

Welcome to Kindergarten!

We are grateful to begin this journey with
your Kindergartner!



Shelton Front Office: (303) 982-5686
Karen Brown, Principal: karbrown@jeffco.k12.co.us

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Table of Contents

Title	Page(s)
Welcome	3-4
Preparing for the 1 st day	5-6
Shelton's Schedule (including drop/off & pickup procedures)	7-9
A day in the life of a Kindergartner	10-11
After School Options	12
Getting Involved	13-14
Community Events	15-16
School Events and Programs at Shelton	17-18
Calendar	19
Registration Information	20-21
Breakfast and Lunch Information	22
Support Staff at Shelton	23
Academics	24-26
Behavior	27-28
Communication Tools	29-30
School Safety	31-32
Fundraisers	33
Contact Info	34

Everything You Need to Know about Kindergarten at Shelton!

Dear Shelton Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Shelton Elementary School! We are so honored that you have chosen to send your child to our school for Kindergarten, and we warmly welcome you to our incredible school community. We recognize that the transition to Kindergarten is a BIG one, both for your child(ren) and for you. Please know that we are here to help guide you through this exciting time for you and your child. Don't hesitate to ask me or any of our teachers or staff if you have questions about our school or our community. We also have wonderful parents and could connect you to a fellow parent to guide you through the transition if you feel this would be helpful.

Thank you so much for trusting Shelton to provide the very best education and elementary school experience for your child and family!

Sincerely,
Karen Brown
Principal

What is our Vision and Mission?

The **vision** of Shelton Elementary school is to equip and inspire students to become active and engaged citizens in a diverse and changing world.

Our **mission** is to:

- Foster a diverse, safe, and welcoming community and learning environment.
- Engage students in a rigorous academic environment that meets their individual needs and interests.
- Nurture the joy of learning.
- Instill critical thinking skills.
- Promote strong relationships among parents, teachers, and students.

What Makes Shelton Unique?

Diversity

Shelton Elementary School is a very diverse school with children from over 23 countries. This rich cultural diversity gives our students a unique opportunity to learn about various cultures and people from around the world.

Academic Growth

We have received the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award for four years in a row. This award is given to schools that demonstrate exceptional student academic growth. This is a testament to the hard work of our committed teachers and staff, our students, and our strong parent community!

Parent Involvement

We have an incredibly committed parent community with many opportunities for parents to volunteer in the classroom, participate in a variety of events, sit on leadership committees, and have a presence at our school. Our parents provide thousands of hours of volunteer time every year, and this creates a stronger school community for all of us.

Science Lab

Shelton has a science lab equipped with real science tables and stools. It also includes microscopes, lab coats, and science supplies to provide our students with a unique opportunity to do hands-on science learning. When we are able, we offer an after school science club and our teachers are frequent visitors to the lab.

Preparing For the 1st Day

What Supplies Will My Child Need?

Backpack

We recommend that you purchase a small backpack for your Kindergartner. This should be large enough to fit a library book, a lunchbox, an 8.5 x 11" folder, a water bottle and extra clothing (such as hats/gloves) for colder days.

Lunchbox

If your child will be eating cold lunch, we recommend that you buy a lunchbox that your child can take to school.

Water Bottle

We encourage students to bring their own water bottle each day. They can keep it on their desk. We ask that they bring it home each evening so that it can be washed. Students are also allowed to use the drinking fountain as needed.

School Supplies

You will get a list of required school supplies during all-school registration on July 28th or you can find them on our school website.

Athletic Shoes

All students will need a good pair of athletic shoes that are appropriate for Physical Education (P.E.) and playing on the playground. See below for more info on P.E.

Broncos and College T-Shirt Day

On some days of the year, the students will be invited to wear a Broncos shirt or colors to support the Broncos, and sometimes they are invited to wear a t-shirt or sweatshirt from their favorite college. You may want to buy these if you don't already have them so that your child can participate in this fun tradition.

Clothing for Bad Weather

Your child should bring plenty of warm clothes on cold days (snow pants, jackets, hats, gloves, boots). We make every effort to have the kids play outside and only stay indoors in cases of severe inclement weather or extremely cold temperatures. The teachers ask that your Kindergartner bring their snow pants, jackets, etc... in a separate cloth bag to leave in the hallway during class. This way, they won't crumple their school papers.

What Supplies Will Shelton Provide?

Shelton Shirt

Sometime before the first school pep rally (typically in the first few weeks of the year), your Kindergartner will receive a Shelton t-shirt. There will be an opportunity to buy more gear through a PTSA fund raiser later in the year. Students are encouraged to wear their Shelton shirts on Friday each week. They will earn a Paw (see explanation in the Behavior Expectations section) for doing so.

Friday Folder

Your Kindergartner will be given a Shelton folder that we call the Friday Folder. On Fridays, you will see it come home full of their work and school communications and you return it on Mondays.

