



# Bertschi School

Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade

“At Bertschi I learned  
how to love learning.”

Jessica, class of 1979



## We are Bertschi School,

an independent elementary school committed to providing children a balanced education that nurtures their intellect, imagination and character through an environment that is compassionate and inspiring.

While here, our students grow in their enthusiasm for learning. They gain independence, confidence and competence with each year. Upon graduation, they are self-assured and skilled in their work, broad-minded in their thinking and prepared both academically and socially for the challenges of secondary education.

With the support of an active community of educators and families, children pursue an integrated, innovative curriculum. Core academics are linked with the arts, science and technology as well as social and environmental responsibility.

Here at Bertschi School, children embark on a life-long adventure in learning.



# Not just a school, a community

## Bertschi Highlights

**1975**

Bertschi School is founded in the basement of Lowell Elementary School on Capitol Hill and moves to its present location on 10th Avenue a year later.

**1985**

A major revision of the Curriculum Guide is completed, integrating all disciplines—arts, science, PE, library and core academic subjects—for grades PreK through 5.

**1991**

Bertschi's Board of Trustees approves the first strategic plan, setting a clear direction for Bertschi's future as a premier elementary school.

**2007**

The Bertschi Center, a LEED-certified building, opens with classrooms for music and visual arts, and a gym for PE and community gatherings.



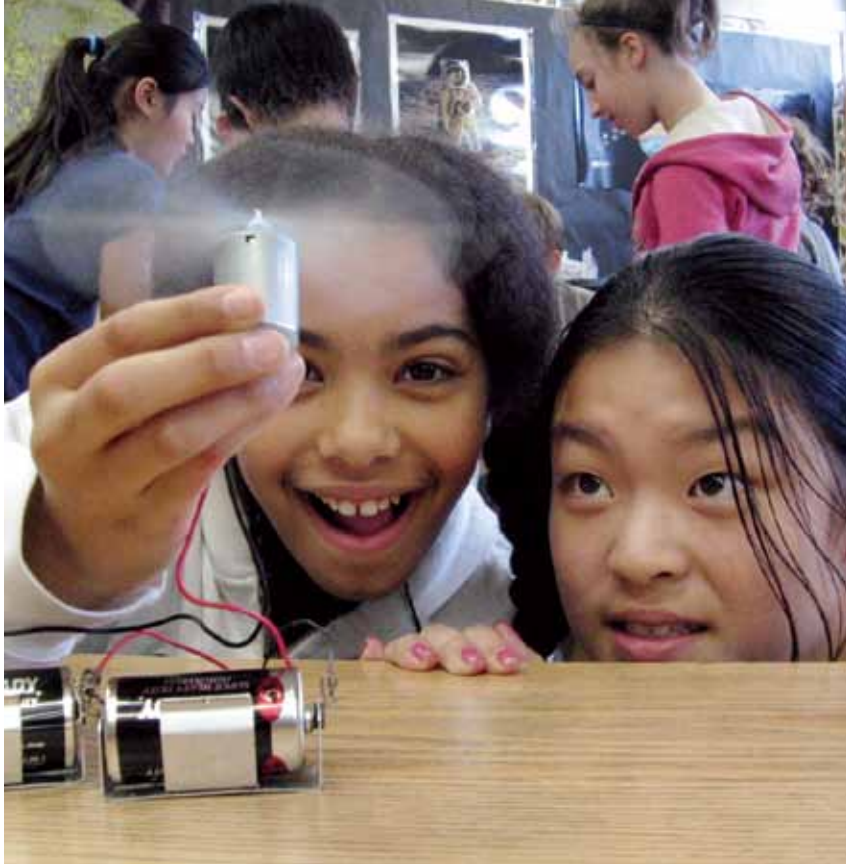
Our school was founded in 1975 by Brigitte Bertschi with the vision of a safe and inclusive environment where children discover the joys and challenges of learning.

For over 30 years, we have offered an education that successfully intertwines the intellectual, emotional and social development of a child. We achieve this balance by weaving together discovery and challenge, individual attention and community experience, artistic expression and scientific inquiry, enthusiastic play and quiet reflection.

Starting with one building in 1976, and acquiring adjacent buildings over time, the school now spans an entire block.

Our inviting and inspiring campus has become a peaceful urban oasis. The campus features the Bertschi Center, which affords spacious, light-filled spaces for art, music and physical education activities, as well as a hands-on experience of environmentally sustainable living.

At Bertschi School, students learn to be compassionate, confident and creative individuals who are able and eager to contribute meaningfully to their communities.



# Dedicated to a balanced education

The Bertschi School integrates all aspects of a child's development in an environment that is safe, inclusive and socially responsible. At Bertschi, children discover and explore their unique gifts and are encouraged to bring these gifts into the world.

