



2026-2027

[Early Education Website](#)

Developing self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community.



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Becker Administration

Superintendent of Schools

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Community Education Director

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Early Education Coordinator

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Camp Opportunity Coordinator

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Early Education Site Supervisor

Kelsey Berthiaume 763-261-4050 or 763-261-6600 kberthiaume2@isd726.org Ext. 1121 or 5016

District Nurse

Sadie Terwey 763-261-4501 sterwey@isd726.org Ext. 3808

District Calendar

2026-2027 BECKER DISTRICT CALENDAR

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUG 24-27: STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD)
 AUG 31: 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL 9TH GR
 AUG 31: PS/IS ASSESSMENT DAY
 AUG 31: MS OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SEP 1: PS/IS ASSESSMENT DAY
 SEP 1: MS & 10-12 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
 SEP 2: PS/IS FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
 SEP 4: NO SCHOOL
 SEP 7: NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

OCT 2: EARLY OUT (PD)
 OCT 8: MS EVENING CONFERENCES
 OCT 12: HS EVENING CONFERENCES
 OCT 13: MS EVENING CONFERENCES
 OCT 14: NO SCHOOL (PD)
 OCT 15-16: NO SCHOOL MEA BREAK

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NOV 6: EARLY OUT (PD)
 NOV 19: PS/IS EVENING CONFERENCES
 NOV 23: PS/IS NO SCHOOL/CONFERENCES
 NOV 24: HS/MS END OF TRI #1
 NOV 24: PS/IS NO SCHOOL/END OF TRI #1
 NOV 25-27: NO SCHOOL

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

DEC: 23-31: NO SCHOOL-WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JAN 1: NO SCHOOL-WINTER BREAK
 JAN 15: EARLY OUT (PD)
 JAN 18: NO SCHOOL- MLK DAY
 JAN 21: MS EVENING CONFERENCES
 JAN 25: HS EVENING CONFERENCES

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

FEB 12: NO SCHOOL (PD)
 FEB 15: NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENT'S DAY
 FEB 25: PS/IS EVENING CONFERENCES

MARCH

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MAR 2: PS/IS EVENING CONFERENCES
 MAR 4: END OF TRI #2
 MAR 5: NO SCHOOL (PD)
 MAR 22-26 SPRING BREAK

APRIL

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

APR 23: NO SCHOOL(PD)

MAY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

MAY 7: EARLY OUT
 MAY 28: GRADUATION
 MAY 31: NO SCHOOL-MEMORIAL DAY



JUNE

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30				

JUN 3: EARLY OUT/LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (PD)
 JUN 4: PD

UPDATED: 5-20-2026

*Please note: All dates and events are subject to change.

Please note: Small Wonders and Pre-K will not have classes on January 15 and February 16 & 17. The last day of classes for ECFE, SW and Pre-K will be May 28, 2027

Welcome to Becker Early Education!

We are excited to welcome you! It is an honor to partner with your family during these important early years, when young children develop many skills and abilities that will stay with them throughout life.

Our program is designed to create a nurturing and welcoming environment where children can learn and grow. Thoughtful planning ensures we meet both individual and group needs while fostering a sense of warmth, acceptance, and belonging.

Our play-based curriculum focuses on the development of the whole child, with an emphasis on social skills and early literacy. We also offer inclusive classrooms that support children with special needs, with guidance from Early Childhood Special Education teachers and staff.

We believe:

- Families are a child's first and most important teachers
- Children learn best through play and hands-on exploration
- Strong relationships create the foundation for learning



Our dedicated team is committed to helping every child succeed. All of our teachers are licensed by the state of Minnesota and hold four-year degrees or higher. We strive to provide the highest quality early learning experience, reflected in our Parent Aware four-star rating.

Small Wonders and Pre-K Preschool

These school readiness program options are offered through Becker Public Schools. We serve children ages 3–5 who live in Becker and surrounding communities. Our programs provide high-quality early learning experiences designed to support the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of young children, and serve as an important bridge to kindergarten.

ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education)

ECFE is for families with children from birth through age four. It includes parent-child play, songs, stories, and hands-on learning. Parents also participate in discussion time led by a licensed Parent Educator. Classes are offered mornings, late afternoons, and early evenings throughout the school year.