Open House

The week before school begins, classroom lists will be posted on the outside of the school building and you will find out your child's teacher. You will go inside of the classroom to meet your child's teacher and drop off your child's school supplies. A school messenger will be sent to each family with a specific date and time. Shelton's website will also display this information.

Shelton's Schedule

Half-Day and Full-Day Schedule

You have the option to select full-day or half-day Kindergarten for your child. Half-day Kindergarten is free for all students, and full-day Kindergarten costs \$300/month. Students eligible for free or reduced lunch will have the full day tuition fee waived. Full-day is from 8:50-3:30 (Kindergartners are released at 3:25 to give them extra time) and Half-day is from 8:50-11:30.

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

You will be asked to tell your child's teacher how your child will get to/from school. If there are changes to your pick-up plans, we require that you send a note or e-mail to the teacher and front office. Please notify the office/teacher before noon as the end of the day can be very hectic.

During the first week of Kindergarten, drop-off can be a difficult time for everyone. You are welcome and encouraged to come into the building with your child on that first day, and can go with them to their classroom. We do ask that you only stay a few minutes to help your child get settled. Prolonged goodbyes tend to be harder for everyone! Some parents choose to come inside with their Kindergartner for the first few days or week, and others only do so on the first day. It is up to you to do what feels best for your child, but we do ask that by the second or third week of school, your child should be able to enter the school on their own and find their way to the gym.

Typical Morning

- Students who want to eat breakfast at Shelton, can enter the building anytime after 8:25 to go to the cafeteria. All other students must wait outside until the doors open at 8:35.
- The front doors of the school are opened at 8:35. Teachers and Shelton administrators will supervise the children in the gym until their teacher comes to walk them to class when the first bell rings at 8:50.
- The first bell rings at 8:50 a.m., and students must be seated at their desks by 8:55 when the second bell rings.
- When Kindergarten students enter the building, they go to the gym to sit with their classmates, and then their teachers take them to their classrooms.

Drop-Off Procedures

- **Bussed Students:** Busses will drop students off on the west side of the building. Teachers and staff will be there to accompany children to the entrance of the school. Our PTSA has extra volunteers working in the bus area the first week of school to provide extra help.
- **Walking/Biking Students:** Students who walk or bike to school wait near the school's flagpole until the doors open at 8:35. We have a fenced-in bike parking area on the east side of the building that is locked during the school day. The bikes are locked from 9:00-3:15.
- **Car Drop-Off:** Our parking lot can be hectic at drop-off and pick-up! Please be aware of and follow the One-Way signs. Traffic moves through our lot in a counter-clockwise pattern. There is a drop-off car line that circles around the outside of the parking lot. When your car reaches the front curb, teachers or staff will be there to help your child safely exit your vehicle and make their way to the front doors. We call this our "Hug and Go" zone.
- You are also welcome to find a parking spot and walk your child to the front of the building if you do not want to use the car line. However, please be very careful and be sure to use the marked pedestrian crosswalk.

Pick-Up Procedures

- **Pick-Up:** The dismissal bell rings at 3:30. However, Kindergartners are released at 3:25 to give them extra time to get to their bus or to the parent pick-up areas. Plan to arrive by 3:25.
 - **Bussed Students:** Students who ride busses will be accompanied by staff to the bus pick-up area, and staff will make sure they get on the right bus. If your child wants to ride home with a friend, a note to their teacher and bus driver is mandatory.
 - **Walking/Biking Students:** Students who walk or who are picked up by parents will exit on the east side of the building. They will walk out in a line with their teachers to wait in front of the school, on the east end of the building. Teachers will only release them to a parent or an adult who has been given written permission to pick up your child. If you need to arrange for a friend or family member to pick up your child, please send a note or e-mail to your child's teacher and the front office.
 - **Car Pick-Up:** If you would like to pick up your child by car, we ask that you wait in the drop-off line and pick your child up when your vehicle is at the front curb. Teachers and staff will be outside to ensure that students are safe. You may also park your car and walk to the front of the building to pick up your child, but please use the designated crosswalk.

A Day In The Life Of A Kindergartner

Kindergarten Schedule

What will your Kindergartner be doing all day? Please visit Shelton's website where you will find Home Pages for each grade level. If you click on the Kindergarten link, you can see your child's daily schedule and a lot of other very helpful information. Full-day Kindergartners will use the extra time in the afternoon to use the Lexia computer lab for reading and phonics, to participate in AMP (Art, Music, and Physical Education) and for Social Studies and Science. Link to Kindergarten Pages: (<https://sites.google.com/a/jeffcoschools.us/shelton-es/classrooms>).