Our curriculum is academically challenging, interdisciplinary and fun. The foundation of our creative and engaging program is built on the mastery of essential academic skills. The Bertschi faculty works collaboratively to develop insightful and stimulating learning experiences. Projects focus on generating ideas, skills and solutions



across all disciplines so children can explore the dimensions of any given topic from many perspectives. This approach inspires moments of discovery as children make connections and learn to solve problems with invention and creativity.

Bertschi teachers are passionate and inspired, encouraging children to take risks, guiding them through obstacles and championing their individual achievements. Teachers encourage students to think independently while working collaboratively within a supportive classroom. Children benefit from this spirit of cooperation and the attention they receive within small classes. Families benefit from becoming an integral part of a community that is open and welcoming.

Our school is brimming with energy and alive with imagination as children learn to be confident, creative and compassionate individuals ready for middle school and beyond.

## Bertschi Highlights

**Fifth-graders write, produce and perform a full-length show in a professional theater with lighting, sound and choreographed dance.**

**Kindergartners take a Metro bus to spend the day exploring the International District in conjunction with their study of Chinese culture.**

**Students delve into robotics and learn sequential thinking and persistence to program the machines they have constructed.**

**Members of the Student Council lead monthly All School Meetings, featuring student presentations and performances.**



# Cultivating creativity, confidence and compassion

Members of the Bertschi community truly practice what they teach—every day. Students are educated to know who they are, who their fellow students are and the impact and influence they have on their surroundings. These practices are built upon three interdependent values: creativity, confidence and compassion.

All individuals in the Bertschi community are encouraged to think, act and express themselves creatively. The curriculum is infused with projects—from science to art, math to drama—that promote creative and analytical thinking, as well as self-expression.

Staff, teachers, parents and students work together to establish an environment that is inclusive, supportive and respectful so that children feel secure. School-wide behavioral expectations are clearly modeled, supported and celebrated through compliment cards and class trophies. We foster the empathy



and tolerance needed to help children resolve conflict and develop tools for problem solving.

Bertschi School teaches children social and environmental practices that will sustain them for a lifetime as thoughtful members of the global community. We encourage environmental responsibility with programs like Waste-Free Wednesday which encourages parents and students to create waste-free lunches. We are dedicated to sustaining a school culture that is considerate and compassionate.

At Bertschi, children experience—with confidence—the joyful effects of their own contributions to the community as they watch their classmates flourish, their parents beam and their teachers proudly say “I knew you could do it!”

## Bertschi Highlights

Independent research projects, starting as early as first grade, give students the opportunities to probe deeper into their areas of interest.

The Spring Arts Showcase celebrates the arts at Bertschi—every wall, table and shelf displays student art and each grade performs on the school stage.

All students participate in the Student Council and learn that responsible actions foster self-confidence.

The Buddy-Program partners PreK-2 children with upper-class buddies, creating year-long mentoring relationships and leadership across grades.

The Bertschi Center provides unique opportunities for teaching students about the importance of sustainable practices including a rainwater recapture system, visible solar panels and accompanying energy meters.



# Engaging in a global community

Bertschi's longstanding commitment to global education is rooted in the belief that children benefit from an environment where diversity is embraced on all levels. Diverse cultures are explored through year-long, project-based studies investigating origins of families, aspects of community, history and celebrations. Children explore the wider community on field trips that enrich and broaden their understanding of the world and encourage them to become active community members at Bertschi and beyond.

At Bertschi, children, educators and families embrace the principles of mutual respect, tolerance and compassion everyday. Children learn by example and through direct experience of the impact they have on their community, fostering positive self-esteem, security and reliance.

Bertschi students are prepared to actively engage in their future as life-long learners.

## Our Mission

Bertschi School educates children to become compassionate, confident and creative learners in a global community.

## Our Values

Our community values integrity, inclusiveness, respect and a commitment to sustainable practices.



**2227 Tenth Avenue East  
Seattle, Washington 98102**

**Office 206.324.5476  
Admission 206.324.2150  
Fax 206.329.4806  
Email [admit@bertschi.org](mailto:admit@bertschi.org)**

**Visit us! [www.bertschi.org](http://www.bertschi.org)**

*Bertschi School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation or disability.*



2227 Tenth Avenue East  
Seattle, Washington 98102

Office 206 324-5476  
Admission 206 442-6855  
Fax 206 357-0160  
Email [admit@bertschi.org](mailto:admit@bertschi.org)

Visit us! [www.bertschi.org](http://www.bertschi.org)

## Application Checklist

**To submit before the application deadline, January 12, 2012:**

- Completed application form
- Application fee of \$100 (waived for financial aid applicants)

