neighborhood zoned to us that is over 2 miles away is Memorial Thicket.
- **What time can I drop my child off in the morning?**
 - Supervision begins at 7:20 a.m.
- **Can my child eat breakfast at school?**
 - Currently, breakfast is free for all students and is offered from 7:15 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria.
- **How do I know that my child will get to the right dismissal place?**
 - The teachers will ask before school starts whether your child is a bus rider, daycare rider carpool rider or walker. Both walkers and carpool riders are administered a dismissal tag which must be displayed so that your child can be called from the classroom. Any time a change is made in dismissal plans, the teacher must be notified at least a day in advance. This should not happen often.
- **What is the latest I can pick up my child in the afternoon?**
 - 3:00 pm
- **Can I come and eat lunch with my child?**
 - Parents can come to eat lunch with their child once per year to celebrate their birthday. Parents must enter through the office and present a government issued ID to be scanned into the system.
- **My child is a vegetarian, what can he/she eat at school?**
 - A cafeteria menu can be found on the HISD website. If your child has special dietary needs, we strongly encourage you to send students to school with a packed lunch.

- **Can the nurse give my child medicine at school?**
 - Yes, with physician's orders (an HISD form) along with medication labeled with a prescription.
- **My child is severely allergic to peanuts, what precautions do you take at school?**
 - Please speak to the nurse regarding any life-threatening allergies.
- **My child has allergies, can he/she bring Benadryl to school in his/her backpack?**
 - Children are not allowed to bring any medication to school. Please speak to the nurse regarding medication at school.
- **What type of backpack can my child use?**
 - Students need a backpack that is large enough to fit a folder. No roller backpacks are allowed at school.
- **What/when are specialist classes?**
 - Specialist classes are a daily 50-minute period when students attend specialist classes: music, art, drama, technology, physical education, and library. This also gives a 50-minute time for teachers to plan, prepare, and meet with parents about their child's progress.
- **Are there any after school programs?**
 - We do not have after-school care; however, we do have a variety of after-school activities available primarily for our 4th and 5th grade students such as chorus, drama, Name that Book Clubs, after-school sports and UIL competitions.
- **Can my child have a cell phone?**
 - Yes, but it must be turned off and in their backpack during the instructional day, but can be used after 3:00 p.m.
 - See Cell Phone policy in Parent Handbook available on the Bush Website

Where can I purchase Bush apparel?

- School apparel may be purchased online through the PTO. You can find their website on the Bush Elementary School website.

Where can I find additional information about Bush Elementary School?

- For additional information, please visit the Bush Elementary School website at <http://houstonisd.org/bushelem>. The Parent Handbook and weekly newsletters (Paw Prints) are located on this website.

PreK Questions

- **How do we register for PreK?**

- HISD has taken over the lottery process for all PreK programs. To be considered for the PreK lottery at Bush Elementary School, parents need to apply online at <http://hisdchoice.com/> beginning in December when the application opens. The lottery application closes on February 2, 2023. Priority is given to students who have an older sibling already enrolled at Bush Elementary. The next priority is for students who live in the Bush zone. All students must be four years old on or before September 1st. All students must also qualify for the HISD PreK program.

- **Do we have to be zoned to Bush to attend PreK?**

- Yes, due to limited spaces available in our PreK, no out of zone students will be included in the lottery for the Bush PreK spaces.

- **Is PreK all day?**

- Yes, 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- **Do PreK students need to be toilet-trained?**

- Yes. All PreK students must be independent in the restroom and be able to feed themselves at school.

- **Is there after school care?**

- No, however, there are many private daycares that drop off and pick up from Bush. PK students do not qualify for HISD bus service even if living in Memorial Thicket.

- **My child will be 4 years old on September 15th of this year, can he start PreK this school year? He will be four, just 2 weeks after the September 1.**

- State Law requires that students must be 4 years on or before September 1st

- **How many spots are available for PreK?**

- 22

GT Questions

- **How does my child qualify for GT?**
 - Your child must take a battery of assessments and, based on his/her performance, a GT matrix is completed to determine if he/she meets HISD's GT qualification standards.
- **When can my child be tested for GT?**
 - There is **ONE** GT testing cycle for Grades 1-5 per school year. Parents will need to request testing for their non-identified student by completing an application beginning in December. The student's current teacher will need to complete a teacher recommendation form and a current report card is required. Please drop off completed applications to Jessica Ayala in the front office. Testing will be conducted beginning in January 2023.
- **Do you test PreK students for GT Kindergarten?**
 - Yes, the testing window for entering Kindergarten is also in January 2023. Applications will be available in December. We do not conduct entering Kindergarten testing here at Bush so you will need to apply to be tested at a Vanguard school such as Askew Elementary. Please bring your child's GT matrix when you come to enroll at Bush.
- **Do all kindergarteners get tested for GT?**
 - All kindergarten students who are not already identified as GT (through the Entering Kindergarten process) will be universally assessed in kindergarten for spring services and future grades in elementary school.
- **Do 5th graders get tested for GT for middle school purposes?**
 - Beginning this school year, the district is not conducting Universal testing for 5th graders. If parents would like their 5th grader tested for the GT program; they will need to complete an application.
- **If my child applies for a Vanguard Magnet school (i.e. T.H. Rogers, Askew, etc.), does he/she also apply here at Bush?**
 - No. If your child is applying for a Vanguard Magnet program at another school, complete the application for that school only. All students zoned to Bush will be tested at Bush Elementary. Make sure to turn in your application with required documents to Jessica Ayala in the front office before the deadline of February 3, 2023. We have no way of pulling the names of those who applied to Vanguard schools. The only way your child will be tested is if you turn in the application to the front office at Bush.

- **If my child (who is zoned to Bush) is tested and qualified at another HISD school, does he/she need to test again at Bush?**
 - No. If your child qualified at another school within HISD, then we just need a copy of the GT matrix to ensure proper placement.
- **If my child tests and does not qualify, can he/she test again?**
 - Students can only be tested once per calendar year. Therefore, if a student tests during the testing window this year, then he/she will be able to test during the testing window the following school year.
- **My child qualified for the GT program in Katy, can he be in a GT class at Bush?**
 - If your child was tested at a non-HISD school in the past school year, then you will need to submit the results from the previous testing to see if it matches with our testing/qualifications. All HISD GT students need to meet the HISD GT eligibility criteria.

Notes

For additional information, please visit the Bush Elementary School website at <http://houstonisd.org/bushelem>. The Parent Handbook and weekly newsletters (Paw Prints) are located on this website.