Snacks

Our busy learners get hungry during the day! Several times per year, your child's teacher will send home a snack list. They will ask you to bring in a specific snack item that will be shared with the class (such as graham crackers, popcorn or raisins). Students will be given a snack in the afternoon. You are also welcome to send a small snack (nothing too messy, please!) in your child's backpack that they can eat at their desk if they are hungry (must be nut free). Please contact your child's teacher if your child has specific dietary needs as you may need to provide snacks for your child.

Lunch

Lunch is quite short for our full-day Kindergartners. They have 25 minutes for lunch each day preceded by a 15-minute recess. Did you know that you can come to Shelton to have lunch with your child? Check with your child's teacher to find out exactly when they will be in the cafeteria, and feel free to come and sit with them.

Recess

Full-day Kindergartners will have two recesses each day (15 minutes each). One is before lunch, and the other is in the afternoon. Half-day Kindergartners will have one 15-minute recess each day, prior to pick-up.

Art, Music, and Physical Education

We are very fortunate at Shelton to have an incredible team of teachers who provide exceptional Art, Music and P.E. opportunities for our full-day Kindergartners. We use a 3-day rotating schedule for Art, Music and P.E. Your child will attend art for three days, music for three days, and P.E. for three days. The AMP schedule for your child's class can be found on Shelton's Homepage. Be sure your child(ren) have athletic shoes during P.E. days, and it's helpful if they wear clothes that can get messy during Art weeks.

Library

We have a wonderful Teacher-Librarian on our team, Wendy White. She provides a rich library experience for our students. Kindergarten students visit the library at least once per week and will be allowed to check out one book at a time (two for older grades). Books can be checked out for up to two weeks. There are no late fees, but we do charge families for any lost books.

After School Options

After School Programming Options

Shelton offers several after-school programming options for families.

YMCA

Shelton partners with the YMCA of Metropolitan Denver to provide before- and after-school care to our students, as well as summer day camp and holiday camps. Visit their website at www.DenverYMCA.org for more information. Families must pay for this care directly through the YMCA; scholarships are available. The YMCA offers flexible scheduling/payment options, depending upon your needs. During holiday and summer breaks, care is provided at Shepherd of the Hills Church in Lakewood. You will receive information about the YMCA program during all-school registration. Students who are enrolled in before-school care can be dropped off as early as 6:30 a.m., and students enrolled in after-school care can be picked up as late as 6:00 p.m. The YMCA also offers child care during Flex Days and Early Release Days.

After-School Enrichment Program (ASEP)

Shelton offers a variety of after-school enrichment programs. You will receive information about the various classes being offered soon after the school year starts. These are programs that are held on site at Shelton, such as gymnastics, cooking classes, Taekwondo, Chess, Science Club and more. These classes are taught by community organizations or parent volunteers, and are offered five days/week. They are usually from 3:30-4:20 or 4:30. The cost ranges from \$35-\$60 per student for each eight-week session.

- Please note that these offerings are subject to change.

Getting Involved

How Can I Meet Other Parents?

Participating in the many community events or volunteering in your child's classroom is a great way to meet other Kindergarten families. We also hold a Community Picnic each fall that provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with other Kindergarten parents. In addition, volunteering on some of our leadership committees is a great way to get to know other parents. You can find contact information for your child's new friends on Evrits, which is the school directory: <https://www.myschoolanywhere.com/>

How Can I Volunteer?

We are fortunate to have wonderful parents and community members who are willing to donate their time to our school. Shelton has a Volunteer Program that coordinates parents who wish to volunteer in their child's classroom. Information regarding classroom volunteering will be distributed via the Friday folders in early September after Back to School Night. You may also contact your child's teacher, or the Volunteer Program Coordinators. Jessica Smith is the contact for grades K-3 (jpsmith24@gmail.com), and Tricia Chang is the contact for grades 4-6 volunteering questions (changt@mac.com). All volunteers are required to fill out some paperwork, and you will be asked to indicate which types of volunteer activities most interest you.

School Accountability Committee (SAC)

Schools are required by law to have an accountability committee that includes teachers, parents, and the principal. This committee addresses school culture and climate issues, as well as academic and budgeting issues. There are several elected positions (elections are held each spring), and all meetings are open to the public and anyone who wants to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to get involved in a leadership role at Shelton. Please visit the SAC web page on the Shelton website for more information.

PTSA

Shelton is fortunate to have an extremely active and engaged PTSA. The purpose of this committee is to raise funds to support our school, to conduct enrichment programs for our students/teachers, and to keep the school apprised of public policy issues that impact Jeffco students and teachers. You will receive information about how to join the PTSA during all-school registration, as well as a list of events that are organized by the PTSA each year. Please visit the PTSA website for more information. <http://www.sheltonptsa.org/>

Health and Wellness Committee

This committee addresses health/wellness concerns at Shelton and offers a variety of programs to ensure that our students, teachers and parents have opportunities to achieve optimum health. Anyone is welcome to join these meetings.

