

Extended FAQs

Griffin Bay School is part of the **San Juan Island School District in San Juan County, WA.**

Please note, this is not the Griffin School District (which is located in Thurston County).

Below are some frequently asked questions about Griffin Bay School, based on common inquiries from counselors, families, and prospective students.

Is Griffin Bay School 100% remote?

Yes, Griffin Bay School offers flexible learning options and the ability for students to work at their own pace.

Students can access coursework online through platforms like Edgenuity and engage in live check-ins with teachers for support and guidance.

For multi-district students and families, Griffin Bay is fully remote, allowing them to complete coursework entirely online.

For students and families in San Juan County, we offer the flexibility to choose from 100% remote learning, site-based learning plans, or regular in-person attendance, with options for attending daily or for at least one block of time per week.

Is there a minimum number of hours students need to log in each week?

While there is no strict weekly login requirement, students are expected to actively engage with their coursework.

For certain courses, such as fitness or health, there may be specific activity or log requirements. For example, students are encouraged to log at least 300 minutes of physical activity per week to meet fitness goals.

For academic progress, students are expected to maintain consistent attendance and submit assignments on time to stay on track.

Do you have any accommodations for Multilingual Learners or IEP (Individualized Education Program) students?

Yes, Griffin Bay School provides accommodations for Multilingual Learners (ML) and students with IEPs and 504s. Teachers work closely with these students to provide the necessary support, which may include modified assignments, additional time for completing tasks, or resources in other languages. Specific accommodations are made based on the individual needs outlined in each student's IEP, 504, or language plan.

Students who have an IEP must first meet with the District Special Services Director, Dr. Becky Bell, for enrollment. Dr. Bell's contact information is beckybell@sjisd.org or call (360) 370-7911.

For a student who is credit deficient, how quickly do you think they could complete credits (e.g., 1 credit/month)?

The pace at which a student can complete credits at Griffin Bay School varies based on individual needs and progress. However, students who are credit deficient and show commitment to their coursework often have the ability to accelerate their learning. Typically, it's possible for a motivated student to complete around 0.5 - 0.75 credit per month, depending on the course load and their ability to stay on top of assignments.

Is an Alternative Learning Experience Right for Your Child?

Education looks different for every family. Some prioritize preparing their students for college or trade school, while others focus on career readiness, building social skills, or fostering active participation in civic life.. At Griffin Bay School, our dedicated educators are passionate about tailoring alternative learning experiences to meet these diverse goals. We're proud to support families across Washington state with flexible, personalized education options designed to help every student thrive.

What is Griffin Bay School? Is it part of the San Juan Island School District?

Griffin Bay School is a public school within the San Juan Island School District, located in Washington state. Please note, this is NOT the Griffin School District located in Thurston County.

While many people may be familiar with Friday Harbor Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, Griffin Bay School stands out as a unique educational option offering flexibility and personalized learning.

At Griffin Bay, we provide a full range of public school courses, curriculums, and student support services. Our dedicated team focuses on building strong connections with both students and parents, collaborating to create innovative, tailored educational programs. Whether through flexible learning methods, adaptable schedules, or individualized attention, our goal is to make a meaningful, positive impact in every student's life.

What is ALE, and How Does It Define Griffin Bay School's Programs?

ALE stands for "Alternative Learning Experience," a flexible approach to education where *some or all* instruction takes place outside the traditional classroom setting.

At Griffin Bay School, our ALE programs are designed to meet the diverse needs of students by offering personalized learning plans, flexible schedules, and a variety of instructional methods. Whether students learn entirely online, attend in-person sessions, or combine the two, Griffin Bay provides a supportive environment where they can thrive outside the constraints of a traditional school schedule.

This innovative model empowers students to take control of their education while still receiving the structure, resources, and guidance they need to succeed.

Who Can Enroll at Griffin Bay School?

Griffin Bay School welcomes a diverse range of students who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- **Residency** | Students must either reside on San Juan Island or complete a Choice Transfer from another district to join our Multidistrict program.
- **Age** | Students must be between the ages of 5 and 21 and not yet have received a high school diploma from any institution.
- **Commitment** | Students must commit to at least one semester of enrollment.
- **Independence** | Students must be willing to work independently and participate in weekly check-ins with their teacher.

As a public school, Griffin Bay provides the curriculum and instruction through both online resources and direct support from teachers. Parents and students play an important role in the learning process, but the primary instruction is provided by the teachers, parents, and the online curriculum. When creating an individualized learning plan, students and families can discuss the curriculum options available to best meet the student's needs.

How is Griffin Bay School Different from Traditional Elementary, Middle School, and High School Programs?

Griffin Bay School offers several flexible, alternative pathways to traditional public school education, providing personalized options for students at all grade levels:

1. **Full Remote Enrollment** In this option, students complete courses entirely from their own location. They check in weekly with a lead teacher to monitor progress. Griffin Bay provides curriculum at no additional cost, either through online academy courses, materials checkout, or independent learning opportunities. Students must maintain regular weekly check-ins with their teacher to track their growth and coursework completion.