This handbook includes important information about our program, including goals, policies, and daily practices. Please take time to read it and keep it for future reference. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Program Philosophy and Goals

The purpose of Becker Early Education is to support the development of children's readiness for formal school entry while fostering a lifelong love of learning. We believe that the early years are a critical time for building the foundation children need to be successful not only in school, but in all areas of life. Our program is designed to provide a wide range of engaging, meaningful activities and experiences that support each child's growth and development.

Our goals focus on helping children develop the skills necessary for success in a classroom and beyond. These include building foundational concepts in early literacy and math, learning classroom routines, and developing strong social skills such as cooperation, problem-solving, and self-regulation. Just as importantly, we strive to nurture curiosity and help children develop an interest in the world around them.

We are a play-based program because we know that young children learn best through hands-on, active experiences. Children are provided with opportunities to learn through both guided activities and self-directed exploration. Through play, children naturally practice important skills such as communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration in ways that are meaningful and developmentally appropriate.

We also value the important role families play in a child's learning journey. Parent input and involvement are encouraged, as we believe strong partnerships between home and school are essential to supporting each child's success. Our goal is to create a warm, supportive environment where children feel confident, capable, and excited to learn each day.

Our Programs

Small Wonders Preschool

Age 3 by Sept. 1

- ½ day classes either two or three days a week in the morning or afternoon
 - Morning session: 8:00-10:45
 - Afternoon session: 11:45-2:30

Pre-K Preschool

Age 4 by Sept. 1

- ½ day classes either two, three or five days a week in the morning or afternoon
 - Morning session: 8:00-10:45
 - Afternoon session: 11:45-2:30
- Full day classes either two or three days a week
 - All day classes: 8:00-2:30

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

- For children between the ages of birth and age 5 and their parent/guardian
- Weekly classes during three sessions throughout the school year: Fall, Winter and Spring

Early Childhood Screening (ECS)

- Free, state-required screening prior to kindergarten is a **one-time** developmental checkup for children (typically ages 3–4) to ensure development is on track.
- Screening checks vision, hearing, motor skills, speech and cognitive development. It helps identify any potential additional support that may be beneficial.

Enrollment and Registration

Please check out the [Becker website](#) for class offerings, tuition fees and to register. For Pre-K and Small Wonders, each class has a required \$45 non-refundable registration fee.

Curriculum & Assessment

At Becker Early Education, we use research-based curriculum resources to support children's growth in language, literacy, fine motor, and overall school readiness skills. Through engaging, developmentally appropriate activities, children build early sound awareness, letter knowledge, writing readiness, and the foundational skills needed for future learning success. These resources are thoughtfully integrated into our play-based program to support the whole child socially, emotionally, physically, and academically.

We also use a district-developed assessment tool that is approved by Parent Aware and aligned with the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress. This ongoing assessment helps teachers observe and document each child's development, guide instruction, and share meaningful progress with families throughout the year.

Conferences

To ensure we are working together to support your child's growth, we offer conferences three times a year.

Before the school year begins, each family is invited to meet individually with their child's teacher: Small Wonders families will sign up for a "Meet 'n Greet," and Pre-K families will attend a pre-conference with the teacher. Conferences will be held again in November and optional conferences will be offered in February. This is a time to celebrate your child's achievements, discuss their unique learning journey, and ensure all your questions are answered.

Communication

Our teachers strive to build strong partnerships with families to support each child's learning and development. Open and consistent communication is an important part of that partnership and helps create a strong connection between home and school.

In addition to conferences, we will regularly share updates about your child, classroom activities, and school events. We ask that you take time to read all communications so you can stay informed and connected to your child's experience.

Seesaw

Each classroom uses Seesaw as a primary communication tool. This app allows teachers to share messages, photos, and updates using a smartphone, iPad, or other device. Your child's teacher will provide information on how to sign up. We have found Seesaw to be a valuable and convenient way to stay connected!

Parents are always encouraged to reach out to teachers with questions, concerns, or important updates. If there are changes at home, family situations, or anything that may impact your child, please let us know so we can best support them.

Please allow up to 48 hours for teachers to respond to messages. Teachers have limited time during the school day to check email, voicemail, and Seesaw.

For time-sensitive messages, please call the Early Education office at 763-261-4050. If no one is available, please leave a voicemail, as messages are checked throughout the day.

Important: When contacting us, please include your child's first and last name and their teacher's name. If reporting an absence, be sure to include the reason and any symptoms if your child is ill.