Watch Dogs

Shelton is proud to participate in the Watch D.O.G.S. program (Dads of Great Students). This is a national, school-based father involvement program that works to support education and safety. Through this program, fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles, and other father figures can volunteer to serve at least one day a year at Shelton. Look for information during all-school registration!

<http://www.fathers.com/watchdogs/>

Community Events

Classroom Holiday Parties: We have classroom holiday parties three times/year (Halloween, Winter and Valentine's Day). You will receive an e-mail about one month prior to each party asking if you'd like to sign up to coordinate your child's party. Coordinating a party involves asking other parents to help provide snacks, planning a few fun activities, purchasing supplies for the planned activities, and finding other parents to help with set up and clean up. Party coordinators will be reimbursed for up to \$25 by the PTSA.

For your planning needs, the school has a policy that 75% of the snacks served at classroom parties need to be healthy (fruits, veggies, cheese, crackers, popcorn, etc.). Only 100% fruit juice, water, or regular milk are permitted as drinks. Thank you for your support in helping us to keep our students healthy and growing.

Birthdays: In an effort to promote healthy eating and to help with allergy concerns, students are not allowed to bring cupcakes or treats to school to share on their birthdays (you may send a small treat in their lunchbox). Students will be recognized by their teachers and will go to the front office to get their special birthday pencil.

Back to School Community Picnic: In the evening after our Open House, bring your blankets and picnic baskets and kick off the school year with fun activities.

Back to School Night: Held in September of each year, Back to School Night offers you an opportunity to see your child's classroom, hear presentations from and meet your child's teacher, and hear a presentation from our principal about our school and our academic performance.

Community Garden – Coming Soon!

Donuts for Dads: In honor of our awesome dads, we provide donuts before school.

Sock Hop: Put on your dancing shoes and join the fun as we turn the school into a themed dance party, with food, music, and games!

Fire Up Your Feet: Shelton participates in this national program aimed at increasing physical activity. Fire Up Your Feet encourages families, students and schools to work together and create active lifestyles which inspire all children to be healthy and physically active. You can log your physical activity on the Fire Up Your Feet website, and the schools that log the most activity can receive up to \$5,000. Information will be sent out in the fall. <http://fireupyourfeet.org/>

International Night: Receive a passport and travel the world in Shelton's gymnasium! This is an event you don't want to miss. Our international families set up tables representing their country. They provide foods for you to sample and cultural items for you to view. Receive stamps in your passport for each country that you visit, and celebrate our pride in our diverse community.

Shelton Has a Heart: Shelton has a unique, benevolent fundraising program. Each year, the Student Council selects a charity organization and Shelton students work together to raise funds for this organization. For example, in 2014 Shelton raised over \$8,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Volunteer Tea: Volunteers enrich classroom learning, assist teachers with projects, plan and run events - an almost endless list of tasks. We invite all of our volunteers to a thank you tea and reception.

Muffins for Moms: In honor of our awesome moms, we provide muffins before school.

Diversity Teas: Monthly, international families and Shelton staff members come together in the school library to enjoy each other's company while sipping tea or coffee and snacking on a light breakfast. Parents learn how to access local community resources and learn more about how American schools, specifically Shelton, function. Parents leave the tea with 3-5 books and more knowledge about how to best support their children's English reading skills.

Lakeside Night: Lakeside Amusement Park is open only to Shelton and a few other Jeffco schools for one night of giddy fun and unlimited rides.

Staff Appreciation: We show our Shelton teachers and staff how much we value their efforts with meals, treats, and notes from students during this week-long event.

School Events and Programs at Shelton

We have SO many exciting events occurring at Shelton throughout the year! We thought it would be helpful to include a brief description about each of these events so that you can be on the lookout for more information. View the PTSA website to find more details about many of these events, along with a calendar of events. Information about these events will be sent home in your child's Friday folders throughout the year, and will be included in the Coyote Column.

Educational or Enrichment Events

Study Buddies: This program pairs Kindergarten students with students from an older grade (usually fourth grade) and they will complete some projects together. It's a great way for Kindergartners to develop positive role models.

Reflections PTSA Art Contest: Based on a provided theme, students get creative and develop projects in six categories: Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Music, Film and Dance. Shelton winners move on to compete against other Jeffco students, and can advance on to state and national levels. Shelton has had national winners!

Oral Interpretation: Be captivated as our students demonstrate their oratory skills by memorizing stories and poems, and then reciting them in front of audiences, including at an evening assembly.

Science and Engineering Fair: Students become junior scientists, developing their own hypothesis and conducting experiments! They present their results to judges and receive feedback and awards, and then all are invited to view their work and enjoy a lively evening reception. Registration information will be sent to all families.