2. **Partial Remote Enrollment** For families who want a combination of remote and in-person learning, Griffin Bay offers a flexible partial enrollment option. Students can enroll remotely for 60% or more of their courses, while spending up to 40% of their time in another school or homeschool setting. For example, a K-8 student might choose to homeschool in one subject area while enrolling in Griffin Bay for the rest of their courses.
3. **Credit Recovery** For high school students who need to recover credits or retake courses they weren't able to complete, Griffin Bay offers a solution. Students can retake courses online or through an assigned academy. If enrolled in another school within the district (such as FHHS, FHMS, or FHES), students can discuss with their counselor whether they can participate in remote or on-campus courses to fulfill credit requirements.
4. **Multidistrict Remote Program** Griffin Bay School also offers a fully remote program for students throughout Washington state. This option is available to students who live outside of San Juan County. For more information, please contact us via phone (360) 298-6025, call (360) 378-3292, or email conniedomenech@sjisd.org.

At Griffin Bay School, we provide a flexible, personalized approach to education, allowing students to select the best path for their academic and personal needs.

What is Remote Learning? Is There a Griffin Bay Remote Learning Option?

Remote learning allows students to complete their coursework entirely online, often requiring families to transfer their child to a different district in another community, while still maintaining their residence in the original district. In these programs, student support funding typically follows the student to the new district.

Griffin Bay School offers a remote learning option through our full remote enrollment program. This allows students to access online curriculum while keeping funding local to San Juan County. Students enrolled in this program receive personalized support from teachers and mentors here on San Juan Island, ensuring a more connected and community-driven learning experience.

What is the Difference Between the Griffin Bay Online Program and Remote Learning?

Remote learning refers to how and where instruction and coursework are completed. For primary (K-3) and intermediate (grades 4-8) students, this could involve either a traditional paper-and-pencil curriculum sent to them or an online program. For multi-district students, an online curriculum is the only option. These students complete their work remotely, with weekly check-ins from a certified staff member to monitor progress.

The online program is the actual curriculum that can be accessed remotely, on campus, or a combination of both. Currently, Griffin Bay secondary students (grades 7-12) are primarily enrolled in the online program, with some exceptions made during the educational planning process for each student. This allows for flexibility and customization based on individual needs and preferences.

Does Griffin Bay School Offer Support for Students Who Are Homeschooled?

Homeschooling, or "Home-based Instruction," is different from remote learning and online learning. In a homeschool setting, a parent or guardian assumes full responsibility for the student's education, without direction or support from the public school system.

That being said, Griffin Bay School offers support for homeschool families through part-time enrollment options for classes that align with the needs of homeschooling families. This allows students to access public school resources while continuing their home-based education.

As defined by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Washington state law recognizes the right of families to provide home-based instruction. Parents choosing homeschooling must file an annual declaration of intent with the superintendent of the district where they reside, or with a nonresident public school district that accepts the transfer.

For more information, you can refer to the OSPI guidelines here: [Home-based Instruction](#).

What Options Does Griffin Bay School Have for Students in Grades K - 3?

For primary students (K-3), Griffin Bay School offers a flexible educational plan tailored to each student's needs. Families work with a certified teacher to develop a personalized learning plan, and students have weekly check-ins with that teacher to monitor progress. All required curriculum - whether traditional or online - is provided to guide the instruction.

Unlike traditional classroom-based programs, this option allows families to decide when and how their child completes their schoolwork. There is no rigid daily schedule, apart from the required weekly check-ins with the certified teacher. Parents play an active role in guiding and supporting their child's learning journey.

What Options Does Griffin Bay School Have for Students in Grades 4 - 8?

Intermediate students (grades 4-8) at Griffin Bay School benefit from a flexible, personalized educational experience. Families work with a certified teacher to create an individualized learning plan, have weekly contact with the teacher to monitor progress, and are provided with all necessary curriculum - whether traditional or online.

As students progress into middle school, more of the instruction transitions to online learning, fostering increased independence. Unlike traditional school schedules, families have the flexibility to decide when their child completes the work, with the exception of required weekly check-ins with the certified teacher. Parents continue to play an active role in supporting their child's education.

Additionally, students have the option for partial enrollment. For example, a student can take core classes at Griffin Bay School (either remotely or on-site) while attending Friday Harbor Middle School for electives like band, art, or physical education. This hybrid approach allows families to customize their student's education to fit their needs and interests.

What options does Griffin Bay School have for high school students?

Griffin Bay School offers high school students (grades 9-12) a flexible and supportive learning environment designed to meet diverse needs and goals. Students primarily complete their coursework online, but options for on-site or partially on-site learning are available, based on the educational plan developed with their teacher.

The curriculum includes a wide range of courses, such as standard academic classes, career and technical education (CTE) opportunities, and honors options. Each completed course earns credits, helping students stay on track for graduation.

