



Beachcombers Academy 2020-2021 School Year Fees – please see FAQ's below

Primary School

Primary School Fees

New Student Fee (one time only): \$200

Annual Registration: \$75

Supply Fee: \$325

Fundraising Fee: \$100

Primary Tuition Fees

Tuition: \$4,600

International Student Tuition: \$11,800

Primary School Sibling Discounts: *you may claim only one of the discounts below.*

2 Primary Siblings: \$780 discount per family.

3 Primary Siblings: Tuition fees (only) waived for 3rd child.

Int'l 2 Primary Siblings: \$800 discount per family.

Int'l 3 Primary Siblings: \$4,000 discount per family.

Note: There are additional costs for some fieldtrips. Sailing & kayaking are *included in annual tuition.*

Afterschool Care: \$10 per day 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

PLEASE NOTE: Enrolment is for the full academic year; parents are responsible for full-year tuition. Late fees are subject to an interest rate billed at 2% per month (25% annually). All fees are non-refundable.

Primary School Monthly Payment Plans* POST DATED CHEQUES TO BE PROVIDED AT REGISTRATION.

	Monthly Payment Plan*	One Payment* <i>Please note discounts.</i>
	Starting April 1 st of previous year; for 12 months.	Due April 1 st of the previous year or at time of registration.
One student	\$425 monthly	\$5,000 (\$100 discount incl.)
Two sibling students	\$785 monthly	\$9,320 (additional \$100 discount incl.)
Three sibling students	\$892 monthly	\$10,600 (additional \$100 discount incl.)

* Does not include New Student Fee due at time of inquiry.

Preschool

Preschool Fees

New Student Fee (one-time only): \$200

Annual Registration: \$35

Supplies: \$185

Fundraising: \$100

Preschool Tuition Fees:

4 Mornings: \$3,844 tuition

2 Mornings: \$2,032 tuition

2 Afternoons: \$1,528 tuition

2 Full Days: \$3,556 tuition

3 Full Days: \$5,332 tuition

4 Full Days: \$6,694 tuition

Afterschool Care: \$10 per day 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

PLEASE NOTE: Enrolment is for the full academic year. New preschool students enrolled in the first term of the first year of preschool is for the full academic term; otherwise preschool enrolment is for the full academic year. Late fees are subject to an interest rate billed at 2% per month (25% annually). All fees are non-refundable.

Preschool Monthly Payment Plans* POST DATED CHEQUES TO BE PROVIDED AT REGISTRATION.

	Preschool Monthly Payment Plan* 12 Months	Preschool One payment. <i>Please note discounts.</i>
	Starting April 1 st of previous year; for 12 months.	Due April 1 st of the previous year or at time of registration.
4 Mornings	\$347 Monthly	\$4,139 (incl. \$25 discount)
2 Mornings	\$196 Monthly	\$2,327 (incl. \$25 discount)
2 Afternoons	\$154 Monthly	\$1,823 (incl. \$25 discount)
2 Full Days	\$323 Monthly	\$3,851 (incl. \$25 discount)
3 Full Days	\$471 Monthly starting April 1 st of previous year; for 12 months	\$5,627 (incl. \$25 discount)
4 Full Days	\$584.50 Monthly	\$6,989 (incl. \$25 discount)

*New students pay additional New Student Fee at registration.



Beachcombers Academy: Frequently Asked Questions

Why are small class sizes in *primary* school such an advantage?

There has been large scale research done in the US in which thousands of students were tracked from kindergarten through to college and beyond. This research has been peer-reviewed in both the US and Canada. For the purpose of this research small class size was defined as 15 to 17 students; Beachcombers has a maximum of 16 students per class. The research has conclusively shown that small class size in *primary* school has the following advantages for students: 1) improved mastery of foundational skills; 2) increased likelihood that students will take more challenging academic classes in high school; 3) increased enrolment in post-secondary education; and 4) higher likelihood of entering higher-income earning professions. The longer that *primary* students experience small class size, the bigger the advantage. For more information please see our website:

<http://www.beachcombersschool.ca/small-class-benefits.html>

How do Beachcombers fees compare to other schools?

Beachcombers has some of the lowest fees on Vancouver Island, in contrast to comparable independent schools. We have looked at Montessori schools and academic independent schools providing comparable quality programming. Fees on Vancouver Island range from \$6,800 to \$26,000 annually for primary students. Rates for comparable *half-day preschool* programs range from \$6,000 to \$8,000. And range from \$8,700 to \$11,200 for similar full-day *5-day-a-week childcare* programs.

Why are fees non-refundable? Why is enrolment for the full academic year?

Beachcombers Academy has fixed costs for supplies, staffing, and operating expenses. As of the spring of the previous school year, Beachcombers commits to staffing and expenses for the following school year. If a student leaves part way through the year these costs remain, yet the school loses the Ministry of Education funding for that child. This policy helps the school to keep fees lower for everyone. Planning is a critical part of providing a quality program. *Enrolment is for the full academic year.* For preschool students who are in their *first term of their first year of preschool*, enrolment is for the full academic term.