Instrumental Music: Shelton has an instrumental program for fifth and sixth graders. The program is free, and students can rent musical instruments for a fee.

Coyote Choir: Shelton is very proud of its Coyote Choir program. Students from second through sixth grade can join the choir at no cost. They rehearse weekly in the fall and spring.

Geography Bee: The National Geography Bee is a contest that is designed to spark student interest and increase public awareness in geography. Fourth through sixth graders are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge.

Continental Math League (CML): Second through sixth graders are encouraged to participate in CML. All CML experiences are designed to improve students' problem solving capabilities. Students compete with other students on the same grade level from schools all over the United States. These activities are conducted in class during regular school hours.

Spelling Bee: Fourth through sixth graders have the opportunity to participate in Shelton's Annual Spelling Bee. Two finalists from each Golden school will compete in the Golden Area Spelling. The winner of the Golden Spelling Bee will move on to the Colorado Spelling Bee.

Read-a-Thon: Even reluctant readers get excited during Race-to-Read! Students log their reading hours and receive prizes. The ultimate prize is a night at Bandimere Speedway, a huge hit with students and families.

Author's Conference: We invite a children's author to speak about the joys of writing and promote writing activities for students.

Field Trips: Shelton takes students on field trips once or twice/year, beginning in Kindergarten. Your child's teacher will provide information, and you are welcome to volunteer to chaperone! Please be aware that if you have younger children who are not enrolled at Shelton, you are not able to bring them with you if you chaperone.

Math/Science Night: Be prepared to be amazed at what you'll see and learn at this hands-on event. With support from dozens of community volunteers, including the Colorado School of Mines, embark on a journey throughout the school to see, touch, taste, smell and hear all kinds of things math and science!

Student Council: First through sixth graders really enjoy this wonderful leadership opportunity for emerging student leaders. Students who are interested can run for election to represent their class on the Student Council. Elections are held in November of each year. Be on the lookout for information about how your child can run, if he/she is interested. Note that Kindergartners can't run for Student Council, but they will get to vote on the school-wide Student Council leaders

Calendar

District Calendar

We include a copy of the District Calendar in the Shelton Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook, which you will receive during all-school registration in August. You can also find the Jeffco District calendar at <http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/calendar>.

School Closures

Please be aware that there are some days when school is closed throughout the year. These dates are listed on the Jeffco School Calendar.

Flex Days

There are four flex days each school year (two in the fall and two in the spring). Be prepared that the fall flex days usually occur during the first and second weeks of school. On these days, you will sign up to have your child meet one-on-one with their teacher so that the teacher can evaluate your child's academic needs. Evaluation slots are 30 minutes. You will **only** go to school during your scheduled testing time, and otherwise your child will not be at school on these days. You will need to make arrangements for child care.

Teacher/Staff Development and Comp Days

There are several days throughout the year when we provide intensive training and development opportunities for our staff. Students will not come to school on these days and you will need to make arrangements for child care.

Holiday Breaks

Check the Jeffco School Calendar for a listing of all holiday breaks, such as Spring Break, Fall Break, and Winter Break.

Early Release Days

Once each month, Shelton has an Early Release Day. On these days, full-day Kindergartners will be released at 1:00 p.m. (half-day Kindergarten will remain the same). Please be aware of these dates and have pick-up plans or after school child care lined up for your child.

Registration

Registration Steps

Please visit Shelton's website for helpful information about registration:

<https://sites.google.com/a/jeffcoschools.us/shelton-es/registration>.

- **Step 1: Choose Your School:** Jeffco offers Choice Enrollment. This means that families can attend any Jeffco public school that has space. Many families tour various schools and attend open houses or informational events at several schools to determine which school is the right choice for their child. Our Kindergarten Open House is held twice each year (fall and spring), we also offer school tours and have a virtual tour on our website.

Please visit our website to view the dates and times of our scheduled tours. On our website you will find contact information for our front office staff. They can help you with any questions regarding Choice Enrollment. Please view the district's registration web page for more information and important dates for Choice Enrollment: <http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/enrollment/>

- **Step 2: Full-Day or Half-Day?** Determine if you want full-day or half-day Kindergarten. If you choose full-day, your first month of tuition will be due in August (\$300/month omitting the month of December). You can pay the school directly, or pay tuition through Jeffco Connect (see next bullet). If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, then you will also qualify for free full day Kindergarten tuition.
- **Step 3: Jeffco Connect:** Jeffco Connect is the district's portal for managing student information, school fees and tuition. You will use this portal for registering your child, paying school fees and providing health and contact information for your child. Click on the link for "New Parent/Guardian to Jeffco Schools" and fill in all of the required info.
<https://jeffcoconnect.jeffco.k12.co.us/>