Daily Schedule

Each teacher creates a daily schedule that best meets the needs, interests, and timing of their individual class. In Small Wonders and Pre-K, these schedules provide a consistent framework for the day, helping children feel safe and know what to expect. At the same time, teachers remain flexible, adjusting transitions between activities based on children's level of engagement, play, and interactions in the moment. This balance allows for both structure and responsiveness to children's learning.

Visual schedules may be used in the classroom to support children in anticipating the flow of their day and building independence. These visuals also provide meaningful opportunities for children to begin recognizing and responding to environmental print within their classroom setting.

Your child's teacher will share a copy of their daily schedule with you so you have a sense of your child's routine. Please note that schedules may evolve throughout the year to reflect the changing needs of the class and to take advantage of new learning opportunities.

Early Childhood Screening

Minnesota requires all children to complete an Early Childhood Screening before entering kindergarten. Screening is available free of charge for children between the ages of 3 and 5 and is designed to identify any concerns that may affect a child's learning, growth, or development.

The screening includes checks of vision, hearing, height, weight, and developmental milestones, along with a review of health history and immunization records. We recommend scheduling your child's screening between their third and fourth birthdays.

Screening provides a snapshot of your child's development, including motor, thinking, speech, and language skills. It is not an IQ test, achievement test, or comprehensive medical examination. Results are based on your child's age at the time of the screening and can help connect families with resources and services when needed.

To register your child for an Early Childhood Screening, visit [Becker.Arux.App](#). Please contact the Early Education office if you have questions.

Planned Early Out Days

A few times throughout the school year, the district schedules planned Early Out days. Please refer to the school calendar for specific dates. The procedures for these planned Early Out days will follow the same schedule as emergency early release days (see below).

Emergency Related Delays, Early Releases or Closings

In the event of inclement weather or other emergency situations deemed unsafe by the district, Early Education will follow district decisions:

Late Start

- All morning ECFE, Small Wonders, and Pre-K classes will be canceled
- All-day Pre-K classes will begin at the same time as the rest of the district

Early Release

- No afternoon or evening ECFE, Small Wonders, or Pre-K classes
- All-day Pre-K students will be dismissed at the same time as the rest of the district

School Closed for the Day

- All Early Education classes will be canceled

Communication regarding emergency delays/early releases/closings

- District website
- Social media (Facebook)
- Student Information System (Skyward)

E-Learning Days

- Your child's teacher will provide information in the event of an E-Learning Day

Families should have a plan in place for childcare if/when emergency situations arise.

Clothing & Outdoor Play

We kindly ask that children come to school dressed in comfortable, durable, kid-friendly clothing. Many classroom activities involve paint, sensory play, outdoor exploration, and other activities that may result in messy clothes. Tennis shoes or other closed-toe shoes are strongly recommended to help ensure safe movement in the classroom, gym, and on the playground.

We value the many benefits of outdoor play and go outside regularly when weather permits. Please make sure your child comes to school each day with appropriate clothing for Minnesota weather conditions, including coats, hats, mittens/gloves, snow pants, and boots when needed.

School Supplies

A school supply list will be provided to families prior to the start of each school year. In addition to the items listed, every child must have a full-size backpack with straps and a zipper closure. The backpack should be large enough to hold a school folder, books, artwork, and other classroom projects that may be sent home.

Please clearly label your child's backpack with their name and send it with them each day they attend school. Families are encouraged to check backpacks and folders daily for important communications, completed work, and other school-related materials.

Camp Opportunity

Camp Opportunity is an extension of our Pre-K preschool program that provides before- and/or after-preschool childcare for enrolled Pre-K students. Conveniently located just down the hall from our Pre-K classrooms, Camp Opportunity helps make transitions between programs

smooth and comfortable for children. For more information about Camp Opp call 763-261-6600 or email campopp@isd726.org

Early Childhood Advisory Council

The Early Childhood Advisory Council is made up of parents, staff members, and community representatives who work together to support Becker Early Education programs.

The council meets three times each school year—typically in the fall, winter, and spring—to provide guidance, feedback, and recommendations that help ensure programs continue to meet the needs of young children and families in our community. The council promotes collaboration between families, staff, and community members while supporting high-quality early learning and family engagement opportunities.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested in serving on the council, please contact the Early Education office at 763-261-4050 or email ecfe@isd726.org.

