



## Beachcombers Academy 2024-2025 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: \$375, Fundraising Fee: \$100

#### Primary Tuition Fees

Tuition: \$5,690

International Student Tuition: \$15,000

**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. Water sports are included in annual tuition.

*Direct withdrawal information or payment is DUE FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 OR AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.*

*Monthly payment plan starts April 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year to March 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year.*

#### Primary School Payment Plans\*

	Monthly Payment Plan*	One Payment* <i>Please note discounts.</i>
	Starting April 1 <sup>st</sup> of previous year; for 12 months.	Due April 1 <sup>st</sup> of the previous year or at time of registration, for 12 months
One student	\$528.34 monthly	\$6,240 (includes \$100 discount.)
Two sibling students	\$991.67 monthly	\$11,800 (includes \$100 discount.)
Three sibling students	\$1,200. monthly	\$14,300 (includes \$100 discount.)

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

**PLEASE NOTE: Enrolment is for the full academic year once enrolled. Once enrolled, parents are responsible for full-year tuition regardless of withdrawal date and regardless of attendance. Late fees are subject to an interest rate billed at 2% per month (25% annually). Insufficient-funds (NSF) charge is \$45 per transaction. All fees are non-refundable.**

Please see the *Frequently Asked Questions* following the Child Care information below.



## Little Oysters Child Care 2024-2025 Fees

Please see FAQ's below

**New Student Fee:** \$200 one-time only fee at time of first registration.

### Little Oysters Annual Tuition Fee:

Program	2-day week	4-day week	Sib/bus 4-day week*
Hours	8:30 am – 3:00 pm	8:30 am – 3:00 pm	8:15 am – 3:15 pm
Age*	<u>3- 5 years</u>	<u>3- 5 years</u>	<u>3- 5 years</u>
Tuition**	\$5,136.61	\$9,118.83	\$9,368.98
Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI)	<u>-\$2,071.00</u>	<u>-\$4,169.25</u>	<u>-\$4,169.25</u>
Parents Pay:	<b>\$3,065.61</b>	<b>\$4,949.58</b>	<b>\$5,199.73</b>

\* Does not include bus fees.

\*\*Additionally, new students pay a one-time \$200 *New Student Fee*.; \*\*Please enquire for rates for age 30 months to 36 months.

Please Note: The Ministry approves tuition and CCFRI increases as of April 1st; we have factored this into the annual fees. However, if the Ministry surprises us with changes next spring, you may receive a small further reduction; but you will *not* pay more.

Please see below for information on the **BC Affordable Child Care Benefit** (not to be confused with the CCFRI above). Please also see the *Frequently Asked Questions*.

**PLEASE NOTE: Enrolment is for the full school year. Full-year fees are required regardless of attendance. New child care students enrolled in the first term of the first year of child care 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 \$45 per transaction. *All fees are non-refundable.***

Little Oysters Payment Plan Options		
	Monthly*Pay plan 12 Months	One payment* Includes \$25 discount.
	Starting April 1 <sup>st</sup> of previous year; for 12 months.	Due April 1 <sup>st</sup> of previous year or at time of registration.
2 Full Days	\$255.47 monthly	\$3,040.61 (Includes \$25 discount.)
4 full Days	\$412.47 monthly	\$4,924.58 (Includes \$25 discount.)
Sib/bus 4 full days	\$433.32 monthly	\$5,174.73 (Includes \$25 discount.)

\*New students pay additional one-time \$200 New Student Fee at registration. \* Bus fees not included.

**BC Affordable Child Care Benefit:** This benefit is for Child Care families where *both* parents, or one single-parent, are *employed* and the gross annual family income is \$110,000 or less. The lower the family income, the higher the benefit; the benefit is quite small for families with an income over \$100,000 but generous for families with lower incomes. It is not to be confused with the CCFRI (as shown above).

Parents apply online to the Province for this benefit. If approved, the Province provides the benefit to Beachcombers, and Beachcombers in turn provides a credit to your account. The benefit amount is based on your income, number of parents, your number of children in child care, and the actual number of days of child care service the child is enrolled in each month (note the number of days changes month-to-month based on calendar days and break closures.)

The Province approves Little Oysters families for a maximum of 16 days per month; where there are less days, such as during winter break, the amount is adjusted to the number of Little Oysters' days of service. It is based on the number of days of service *offered*; you do *not* lose the benefit if your child stays home due to sickness or a short-term family holiday.

As an example, according to the online calculator, a two-parent family in 2024 where *both parents are employed* and have one child, with a gross family income of \$80,000.00, and there are 16 child care days or more in the month, the monthly benefit could be up to \$200 to \$300 for that month. (In December, when we have winter closure the benefit would be reduced based on the actual days of service offered.) If you apply for this benefit, you will need to know that Little Oysters is **Licensed Group Child Care**.

To apply: [Affordable Child Care Benefit - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/child-care/benefit/)



## 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 to 18 students per class for primary morning 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>

### **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 Child Care and in part by tuitions. For primary school, Beachcombers receives 50% of the `per student` operations funding that the public schools receive; student fees make up the remainder. There is limited operating funding for child care, however the CCFRI (Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative) reduces the cost of fees to parents. The Province has provided capital funding for our Little Oysters Child Care facility, enabling the provision of child care. Beachcombers' tuition rates are some of the lowest on Vancouver Island for comparable programs.

### **How do Beachcombers primary school 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 \$10,600 to \$24,500 annually for primary students.

### **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 \$2,000 per student per year. You can expect fee increases annually, so that our budget remains in keeping with public system and to respond to rising costs. We are committed to 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 tens of millions on facilities, Beachcombers has low facility costs. In the past we have been fortunate to get a substantial grant for child care renovations. These strategies help to keep costs down, and focus expenditures on providing high quality programming. We make very considered financial decisions that prioritize what is best for students and families.

**How do Little Oysters Child Care fees compare to other facilities?** The Little Oysters is a participating facility in the Provincial Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, which is greatly reducing child care fees for families. Our rates for child care are determined and approved by the Province as part to this initiative. Fees are based on standardized Provincial regional fee models.

### **What is CCFRI (Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative)?**

The Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) that was substantially expanded by the BC Government in 2023. It reduces the child care costs to *all* parents at participating facilities. You will see the amount of CCFRI on the fee sheet. This is the amount the Provincial Government is subsidizing your child care spot.

### **Does Beachcombers accept the BC Affordable Child Care Benefit for Child Care?**

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. In a two-parent family, *both* parents must be employed in order to qualify. It is available for families whose gross annual family income is less than \$110,000; if the family income is above \$100,000 the benefit is low; if the family income is low, the benefit is increasingly generous. The amount of benefit is linked to your income, employment status, and number of children in child care. [Affordable Child Care Benefit - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/childcare/benefit)

### **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 child care students who are in their *first term of their first year of child care*, enrolment is for the full academic term.

### **For Primary Fees 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. **Supply fees** are used to purchase quality materials and class-specific annual supplies. *Parents are not required to purchase additional supplies.* **The fundraising fee** is used for seed money for professional fundraising activities or applied directly to support school projects.

### **What can I do to support the school?**

1) Role-model and practice respect and kindness; practice positive communication; and please avoid gossip. 2) Parents who complete criminal record checks are invited to assist with field trips.

### **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.

### **Does Beachcombers Academy require an investment facility bonds or facility fees?**

No, Beachcombers does not require facility bonds or 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 upwards of \$26,000 per family at the time of enrolment; facility fees are upwards of a \$7,000 one-time fee per student. Choosing not to require bonds or facility fees 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 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous school year.