- **Step 4: All-School Registration:** Shelton will hold an all-school registration during the last week in July. At that time, you will need to bring a copy of your child's immunization records, proof of residence to show where you live, and birth certificate to the front office. You will also get lots of helpful information at this time, such as information about required school supplies, how to volunteer at Shelton, bus schedules, the YMCA after-school program, the PTSA, etc. Please check the website periodically for registration updates.
- **Step 5: Payment:** You will need to pay school fees and tuition for full-day Kindergarten prior to the first day of school. You can pay these fees directly to Shelton or through Jeffco Connect. Waivers are given to families who qualify for free and reduced lunch.
- **Step 6: Class Assignments and Supply Drop Off:** The week before school begins, classroom lists will be posted on the outside of the school building. You will find out who your child's teacher will be, and can go inside of the building to meet your child's teacher and drop off your child's school supplies. A School Messenger will be sent to each family with a specific date and time. Shelton's website will also display this information.

Future Registration

Shelton will send you a letter each summer asking you to let us know if your child intends to return to Shelton for the following school year. You will need to go into Jeffco Connect each August to complete registration, update contact information and pay school fees for your child.

Breakfast and Lunch Info

Free/Reduced Lunch

Jeffco offers free or reduced lunch prices for families who qualify. In order to enroll in this program, you will need to complete an application each year. You can learn more at: <https://lunchapps.jeffco.k12.co.us/>

Lunch Menus

Your child can choose hot or cold lunch each day. Hot lunch costs \$2.75 and includes milk, or milk can be purchased separately each day for \$.50. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, breakfast and lunch are free from Kindergarten through 5th grade. In 6th grade, children on the reduced lunch program pay \$.40 for lunch. The hot lunch menu can be found on the front page of the Shelton website or on Jeffco's website: http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/food_services/

Breakfast

Shelton offers breakfast every day. It costs \$1.75 and is free for students who qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch. Breakfast menus can be found at: http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/food_services/

MealPay Plus

Students can pay for breakfast or lunch with cash, or you can choose to pre-pay using an online system called MealPay Plus. We recommend waiting to put money into this account until you know if your Kindergartner will want to choose hot lunch on a regular basis. Once you load money into your account, your student's meals will be deducted from your balance each time your child purchases a meal. You will be notified if the balance is getting low, or you can set it up to automatically charge your credit card when the amount falls below a certain level. Go to <https://www.mypaymentsplus.com/> to set up and manage your account. You can also use this site to see what meal choices your child is making.

Food Allergies

Teachers and staff are informed and aware of any allergies. There are no special tables for students with allergies, but paraprofessionals working in the cafeteria are very aware of children with allergies. Our staff is trained to administer medications if needed. These medications may be kept in a locked area in the front office if arrangements have been made with Shelton.

Support Staff at Shelton

Here is a list of the people you may seek as resources for yourself, or your child(ren), at Shelton.

Please visit the Shelton website for contact information:

<https://sites.google.com/a/jeffcoschools.us/shelton-es/staff-directory>

1. Principal
2. Front Office Staff
3. Classroom Teachers
4. Clinic Aide

Specials (LAMP) Teachers

1. Library Media Specialist
2. Art
3. Music
4. Physical Education
5. Band
6. Orchestra

Specific Academic Needs

1. School Psychologist
2. Special Education Teachers
3. Speech Language Pathologist
4. English Language Learners Resource Teacher
5. Instructional Coach

Academics

Content Areas Covered In Kindergarten:

- Reading
- Writing
- Math
- Social Studies (full-day students only)
- Science (full-day students only)

Please check the Kindergarten tab of the website regularly. The teachers update the specifics of what they are covering in each content area monthly. They also make recommendations on how to connect what they are learning at school with home.

Gifted and Talented (GT) Testing

Jeffco's GT program is for students who demonstrate high performance and exceptional learning behaviors that require special provisions to meet their educational needs. In order to be classified as GT, Kindergarten students must take a test called the CogAT (Cognitive Aptitude Test). Jeffco offers CogAT testing for Kindergartners twice per year: once in the fall, and once in the spring. Students who test high on the CogAT will have an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) initiated. This plan outlines the special accommodations that will be made to assist in their learning. Shelton works very hard to ensure that students with an ALP are receiving the support they need. Parents also have the opportunity to apply to GT Center Schools (beginning in first grade) if they feel their child would do better in a specific GT program. More information can be found at:

http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented/.

Please note that all second grade students take the CogAT at Shelton.

Special Education

We have two Special Ed teachers, a School Psychologist, a Speech Language Pathologist and PT/OT services provided. Please contact them if you have current IEP questions (contact information can be found on Shelton's website).

Should you have concerns about your child's learning, please start with your classroom teacher. They will be your best advocate and support team as you begin the journey of exploring your student's learning needs. They can direct you to the appropriate support staff, any necessary testing, and will help you navigate an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 should one be administered.

