Bush Elementary
Prospective Parent
Information

OUR FUTURE IS
BRIGHT!
BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY
2018-2019

Barbara Pierce Bush Elementary School
13800 Westerloch
Houston, Texas 77077
281-368-2150
http://www.houstonisd.org/bushelem
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, computer, 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. According to the 2018 school rankings by the Children At Risk foundation, Bush is an A+ school and was ranked as the 20th best elementary school in the 40 counties that make up the Greater Houston area. In the new TEA accountability system, Bush Elementary earned a score of 97, which was the highest in HISD and one of the highest in the state.

There are approximately thirty-five different languages spoken by our students at home. Bush has at least one 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 Gifted and Talented Neighborhood program beginning in kindergarten. Students identified as GT are homogeneously 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 safety enhancements for our campus.

Bush Elementary is an example of what can be accomplished when school district officials, building administrators, teachers, parents, and students work together to create a learning community for children.
## 2019-2020 Academic Calendar

**Houston Independent School District**

![Calendar Grid]

### Key
- **Holidays**
- **Early Dismissal/Staff Development Days**
- **Teacher Service Days (no students)**
- **Teacher Preparation Days (no students)**
- **Weather Make Up Day (if needed)**

### Significant Dates
- **August 12, 2019**
- **August 26, 2019**
- **December 20, 2019**
- **January 6, 2020**
- **May 29, 2020**
- **June 1, 2020**
- **June 2, 2020**

**Teachers report to work**
- First day of school
- Last day of first semester
- First day of second semester
- Last day of school for students
- Weather Make Up Day
- (if needed) for Teacher Prep Day
- Last day for teachers

### Grading Periods
- **6 Cycles**
  - Aug 26 - Oct 4 29 days
  - Oct 7 - Nov 8 24 days
  - Nov 11 - Dec 19 24 days
  - Jan 6 - Feb 14 29 days
  - Feb 17 - Apr 3 29 days
  - Apr 6 - May 29 38 days
- **4 Cycles**
  - Aug 26 - Oct 18 38 days
  - Oct 21 - Dec 19 39 days
  - Jan 6 - Mar 13 49 days
  - Mar 23 - May 29 47 days

### Report Card Dates
- **6 Cycles**
  - October 11, 2019
  - November 15, 2019
  - January 10, 2020
  - February 21, 2020
  - April 9, 2020
  - June 2, 2020
- **4 Cycles**
  - October 25, 2019
  - January 10, 2020
  - March 27, 2020
  - June 2, 2020
PK APPLICATION PACKET FOR BUSH-ZONED STUDENTS

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

For the 2019-2020 school year, all PK students must meet the federal guidelines to qualify for PK. This means there is NO tuition-based PK at Bush Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year.

State Law requires that only a parent or legal guardian can register a child to enroll in school. The following items are required to register in an HISD school. **All original documents must be presented at the time of submission.** To ensure that you have all necessary documents, please place a check next to each requirement to indicate that you have included that item. To ensure that your child meets the immunization requirements, place a check in the box next to each type of immunization.

- **Proof of birth date** (original/official copy of birth certificate or passport)
  
  Student must be four on or before September 1 to enter prekindergarten

- **Proof of residency** in the Bush attendance zone (TWO original documents required)
  
  If you lease, one item must be the current lease and the other a current electric bill. If you own, the documents must be 2 current utility bills. **Both documents must indicate the parent’s name and address.**

- **Social Security Card** (preferred, but not required)

- **Parent’s or legal guardian’s driver’s license**

- **Current paycheck stub(s) from employed parent(s) for income qualification (within the last 45 days).**
  
  Please mark out social security numbers, but ensure the salary and address are clearly visible.

- **Completed PK Application** (attached). Your child must be available for language testing.

- **Proof of Immunizations** *(must be in English and signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States.)* Immunizations must be complete before a child can be registered to attend school. If you have questions about the immunizations, please check with your child’s doctor.

- [ ] **Diphtheria and Tetanus:** total of Four doses required

- [ ] **Polio:** total of Three doses on or after fourth birthday

- [ ] **MMR:** One dose required on or after the first birthday

- [ ] **Hepatitis B:** Three doses required

- [ ] **Varicella (chicken pox):** One dose required on or after the first birthday

- [ ] **Hepatitis A:** Two doses required (First dose must be given after first birthday)

- [ ] **Hib:** Three doses required

- [ ] **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7):** Four doses required
APPLICATION PACKET FOR NEW K-5 STUDENTS

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS
State Law requires that only a parent or legal guardian can register a child to enroll in school. The following items are required to register in an HISD school. All original documents must be presented at the time of registration. To ensure that you have all necessary documents, please place a check next to each requirement to indicate that you have included that item. To ensure that your child meets the immunization requirements, place a check in the box next to each type of immunization.

____ Proof of birth date (original/official copy of Birth Certificate or passport)  
Student must be five on or before September 1, to enter kindergarten or six on or before September 1, to enter first grade

____ Proof of residency in the Bush attendance zone (THREE original documents required)  
All proof of residency documents must indicate the parent’s name and address.

