



Beachcombers Academy 2022-2023 School Year Fees

Please see FAQ's below

Primary School

Primary School Fees

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

School Fees: Registration: \$175, Supply Fee: \$325, Fundraising Fee: \$100

Primary Tuition Fees

Tuition: \$4,860

International Student Tuition: \$12,800

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

2 Primary Siblings: \$780 discount per family.

3 Primary Siblings: \$4,620 discount per family

Note: There are additional costs for fieldtrips. Dolphin students normally have a 3-day overnight field trip that is an extra cost to parents. Sailing & kayaking are *included in annual tuition.*

Direct withdrawal information or post-dated cheques are DUE FEBRUARY 25TH OF PREVIOUS YEAR OR AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. Cheques should be dated April 1st of the previous year to March 1st of the school year.

Primary School Payment Plans*

	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, for 12 months
One student	\$455 monthly	\$5,360 (includes \$100 discount.)
Two sibling students	\$845 monthly	\$10,040 (includes \$100 discount.)
Three sibling students	\$980 monthly	\$11,660 (includes \$100 discount.)

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

PLEASE NOTE: Enrolment is for the full academic year; parents are responsible for full-year tuition regardless of attendance. Late fees are subject to an interest rate billed at 2% per month (25% annually). Insufficient-funds (NSF) charge is \$35 per transaction. All fees are non-refundable.

Beachcombers Academy & Little Oysters Preschool **2022-2023** School Year Fees

Please see FAQ's below

Preschool

2022-2023 Changes:

There have been changes to preschool hours and length of the school year for 2022-23 at the request of parents and in consultation with preschool families. The 2022-23 preschool school year is **two weeks longer**; the school will run from September 6th, 2022 to June 30th, 2023. Enrolment is for the full school year.

There are three school day offerings:

- 1) Short day (8:30 am to 3:00 pm, which is the same as the 2021-2022 hours);
- 2) Regular day (hours extended to 4:00 pm); and
- 3) An option specifically for preschool students who are on the bus or who have a sibling in Beachcombers primary school.

Fees reflect these changes.

2022-2023 Preschool Fees:

All preschool fees have been reduced based on the BC Child Care Fee Reduction initiative. Additionally, working parents can apply online for the BC Affordable Child Care Benefit; please see FAQs below. Little Oysters Preschool is operated by Beachcombers Education Society which is a non-profit. Fees reflect the cost of quality educational programming.

Preschool School Fees:

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

Registration: \$155; Supplies: \$185; Fundraising: \$100

Preschool Tuition Fees:

Short Day (8:30 am to 3:00 pm or 12:30 pm) – includes extra 2 weeks service

4 Mornings: \$4,660

2 Mornings: \$2,380

2 Full Days: \$3,820

3 Full Days: \$5,680

4 Full Days: \$7,060

Regular Day (8:30 am or 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm) – includes extra 1 hour per day, plus extra 2 weeks service

4 Afternoons: 4,540

2 Afternoons: \$2,260

2 Full Days: \$4,420

3 Full Days: \$6,580

4 Full Days: \$8,140

Sibling/Bus Day (8:15 am to 3:15 pm) – includes extra 1/2 hour per day, plus extra 2 weeks service

2 Full Days: \$4,120

3 Full Days: \$6,100

4 Full Days: \$7,600

PLEASE NOTE: Enrolment is for the full school year. Full-year fees are required regardless of attendance. New preschool students *enrolled in the first term of the first year* of preschool may withdraw without penalty after the fall term at winter break otherwise tuition is for the full year. *Late fees are subject to an interest rate billed at 2% per month (25% annually)*. Insufficient-funds (NSF) charge is \$35 per transaction. *All fees are non-refundable.*

2022-2023 Preschool Tuition Payment Plans: DRAFT 3

Enrolment is for the full school year. Full-year fees are required regardless of attendance. New preschool students enrolled in the first term of the first year of preschool may withdraw without penalty after the fall term at winter break otherwise tuition is for the full year. *Direct withdrawal information or post-dated cheques are DUE FEBRUARY 25TH OF PREVIOUS YEAR OR AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. Cheques should be dated April 1st of the previous year to March 1st of the school year. Payment plans begin in advance of the school year for planning purposes; and so that the preschool payment schedule is in alignment with the primary payment schedule.*

Short Day: 3:00 pm finish + Extra 2 weeks of service

Hours: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm (or 12:30 pm)		
Short Day	Monthly*Pay plan 12 Months	One payment* Includes \$25 discount.
	Starting April 1 st of previous year; for 12 months.	Due April 1 st of previous year or at time of registration.
4 Mornings:	\$425 monthly	\$5,075 (Includes \$25 discount.)
2 Mornings:	\$235 monthly	\$2,795 (Includes \$25 discount.)
2 Full Days:	\$355 monthly	\$4,235 (Includes \$25 discount.)
3 Full Days:	\$510 monthly	\$6,095 (Includes \$25 discount.)
4 full Days:	\$625 monthly	\$7,475 (Includes \$25 discount.)

*New students pay additional one-time \$200 New Student Fee at registration.

Regular Day: 4:00 pm finish + Extra 2 weeks of service

Hours: 8:30 am (or 12:30 pm) – 4:00 pm		
Regular Day	Monthly*Pay plan 12 Months	One payment* Includes \$25 discount.
	Starting April 1 st of previous year; for 12 months.	Due April 1 st of previous year or at time of registration.
4 Afternoons:	\$415 monthly	\$4,955 (Includes \$25 discount.)
2 Afternoons:	\$225 monthly	\$2,675 (Includes \$25 discount.)
2 Full Days:	\$405 monthly	\$4,835 (Includes \$25 discount.)
3 Full Days:	\$585 monthly	\$6,995 (Includes \$25 discount.)
4 full Days:	\$715 monthly	\$8,555 (Includes \$25 discount.)

*New students pay additional \$200 New Student Fee at registration.

Primary Sibling/Bus Day + Extra 2 weeks of service

This option is for preschool students who take the bus, or who have a sibling in Beachcombers Academy primary school. Note: bus spots are prioritized for students attending 4 full days. Rates do not include bus.

Hours: 8:15 am – 3:15 pm		
Preschool on bus or has Primary sibling	Monthly*Pay plan 12 Months	One payment* Includes \$25 discount.
	Starting April 1 st of previous year; for 12 months.	Due April 1 st of previous year or at time of registration.
2 Full Days:	\$380 monthly	\$4,535 (Includes \$25 discount.)
3 Full Days:	\$545 monthly	\$6,515 (Includes \$25 discount.)
4 full Days:	\$670 monthly	\$8,015 (Includes \$25 discount.)

New students pay additional \$200 New Student Fee at registration. Bus fees are extra.

PLEASE NOTE: Late fees are subject to an interest rate billed at 2% per month (25% annually). Insufficient-funds (NSF) charge is \$35 per transaction. All fees are non-refundable.



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 this research small class size was defined as 15 to 17 students; Beachcombers has a maximum of 16 students per class for primary academics. 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>

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 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 a month; 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: [Affordable Child Care Benefit - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

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 \$9,000 to \$22,000 annually for primary students. Rates for comparable preschool programs are upwards of \$13,000.

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 \$120 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 at the end of the year with cleaning windows and tidying; all savings help keep fees down. Please enquire if you wish to help!

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 limited operating funding for preschool. Beachcombers' tuition rates are some of the lowest on Vancouver Island.

Does Beachcombers Academy require an investment facility bonds?

No, Beachcombers does not require facility bonds. 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 upwards of \$26,000 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?

Most of the 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.

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 \$1,400 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. We make very considered financial decisions that prioritize what is best for students.