These websites are a great resource for understanding what a 504 and IEP are:

504: <http://www.greatschools.org/special-education/legal-rights/868-section-504.gs>

IEP: <http://www.greatschools.org/special-education/legal-rights/513-what-is-an-iep.gs>

ELL (English Language Learners)

Many of our teachers have their ELL endorsements and we have a resource teacher ready to provide your student with any assistance they need to be successful at Shelton. We are grateful for our diversity and are committed to helping your family feel welcomed, supported, and encouraged as your student works hard to learn a new language alongside the rest of their academics. We can also connect any interested parents/guardians to English classes (often free).

Outline of Common Core for Kindergarten

Common Core is a nationally adopted philosophy driving public education. Its goals are the same that Shelton has always had – to prepare our students for success in their chosen paths. To learn more about what you can expect for your Kindergartner, please visit this site:

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

Homework

Your Kindergartner will get some homework during their first year at Shelton, but we try to keep homework to a minimum during this first year. Generally, Kindergartners get a few pages of math homework on Friday and will be expected to return them on Monday.

How Can You Help Your Child Succeed?

There are some simple and fun things you can do to help encourage your child's learning at home. Please see the monthly content section of the Kindergarten website for helpful ideas.

Assessments Given In Kindergarten

Please ask your child's teacher if you have any questions about any of these

- Mondo letters/sounds test
- Mondo oral language test
- Writing prompts 3X's per year
- Math end of the unit tests
- Science/Social Studies end of the unit tests
- DRA II reading assessment at the end of the year
- DIBELS

Behavior

What are the Behavioral Expectations for My Kindergartner?

Our biggest behavior expectation is that we will work with the families to help their Kindergartner have a successful journey through Shelton. We understand that our students come from a lot of different backgrounds and that Kindergarten is their first experience in a mainstream classroom.

We are happy to meet each child where they are at and guide them through the process. Please don't be concerned if your Kindergartner starts their year out needing redirection. In our experience, Kindergartners learn quickly and understand that we respect them and are grateful to have them as our students, even when they need help learning the rules. If this should happen, we will communicate with you as much as is needed/wanted and we believe as strongly as you do that your Kindergartner is special and very capable of being a positive member of our learning community.

A very important part of our ability to teach community skills is positive reinforcement. We like to catch our Kindergartners being great and acknowledge them for it.

Kindergarten is a special time for your child to learn academics and how to thrive in a community. Here are the strategies we most commonly use for redirection/positive reinforcement.

PBIS: PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. It is a nationwide positive behavior support. More information can be found at <http://www.pbis.org>

PAWS: PAWS are how Shelton practices PBIS. Students are rewarded for honoring Shelton's core values (Safe, Kind, Respectful, Responsible), following directions, or just being good citizens in general. When a student is given a PAW, they may choose to keep it or enter it into the classroom's weekly drawing for a prize.

Cards: Your child’s teacher may use cards. By your child’s name, he/she has three cards in a clear sleeve. If a student’s sleeve shows a green card, they are having a great day. If it’s turned to yellow, that’s a reminder to the student that they need to be making better choices. If their card is turned to blue, then the parents/guardians will receive a note home explaining their Kindergartner’s day and the choices that were made. They will need a signature on that note the next day.

Students are asked to change their own card so that they understand how their day is going. The idea of the cards is to remind students that everyone makes mistakes, every day is a new day, and they have full control over their behavior choices.

Behavior Bucks: Behavior Bucks are a fun way to reward our Kindergartners during our economics unit for Social Studies. When your Kindergartner does something special to help their classroom thrive, they may be rewarded with a behavior buck. They can use these to “purchase” things from their teachers. For example, they might purchase one of the teacher’s books to be on their desk for the day.

Walking at Recess: As part of our commitment to safety, we may ask your Kindergartner to walk around the black top during recess if their body is somehow impacting the safety of themselves or another student. It’s our way to help them refocus their minds, reset their bodies, and join back in playing with a more positive mindset.

Shelton Communication Tools

We have many ways that we strive to keep you informed about school events. We encourage you to browse the following websites and be on the lookout for these communications.

Shelton website

Our website includes a lot of helpful information, such as a school calendar and pages for each grade level. Be sure to visit your child's grade-level page monthly so you will know what is happening in their classroom:

<https://sites.google.com/a/jeffcoschools.us/shelton-es/home>

PTSA website

Contains great information about school events, public policy and Jeffco district news <http://www.sheltonptsa.org/>

Coyote Column

Mrs. Brown, our principal, sends a bi-weekly e-mail that contains the "Coyote Column". This contains all kinds of information about upcoming events, announcements, etc. Past editions can be accessed through the Shelton website.

School Messenger

When Mrs. Brown or the district has important information to get out to families, they use School Messenger. This system automatically calls all parents, using the number you listed in Jeffco Connect, with a pre-recorded message. You will also get an e-mail if you are signed up in Jeffco Connect to receive messages by e-mail.