Policies and Procedures

Eligibility

ECFE is open to children ages birth to 5 and their parent(s)/caregiver(s). Small Wonders is open to children who are age 3 by September 1 of the current school year, and Pre-K is open to children who are age 4 by September 1 of the current school year.

All children enrolled in Early Education programs are required to have current immunizations on file or a completed, notarized exemption form submitted to the school. Children enrolled in Small Wonders or Pre-K are also required to participate in Early Childhood Screening. Screening must be completed prior to or within 90 days of starting the program. Please contact us if you have questions about these requirements or if your child has not yet completed screening.

Tuition Payments

The programs and classes offered through Becker Early Education require payment of tuition and fees. Tuition helps support:

- Licensed Early Childhood Educators
- Classroom materials and curriculum
- Safe and engaging learning environments
- Program operations and resources

Tuition for Small Wonders and Pre-K is billed monthly from September through May. Payments are processed through Arux, our online registration system, and are automatically withdrawn on the 15th of each month. Families also have the option to pay their annual tuition balance in full at any time during the school year.

Fees for ECFE classes are due at the time of registration for each session.

Tuition will not be prorated for missed school days, including absences due to illness, family vacations, or weather-related school closures.

A \$25 late fee will be assessed for payments not received by the 25th of each month. Families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact the Early Education office as soon as possible to discuss available options.

We offer a sliding fee scale for families who qualify. Families may also apply for a scholarship through [Milestones](#). For more information please contact the Early Education office. 763-261-4050 ecfe@isd726.org

Delinquent Accounts

Accounts that remain delinquent may result in changes to a child's enrollment schedule. For example, a child enrolled in a five-day program may be moved to a reduced-schedule class until payment arrangements have been established.

Any unpaid balances remaining at the end of the school year will be submitted to collections. Accounts referred to collections may require administrative approval for future registrations and will be required to enroll in automatic payments.

Arrival/Dismissal/Authorized Pick Ups

Student Drop-Off Procedures

To ensure a safe and smooth start to the school day, please follow the drop-off procedures outlined below:

- **Small Wonders students** should be accompanied by their caregiver and meet their teacher at Door #1.
- **Pre-K students** should arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before the start of class and should be dropped off at Door #2.

Specific details regarding arrival, dismissal, parking, and traffic flow procedures will be reviewed during your child's Meet 'n Greet or pre-conference prior to the start of the school year.

If your child will be arriving late to school, please notify your child's teacher or contact the Early Education office. Children arriving after the start of class should be brought to the Early Education office, where a staff member will assist them in getting to their classroom.

Student Pick-Up Procedures

For the safety of all children, students may only be picked up by a parent, legal guardian, emergency contact, or an individual listed as an authorized pick-up person in our records.

If there is a change to your child's usual pick-up arrangements, written notification from a parent or guardian is required. Staff may request identification from any individual they do not recognize before releasing a child.

Please ensure that emergency contacts and authorized pick-up information remain current throughout the school year.

Transportation

Transportation is available for Pre-K students only and follows district transportation guidelines. Students may qualify for transportation if they live within district boundaries or at designated bus stops. Small Wonders students are not eligible for district transportation unless transportation is required as part of a qualifying IEP. Families of Small Wonders students are responsible for drop-off and pick-up before and after school each day.

- Morning Pre-K students may ride the bus to school but must be picked up at dismissal.
- Afternoon and all-day Pre-K students may qualify for round-trip transportation.
- There is no bus transportation to Camp Opportunity on non-school days or on days when there is no Pre-K programming. Families are responsible for transportation arrangements on those days.

Bus Routes & Dismissal Changes

Students may ride only the bus route to which they are assigned. If a child is visiting someone on another bus route, parents/guardians must provide transportation. If your child has a change in dismissal plans (being picked up, alternate pickup person, etc.), the school must receive either a written note or a phone call from a parent/caregiver. If notification is not received, your child will be sent home according to their usual transportation plan.

Rules for Bus Riders

Because the school bus is considered an extension of the classroom, all school behavior expectations and district policies apply while students are riding the bus.

Students are expected to:

1. Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled stop time listed in E-Link.