- If you lease, one item must be the current lease and the other a current electric bill.
- If you own, the documents must be 2 current utility bills.
- All applicants must submit current paycheck stub(s) from employed parent(s). Please mark out salary and social security numbers, but ensure the address is clearly visible.

____ Social Security Card (preferred, but not required)

____ Parent’s or legal guardian’s driver’s license

____ Completed application packet

____ For students enrolling in first grade or above, the most recent report card (final end-of-year report card showing completion of the current school year must be submitted by June 6)

Proof of Immunizations (must be in English and signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States.) Immunizations must be complete before a child can be registered to be enrolled in school. If you have questions about the immunizations, please check with your child’s doctor.

☐ Diphtheria and Tetanus: At least Four doses; last booster must be on or after the fourth birthday

☐ Polio: at least Three doses; last booster must be on or after fourth birthday

☐ MMR: total of Two doses on or after first birthday

☐ Hepatitis B: Three doses

☐ Varicella (chicken pox): Two doses on or after the first birthday or a reliable history of the disease.

☐ Hepatitis A: Two doses required. First dose must be given after first birthday.

All registration documents must be complete before a child is considered “registered.” Classroom assignments will not be made until all documents are complete. If students register and are not in attendance on the first day of school, August 26, 2019 at 7:30 a.m., then they are not enrolled.
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 manner in which our children dress influences their attitude towards school.

In an effort to provide the best possible learning environment, the Bush Excellence Committee (BEC) approved an official uniform for Bush Students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clothing Item</th>
<th>Styles</th>
<th>Colors</th>
<th>Special Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tops</td>
<td>Long or short sleeve polo-style shirt</td>
<td>Solid red, white or navy</td>
<td>Official Bush Logo shirts are permitted. Oversized shirts are <strong>not</strong> permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oxford cloth, button down shirt</td>
<td>Solid white</td>
<td>Long or short sleeve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Official Bush Logo T-Shirts</td>
<td>Red, white or navy</td>
<td><strong>ONLY</strong> official Bush logo T-shirts are permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long sleeve shirts worn under uniform tops</td>
<td>Solid Red, White or Navy</td>
<td>No other colors are permitted under uniform tops.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ALL SHIRTS MUST REMAIN TUCKED IN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottoms</th>
<th>Pants or Capri pants</th>
<th>Solid navy or khaki</th>
<th>Must fit at the waist.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walking shorts, skorts or skirts</td>
<td>Solid navy, blue denim or khaki</td>
<td>Must be finger-tip length or longer. Must fit at the waist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plain blue jeans</td>
<td>Blue denim only</td>
<td>No holes, or rips, no low riders, no fringe, no oversized legs, no embroidery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bush plaid skirt, walking shorts or skorts</td>
<td>Bush plaid only</td>
<td>Available at Academy Uniforms. Must be finger-tip length or longer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tights, leggings, pants worn <strong>under</strong> skirts, shorts, or dresses</td>
<td>Solid red, white, navy, denim or khaki</td>
<td>Leggings are permitted only under skirts, shorts, or dresses, and <strong>cannot be worn by themselves as pants.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweaters</td>
<td>Solid colored sweaters</td>
<td>Solid Khaki, navy, or Bush plaid</td>
<td>Solid colors with no embroidery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackets worn in the classroom</td>
<td>Jacket, sweater or sweatshirts</td>
<td>Solid red, white, or navy.</td>
<td>Official Bush logo sweatshirts are permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Jackets</td>
<td>Jacket or coats worn outdoors only</td>
<td>Any color</td>
<td>Jackets worn to and from school and at recess only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoes</td>
<td>Closed toe and closed heel rubber soled shoes (flat heels only)</td>
<td>Any color</td>
<td>Laces must be a proper length. Shoes must be worn with socks. No cowboy boots. (Except for Go Texan Day)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Official Bush logo wear may be purchased at the Bush PTO School Store.**
The School Store hours are Tuesdays and Fridays 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. and Fridays 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Uniform items may be purchased at many area stores including Target, Academy, and Walmart. Other uniform clothing, including our “Bush plaid”, may be purchased online at www.academyuniforms.com. In addition, clothing may be ordered on-line from Land’s End. Please use our preferred school number which is #9001-2016-3 and a portion of your purchase will be returned to our school.

**General Guidelines**
- On days that the students attend P.E., girls wearing a skirt 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.
- 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/sweat 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 (look on the school website and weekly school newsletter).
    - Pre-K sibling priority lottery drop off window: **March 19-22**
    - Pre-K zoned lottery drop off window: **April 2-5**
    - K-5th grade registration is in May (subject to change)

- **What are the school hours?**
  - 7:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.

- **Can my child ride the bus?**
  - Buses are only available for students who reside in 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 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. The teachers drop the students off at their respective dismissal locations. 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?**
  - 2:50 p.m.

