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[HTTP://WWW.MONTESCHOOLS.ORG/BEACON-ELEMENTARY](http://www.monteschools.org/beacon-elementary) BARBARA D. PAGE, PRINCIPAL

Beacon Elementary School serves students in preschool through second grade. Full-day kindergarten is offered for students who are five years of age prior to September 1st of the current school year. Beacon staff members hope to meet the needs of all young children in a safe and nurturing environment as they embark on this educational journey.

The kindergarten staff strives to serve the diverse needs of all enrolling students. The broad-based kindergarten program supports students developing social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills. Staff members balance the needs of providing a developmentally appropriate curriculum with demanding academic requirements in reading, writing, mathematics, and science.

The school year begins with parents and students meeting with the kindergarten teachers. This family connection meeting provides an opportunity to individually discuss each child's strengths and needs so that families and teachers can work together to help children be successful in school. The family connection is the initial phase of the required Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS). This skill screening process serves as the foundational guide to measure student progress in a variety of areas throughout the year.

In recent years, the kindergarten curriculum has become much more academically challenging than it has been in the past. Kindergarten students are introduced to reading through the *Superkids* reading program, which is the basis of the English and language arts program through second grade. *Ready Classroom Mathematics* serves as the instructional program in mathematics.

In addition to the primary academic program, teachers also work with the children to develop skills which will help them be successful students and learners in the school community. Students need to develop social abilities such as patience and empathy. Students need to persevere through activities which initially may not be easy. Learning fine motor skills, including cutting, coloring, writing, and keyboarding, are also a significant part of the foundation for later learning. Play opportunities, music, and physical education are also an important part of a comprehensive primary program.

The staff at Beacon Elementary would like to welcome all parents and students. We look forward to partnering with you to ensure your child has everything needed for a successful start to their educational career.