2. Remain seated while the bus is moving.
3. Keep hands, feet, and belongings to themselves and keep aisles clear.
4. Use appropriate language and gestures at all times.
5. Maintain a reasonable noise level so the driver can safely hear surrounding traffic.
6. Keep all body parts and objects inside the bus.
7. Help keep the bus clean and free of garbage or gum.
8. Avoid bringing unsafe or disruptive items onto the bus.
9. Follow all directions given by the bus driver.
10. Refrain from eating or drinking on the bus, with the exception of water.
11. Use their Z-Pass when getting on and off the bus.

Bus Conduct Consequences

Failure to follow bus safety expectations may result in one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning from the driver
- Assigned seating on the bus
- Parent contact from the driver and/or administration
- Bus misconduct referral which may result in:
 - Student/administrator conference
 - Parent/student/administrator conference
 - School disciplinary action
 - Suspension of transportation privileges
 - Recommendation to the School Board for permanent removal from transportation services

For student safety and liability reasons, students are not permitted to leave school grounds after arriving at school and may only get off the bus at the school they attend.

Health Policy

Early Education follows the health and exclusion guidelines established by Becker Public Schools:

Children should stay home from school for the following reasons:

- **Temperature of 100 degrees or higher in the past 24 hours (must be fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school)**
- **Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours (must be 24 hours since last episode before returning to school)**
- **Severe cough**
- **Sore throat or other signs of acute illness**
- **Suspicious skin conditions/undiagnosed rash (or other conditions resulting in discharge or drainage)**

If placed on antibiotics, a child must be on the antibiotics for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Please know that when a child is not feeling well, teachers and staff monitor them for a period of time before taking further action. We look for patterns of symptoms and changes in behavior, and when appropriate, a temperature is taken using school equipment.

Our goal is always to keep children at school when they are well enough to participate comfortably and safely. However, when symptoms meet district guidelines, we are required to follow protocol to help prevent the spread of illness and protect all students and staff.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together to keep our classrooms healthy.

Allergies and Medications

If your child has any food or environmental allergies please note it during the registration process. If your child has an EPI PEN or other medication needs, please contact the district nurse prior to beginning preschool to set up a health action plan.

Immunizations

In Minnesota, children ages 3 months and older are required to have up-to-date immunizations before enrolling in early childhood programs, **OR** a notarized exemption form must be submitted to the school. Immunization records **or** a completed exemption form must be uploaded to your child's Arux account during registration. You can obtain a copy of your child's immunization record from your clinic, through MyChart, or by using the "[Find My Immunization Record](#)" tool.

Immunization Exemptions

A child may be exempt from immunization requirements if:

- They have a medical contraindication or laboratory evidence of immunity, or
- Immunizations are contrary to the conscientiously held beliefs of the parent or guardian

If your child requires an exemption, please print and complete the [Immunization Exemption Form](#). This form must be signed and notarized before submission.

First Aid and Emergencies

First Aid

Staff will administer basic first aid for all minor injuries. All other treatments will be handled by the Primary School Nurse.

Emergency Drills

Becker Early Education will have periodic emergency and safety drills with students throughout the school year, in accordance with State Law. We understand that students may have questions or concerns during safety drills. Staff will do their best to help children remain calm, safe, and reassured while explaining the process in an age-appropriate manner.

Emergency Plan

Becker Public Schools has an emergency response and evacuation plan in the event of a nuclear accident or terrorist event. Parents are urged to get information from the radio or TV. Do not call or come to the school, as these actions will put children at risk by clogging communication lines as well as blocking escape routes.

Potassium Iodide (KI) Administration

Because our community is located within the Emergency Planning Zone that surrounds the nuclear power plant in Monticello, Homeland Security Emergency Management has worked with our school district to prepare for emergency situations. One safety measure that has been implemented is the administration of KI (potassium iodide) in the event of a nuclear incident. If Public Health officials notify the district that it is appropriate to administer KI, the School Nurse (and designees) will administer KI to those students who have parental consent to take KI.

Attendance and Absences

In the event your child will be absent from school please call the Early Education office and indicate the reason for the absence. If a student is absent and a parent/caregiver does not call, we will reach out to the parent(s)/caregiver(s) to verify the child's location.

Confidentiality and Data Privacy

Becker Early Education is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of student and family information. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and applicable Minnesota laws, educational records and personally identifiable information are maintained securely and are accessible only to authorized individuals with a legitimate educational interest.

Information about students, including academic, behavioral, health, and program participation records, will not be disclosed without parent/guardian consent except as permitted or required by law. School staff are expected to safeguard student information at all times.