- **How do I know what is for breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria?**
  - Breakfast and lunch menus are available online at https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/68611.

- **Can I come and eat lunch with my child?**
  - Weather permitting, you and your child are welcome to sit outside at the picnic tables in the courtyard to enjoy lunch. If it is wet or chilly, please check with the office to make sure the courtyard is open for parent/student lunch. If it is wet or chilly, the courtyard will be closed for lunch, so please do not plan to come eat lunch with your child because there is no room for parents in our cafeteria due to overcrowding.
• My child is a vegetarian, what can he/she eat at school?
  o A monthly cafeteria menu is available on-line. 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?
  o Yes, with physician’s orders (HISD form) along with medication labeled with a prescription.

• My child is severely allergic to peanuts, what precautions do you take at school?
  o 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?
  o 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?
  o Students need a backpack that is large enough to fit a folder. No roller backpacks are allowed at school.

• What/when is ancillary?
  o Ancillary is a daily 45-minute period when students attend specialist classes: music, art, drama, technology, physical education, and library. This also gives a 45 minute time for teachers to plan, prepare, and meet with parents about their child’s progress.

• Are there any after school programs?
  o We do not have after-school care; however, we do have a variety of after-school activities: chorus, art, chess, drama, Name that Book Club, orchestra, and seasonal PE sports.

• Can my child have a cell phone?
  o Yes, but it must be turned off and in their backpack during the instructional day, but can be used after 2:50 p.m.
  o See Cell Phone policy in Parent Handbook available on the Bush Website.

• Where can I buy Bush apparel?
  o Currently, our school store is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and during lunch on Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. School apparel may also be purchased online at http://bbepto.3dcartstores.com/

• Where can I find out other information about Bush Elementary?
  o For additional information, please visit the Bush Elementary School website at http://www.houstonisd.org/bushelem. The Parent Handbook and weekly school newsletters (Pawprints) are located on this same website.
Prekindergarten (PK) Questions

- **How do I enroll in Bush Elementary’s PK program?**
  - For the 2019-2020 school year, all PK students must meet the federal guidelines to qualify for PK. This means there is NO tuition-based PK at Bush Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year. Admission will be determined using a lottery process. There are 22 PK spaces available at Bush Elementary.

- **When will PK application/registration packets be available?**
  - PK application/registration packets for Bush-zoned families will be available in the front office starting after the school tour on March 4.

- **When do I submit my completed application packet for the Bush-zoned PK lottery?**
  - If your PK-age child is a sibling of a currently-enrolled Bush student, then drop off your completed PK application to the front office during the following window:
    - **March 19 – 22 (7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)**
  - If your PK-age child is zoned to Bush, but NOT a sibling of a currently-enrolled Bush student, then drop off your completed PK application to the front office during the following window:
    - **April 2 - 5 (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)**
  - Completed PK application/registration packet must be turned in to the Bush front office **ANY TIME** during the drop-off window. Your order in submitting the completed application/registration packet during the window has NO bearing on your child's chances for being admitted into PK.
  - Since it is a lottery process, it is **NOT first come, first served**.

- **Is PK all day?**
  - Yes, 7:30 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

- **Do PK students need to be toilet-trained?**
  - Yes. All PK 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.

- **My child will be 4 years old on September 15th of this year, can he start PK 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 PK?**
  - 22
GT Questions

• **How does my child qualify for GT?**
  o Your child must take a battery of assessments and based on his/her performance, a matrix is completed to determine if he/she meets HISD’s GT qualification standards.

• **When can my child be tested for GT?**
  o There is **ONE** GT testing cycle for Grades 1-4. Gifted and Talented Neighborhood applications are usually due in December. Please check the Gifted and Talented website (https://www.houstonisd.org/Domain/32983) periodically to see updates of application deadlines.
  o If your child is applying to a Vanguard Magnet school and has not already been identified as GT, then you must request GT testing from your child’s zoned school (Bush) before the deadline.

• **Do you test PK students for GT Kindergarten?**
  o No, Bush is not able to participate in the Entering Kindergarten GT Testing program. However, if your child is identified as GT through the Entering Kindergarten testing process at a Vanguard Magnet school, he/she will be placed in a GT Kindergarten class here at Bush. Parent is responsible for providing a copy of the completed matrix in order to be placed in a GT class.

• **Do all kindergarteners get tested for GT?**
  o 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?**
  o All 5th grade students who are not already identified as GT will be universally assessed during the fall of 5th grade for spring services and secondary school.

• **If my child applies for a Vanguard Magnet school (ie. T.H. Rogers, Askew, etc.), does he/she also apply here at Bush?**
  o No. If your child is applying for a Vanguard Magnet program at another school, complete the application process with that school only. Do not submit another application to 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?**
  o 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?**
  o 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 during the following school year.

• **My child qualified for the GT program in Katy, can he/she be in a GT class at Bush?**
  o Students must be identified as GT through the HISD testing program to be placed in a GT classroom.