Sign Up Genius

Shelton frequently uses an online sign-up system for various school events. It is used to sign up for parent/teacher conferences and also used to sign up to bring food to classroom parties. You will need to create an account, and then you can use this site: <http://www.signupgenius.com/>

Friday Folders

Each Friday, your student will come home with a Friday folder that contains homework, information about upcoming events, etc. You will need to review the contents and return the folders each Monday. The folders are provided by Shelton.

Emails and Phone Calls

If you have a question or concern about your child, you are welcome to e-mail your child's teacher or Karen Brown, our principal, at any time.

Fall and Spring Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held twice per year: once in the fall and once in the spring, by appointment. Conferences are generally held on two consecutive evenings. You will have 15 minutes to visit with your child's teacher. We strongly encourage you to attend, as this is an important opportunity to get to know your child's teacher and understand how they are doing at school. You can bring your child with you (they can wait in the hallway if you want), but you can also choose to come without your child. We do not have childcare available during conferences. Be on the lookout in early fall and spring for information about how to sign up for a conference slot. Generally, you can sign up using Sign Up Genius or in person on sheets placed outside of your child's classroom.

School Safety Information

Parking Lot

Please be aware that our parking lot can be very hectic during drop-off and pick-up. Please observe all posted traffic signs, pedestrian crosswalks, volunteers who are directing traffic, and drive slowly and carefully. Please avoid talking on your cell phone while driving in our parking lot. Cars are not permitted to idle on our property, so please turn off your engine if you are waiting for your child. Only cars with handicapped placards are permitted to park in our handicap parking spots.

Smoking/Tobacco

Shelton is a tobacco-free campus, including e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, regular cigarettes or any other form of tobacco product. We ask that you refrain from smoking in your car when you are in the Shelton parking lot. Also, no smoking is allowed anywhere near our building. We appreciate your help in keeping our students safe.

Front Doors and Visitors

Our front doors are locked during the school day. Visitors will need to push the buzzer and wait for the front desk to open the door. All visitors are required to check in at the front desk.

No Animal Policy

Shelton is responsible for assuring the health and safety of all students, staff and Shelton families. In keeping with this objective, Shelton will not permit anyone to bring their dogs (household pets) to school. Animals may pose a threat of infection and may cause allergic reactions in other students, staff and families. In addition, some people may feel threatened by the presence of animals, particularly dogs.

Standard Response Protocol (SRP)

Keeping your children safe is a top priority at Shelton. We follow the SRP, which is a safety protocol that helps schools respond to a variety of emergency situations. Please be aware that we will conduct a variety of safety drills throughout the school year (fire drills, lockdown drills, lockout drills, etc.). You or your student will not be notified ahead of time. You will receive more information about the Standard Response Protocol during all-school registration.

Fundraisers

King Soopers Cards: Put your grocery and gas money to work to help Shelton! Sign up for the King Soopers Card program through Shelton's PTSA, and 5% of your grocery or gas purchases (at Loaf and Jug) will be donated to Shelton. It costs \$5 to enroll in the program. Shelton raises about \$20,000 each year from this important program.

Box Tops for Education: Our Student Council manages this program, with support from the PTSA. Look for the "Box Tops for Education" label on products that you buy at the store. Cut these out and bring them to Shelton, and we get 10 cents for each one. Visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> for more information.

Coyote Chase: Students join the fun and help their school at the same time by collecting pledges and running laps around the soccer field! Held during the school day, parents, staff and students cheer on our runners, listen to music and enjoy popsicles.

Coyote 5K Classic: Challenge yourself on the scenic 5K course through the neighborhood or relax and enjoy the 1-mile Fun Run. Each grade creates a basket of enticing items that are raffled off. You can also bid on some fabulous items during the silent auction and earn prizes for top race finishes. 2016 marks the sixth annual Coyote 5K Classic.

Original Works: Students create beautiful original works of art during Art class over the fall semester, and Original Works transforms each child's artwork onto individual, quality products that can be shared with family and friends (such as coffee mugs, t-shirts, and greeting cards). You will have the opportunity to purchase items that have this picture on them through the Original Works program.

Barnes and Noble Night: On a designated night in December, we will hold an event at Barnes and Noble. Our Coyote Choir will perform, our Oral Interpretation participants will recite their pieces, and you can do some holiday shopping. Barnes and Noble donates up to 20% of your purchases to Shelton.

Shelton's 2nd Annual Silent Auction: Members of our PTSA and other parent volunteers coordinate and plan the silent auction. Last year was our first year and it was a huge success! Please stay tuned for more information.

Questions? Please Contact Us!
Shelton Front Office: (303) 982-5686
Karen Brown, Principal: karbrown@jeffco.k12.co.us