High school students at Griffin Bay also receive personalized college admission guidance and work on developing a comprehensive High School and Beyond Plan. The program's goal is to prepare every student for their next steps, whether that's attending college, entering the workforce, or pursuing other post-graduation opportunities. In short, Griffin Bay School equips its graduates to be college- and career-ready.

If I Choose Remote Learning for My Child, How Will They Get Curriculum Materials and Work Packets?

Access to materials is determined during the educational plan development with your certified teacher. Physical curriculum materials can be mailed to your home or picked up at Griffin Bay School. If the curriculum is electronic, it may be emailed to you or you will be provided access codes for online programs. This ensures that all students have the resources they need to succeed in their learning environment.

How Much Time Would Be Spent Online? What Does a Daily Schedule Look Like? How Often Will Assignments Be Due?

There isn't a one-size-fits-all answer to these questions. The educational plan developed collaboratively by the parents, student, and certified teacher will determine the method of delivery and scheduling. The State expects that students engage in 27.5 hours of educational activities per week, but how and when that work is completed depends on the flexible plan created during the initial meeting.

How Often Does the Student and Teacher Meet? For How Long? Where Does the Meeting Occur? Is It Appointment-Based? Individual or Group?

Students and families will meet with their certified teacher weekly for progress monitoring and coaching. These meetings are scheduled and typically one-on-one with the student. The length of the meeting is decided during the initial planning meeting. For remote students, the meetings can occur via email, phone, or Zoom. Alternatively, they can take place face-to-face at Griffin Bay School. The specific format and location are decided in collaboration with the family during the planning process.

What Does the Online Program Look Like?

The online program at Griffin Bay School varies depending on the student's grade level and needs:

For Primary Students (K-3):

Younger students in a fully online program are typically connected to a "grade-level suite." This means they are provided access to core subjects such as reading, math, science, and social studies, with guided instruction designed to meet their developmental and academic needs.

For Intermediate Students (Grades 4-8):

Intermediate students have the option to follow a similar plan to primary students, but with added flexibility. They can create a personalized plan that includes partial online programs. For example, a student might take math as an online course while completing other subjects through a more traditional or hands-on approach.

For High School Students (Grades 9-12):

For high school students, online opportunities are tailored to meet graduation requirements. The courses offered include core subjects, career and technical education (CTE), and honors options. The focus is on aligning the curriculum with the student's goals, whether they are college-bound or pursuing a specific career path.

The program allows flexibility in delivery - students can complete courses fully online, partially online, or in combination with on-site classes, depending on the plan developed with their certified teacher.

What Will the Classroom-Based Program Look Like?

Classroom-based courses at Griffin Bay School for grades 9-12 serve two main purposes:

- 1. For Full-Time Griffin Bay Students** Students who are fully enrolled in Griffin Bay School may choose to complete their coursework—whether online or traditional—on-site at the Griffin Bay building. These students work independently but receive consistent guidance and coaching from staff to help them stay on track and succeed.
- 2. For Part-Time Elementary/Middle/High School Students** San Juan County students may also take courses at Griffin Bay when they need to retake a course or when their schedule cannot accommodate a required class. These students take online courses on-site at Griffin Bay to ensure they can continue progressing toward graduation.

Is There a Griffin Bay School Building? Where Is It?

Yes, Griffin Bay School has a dedicated building located in the open area between Turnbull Gym and the tennis courts on the high school campus. This building, previously the Head Start facility on Grover Street (behind the elementary school), has been refurbished, remodeled, and retrofitted specifically for Griffin Bay School students and staff, serving grades K-12.

Will Students of All Ages and Grade Levels Commingle in the Griffin Bay School Building?

Elementary-aged students (through 5th grade) will primarily complete their work remotely. However, plans are in place to establish a separate wing within the Griffin Bay building specifically for younger students and their families. This dedicated space will include study pods, allowing families to meet and receive in-person guidance and support, while ensuring that younger students remain in a designated area apart from older students.

I'm Interested! How Do I Get More Information on How to Enroll?

To learn more and begin the enrollment process, visit the Griffin Bay website and click on the "[How to Enroll](#)" tab. You will find three ways to contact us: by phone, email, or text. Once you reach out, a certified instructor assigned to your child's grade level will contact you to discuss the program in detail. If it feels like the right fit for your family, you will be guided to meet with our registrar to complete the admission process. A starter packet for your child will be sent to you, and a meeting to develop the educational plan will be scheduled.

Any extra information about Griffin Bay School?

Griffin Bay School offers personalized learning plans for each student, providing flexibility for those who need to catch up on credits or who prefer to learn at their own pace. In addition to academic courses, students can earn credits through Workplace Experience, Independent PE, and project-based learning options. There's also a focus on real-world

application through career exploration and skills development. The school aims to provide a supportive environment where students can succeed at their own pace and with the accommodations they need to thrive.