Why is the supply fee and fundraising fee not just part of the tuition fee?

There are accounting & administrative advantages to separating out these fees. This fee format is advantageous to the school community and helps to keep fees lower.

What is the supply fee?

Beachcombers Academy spends approximately \$450 per student each school year for classroom/school supplies. This includes high quality materials such as bees wax crayons, quality art, agendas, and class-specific annual supplies. *Parents are not required to purchase additional supplies.*

What is the fundraising fee?

Many schools require countless hours of fundraising in the form of bake-sales and selling candy. These kinds of nickel-and-dime fundraisers are time consuming, and typically much of the monies raised come from parents' pockets in the form of purchases or donations. Over the course of a year, these efforts typically will cost parents about \$100 per child. Collecting and keeping track of monies is also time-consuming for staff. We believe that teachers should be educating our children, not fundraising. The fundraising fee will be used for seed money or professional fundraising activities, or applied directly to support school projects. We could also include this amount within tuition fees; however, there are accounting advantages to separating it out.

What can I do to support the school?

Some years we have fundraising activities that parents can participate in, however, there is no financial donation required on the part of parents. The school can also save money if parents help out at the end of the year with cleaning windows and tidying; all savings help keep fees down. Please enquire if you wish to help out!

Are there required volunteer hours for all families?

No. Some independent schools require upwards of 200 hours of volunteer time for every family; if the family chooses not to provide these volunteer hours, some schools charge parents additional tuition fees per student. We find that parents of young families are very busy people and typically don't have this kind of free time.

How is the school funded?

Beachcombers School is operated by Beachcombers Education Society, a non-profit society operated for the benefit of children and families. Beachcombers is funded in part by the Ministry of Education and in part by tuitions. Beachcombers receives 50% of the `per student` operations funding that the public schools receive; student fees make up the remainder. The Ministry of Education does *not* give funds for facility and land costs. There is no operating funding for preschool. Beachcombers' tuition rates are some of the lowest on Vancouver Island.

Does Beachcombers Academy require an investment bond or facility fee?

No, Beachcombers does not require bonds nor facility fees. Many independent schools on Vancouver Island and in BC require families to invest in the school facility through the purchase of school bonds. Typical bonds are \$7,500 to \$25,000 per family at the time of enrolment. Choosing not to require bonds is an important part of making our school accessible to families. Beachcombers offers an exceptional program while making every effort to remain affordable in contrast to comparable independent schools.

Why do payment schedules start before the school year?

The majority of Ministry of Education funding is received by the school in the last half of the school year, with a substantial portion being received at the very end of the school year. The school is dependent on student fees for operating costs. Additionally, student fees cover new investments and purchase of supplies prior to school start. Most independent schools charge parents a substantial finance fee to pay monthly; this means that parents who can least afford it, pay more. At Beachcombers, we do not charge parents a finance fee for paying monthly; the trade-off is advance payment. We do, however, provide a small discount to families that pay all fees in advance, as when families pay in advance the school has reduced administration costs. It is also worth noting that many independent schools require *all* fees for the school year be paid by June 1st of the previous school year.

Does Beachcombers accept the BC Affordable Child Care Benefit for Preschool?

Yes! In September 2018 the BC Government introduced the Affordable Child Care Benefit. It provides increased childcare benefits for working parents and widened who can apply. The amount of benefit is linked to your income, employment status, and number of children. According to the online calculator, in February 2019, 2 working parents with one child in **full-time licensed group care** would receive as follows: with an income of \$50,000 up to \$520; an income of \$75,000 up to \$400 a month, an income of \$100,000 up to \$167 a month. Application is done online. For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-funding/child-care-benefit>

Will Beachcombers fees rise over time?

Our Ministry of Education funding status requires that we operate within the same budget as the public system; this means that we receive the highest funding grant possible from the government, which enables us to keep tuitions down. This saves parents approximately \$2,400 per student per year. You can expect small fee increases over time, so that our budget remains in keeping with public system and to respond to rising costs. We remain committed to remaining one of the most affordable programs on the Island, whilst providing a high quality program.

How does Beachcombers keep fees down?

In addition to the strategies stated above, we have the advantage of our wonderful location. One of the largest costs for schools is land and facilities. Beachcombers has the advantage of being in a rural location where land costs are less expensive than urban centres. Compared to schools that spend millions on facilities, Beachcombers has low facility costs. Beachcombers has strategically chosen to remain small, and work within the confines of the existing building. Beachcombers also has low administration expenses. These strategies help to keep costs down, and focus expenditures on providing high quality programming while keeping fees low. Additionally, we make very considered financial decisions that prioritize what is best for students.