Parents and guardians have the right to review their child's educational records and may contact the Early Education Coordinator with questions regarding student records, privacy rights, or data practices.

Nutrition, Snacks & Celebrations

Children attending Early Education classes will receive a daily snack and milk while at school. From time to time, teachers may request healthy snack donations for the classroom. A list of approved snack donation ideas is included on the back of your child's school supply list and is also available on our website.

To help ensure student safety, all donated food items must be store bought and in their original, unopened packaging. Fresh produce donations are welcome and will be washed and prepared at school. Please be sure to inform your child's teacher of any food allergies or dietary concerns.

Lunch Information

Pre-K students enrolled in all-day classes will eat lunch in the Primary School cafeteria. Early Education follows the Primary School lunch menu, and school lunch is provided free of charge.

Students are also welcome to bring a lunch from home. Please make sure your child's lunchbox is clearly labeled with their first and last name on the outside of the lunchbox. Students who bring a lunch from home may purchase milk at school, if desired. Please note that milk is also provided during daily snack time.

Classroom Treats & Allergies

Due to the increasing number of food allergies and dietary restrictions among students, we ask that families do not send edible treats to school. Non-food items such as stickers, pencils, bookmarks, or small toys are welcome alternatives. If you would like to recognize your child's birthday or another special occasion, please contact your child's teacher in advance to discuss appropriate options.

Birthday Celebrations

To help minimize distractions during the school day, birthday celebrations should take place outside of school hours. Flowers, balloons, and similar items will not be delivered to classrooms. Due to limited space, students should not bring overnight items or large personal items to school.

Toileting

Toileting is a developmental process, and we understand that children learn at different stages. Small Wonders students do not need to be fully potty trained; however, they must be in the process of learning.

Children should be able to participate in their own care by attempting to clean up after an accident. While staff will always provide support, children are expected to have some basic

self-help skills.

If your child is experiencing frequent accidents, a two day Small Wonders class or an ECFE class may be a better fit while they continue developing their toileting skills.

Students with IEPs are not required to be potty trained to attend preschool. If your child has an IEP and you have concerns about toileting, please reach out to the special education team for additional support.

Please note: Toileting expectations for Camp Opportunity may differ from those in Early Education. Please contact Camp Opportunity directly with any questions.

Guidance and Discipline

Students attending Becker Early Education programs are encouraged to do their “Bulldog Best” each day. A key part of early childhood is learning how to interact with others, enjoy being part of a group, and follow the guidance of teachers, parents, and other trusted adults.

When children are still developing these skills, staff use positive behavior guidance to support them. Our goal is to teach and model appropriate behaviors while helping children build self-regulation and problem-solving skills.

When a child needs support, staff may:

- Redirect the child to a different activity or offer choices
- Model and teach expected behaviors (e.g., using kind words, taking turns)
- Acknowledge feelings and help children express emotions appropriately
- Provide reminders of classroom expectations
- Offer a break or quiet space to help the child reset
- Collaborate with families if additional support is needed

We believe that behavior is a form of communication, and we work with children in a supportive and respectful way to help them succeed in the classroom environment.

Photographs and Video Recordings

Throughout the school year, children may be photographed or recorded during classroom activities, special events, and school programs. These images and recordings may be used for educational purposes, classroom displays, student projects, Seesaw communication, district publications, social media, websites, and other materials used to highlight and promote Becker Early Education programs.

Families will be asked to complete a photo and video release form prior to the start of the school year. Parents or guardians may update or change their consent preferences at any time by notifying their child's teacher or the Early Education office.

School Security

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. To maintain a secure learning environment, all school buildings remain locked during school hours.

Visitors and volunteers should use the call button located near the main office entrance and wait for assistance from office staff. You will be asked to provide your name and the purpose of your visit before being granted access to the building.

All visitors and volunteers are required to:

- Sign in at the front office upon arrival.
- Wear the visitor badge provided by the office while in the building.
- Sign out at the front office when leaving.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for all children.

Mandated Reporting

Minnesota law requires all school employees to report suspected child abuse or neglect. School staff are trained to recognize and respond to situations that may place a child at risk. If you have concerns regarding the safety or well-being of a child, please contact your child's teacher or the Early Education Coordinator. We will assist you in accessing appropriate resources and support services.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Becker Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

Handbook Acknowledgement

Families will be asked to acknowledge that they have received and reviewed the Becker Early Education Parent Handbook.