**To complete your child's application:**

- Forward Teacher Evaluation form to current teacher
- Forward Request for Records form (grades 1-5) to current school
- Attend a School Tour (by appointment; required for all applicant families)
- Attend the Open House (recommended)
- Complete a financial aid application if needed

## Financial Assistance Checklist

**Attend the Financial Aid Information Night on January 4, 2012 from 7-8:30. (optional)**

**Submit financial data via the FAST web interface before the financial assistance application deadline, March 2, 2011:**

- Parents' financial details, submitted online to FAST
- Copies of 2011 IRS form 1040 tax return and all associated schedules, submitted to FAST

## For More Information

Our Admission Office and parent ambassadors are happy to answer any questions you might have.

## Admission Timeline

**School Tours begin** October, 2011; scheduling begins early September

**Bertschi School Open House** Nov 10, 2011 7:00–8:30 pm

**Application deadline** Jan 12, 2012

**Financial Assistance Application deadline** February 2, 2012

**Notification letters mailed** March 15, 2012

**Wait pool confirmation due** Mar 23, 2012

**New student contracts due** Mar 26, 2012

## Testing

Bertschi School does not require outside testing. Parents who have additional evaluative information are encouraged to share it with our admission team.

## Age Limits

Applicants to pre-kindergarten must be 4 years old on or before September 1.

Applicants to kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 1. Applicants who are a year older than our chronological age groupings will be assessed with an age appropriate peer group.

## Student Visits

Student visits are scheduled by the Admission office. Pre-k applicants visit in groups of 6-10 for about an hour on a Friday or Saturday morning. Kindergarten applicants visit in groups of 8-12 for about an hour on either Monday afternoon or Saturday morning. Grade 1 applicants visit in a group a about 90 minutes. Applicants to grades 2-5 visit individually for a Wednesday morning or afternoon in their current grade.

Parents of applicants to grades pre-k, k and 1 visit with the Head of School and the Director of Admission during their child's visit. Parents of applicants to grades 2-5 have a similar opportunity on the morning of their child's visit.

## How Admission Decisions are Made

Bertschi's goal is to admit students who are most likely to benefit from the school's curriculum and program, and who, in turn, are best able to contribute positively to the life of the school. Our commitment to diversity and desire to maintain an inclusive community, which includes students and families of all ethnic, economic, religious and racial backgrounds, as well as those of varying physical ability and sexual orientation, is fundamental to Bertschi's philosophy and mission.

When reviewing an applicant's file we consider:

- ~ Language development
- ~ Math and reading readiness
- ~ Small and large motor development
- ~ Behavior and work traits
- ~ Current teacher's evaluation
- ~ Observations during the student's visit
- ~ Parents' understanding and support of Bertschi's mission

We also strive to achieve a gender balance, as well as a diversity of personalities, interests and learning styles.

*Bertschi School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation or disability.*

Applying for grade \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ school year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                      First Name                      Middle                      Preferred Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth                      Sex (M/F)

Have you applied to Bertschi School before?  
 Yes  No

**Ethnic/Racial Background**  
(voluntary for reporting purposes)

Ethnicity (check one):

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check all that apply):

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

## Family Information

**Parents** ~ Do parents live in different households?  Yes  No If yes, please include Parent 2 household information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent/Guardian 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent/Guardian 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State                      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State                      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred E-Mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred E-Mail

## Siblings

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name    Age                      Grade                      School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name    Age                      Grade                      School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name    Age                      Grade                      School

## Applicant's Current School or Program

---

Name of School

Applicant's Current Grade

---

School Address

---

School Phone

School Fax

---

Teacher's Name

Teacher's E-Mail

### Please share the following information with us:

- A current snapshot of your child engaged in an activity he or she enjoys.

#### On a separate sheet of paper, please briefly address the following questions:

1. In a few words, how would you describe your child?
2. What are the most important things you are looking for in a school for your child?
3. What attracts you to Bertschi School?
4. Why do you think Bertschi would be a good fit for your son or daughter?

### Did you attend or do you have any relatives who attended Bertschi School?

---

Name

Relationship

Years Attended

---

Name

Relationship

Years Attended

---

Name

Relationship

Years Attended

This application must be accompanied by a \$100 check made payable to Bertschi School.  
The fee is non-refundable, and is waived for Financial Assistance applicants.

- Check here if you would like to receive Financial Assistance information.

## Signature

---

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

\_\_\_\_\_ is applying to **Bertschi School**. Your responses are important in helping us and will be greatly appreciated by the admission committee. The information on this form is confidential, and will not be shared with parents. Thank you for your time and effort. Please make your comments as detailed as possible. **Please return this form to Bertschi School by the end of January.**

Teacher's Name	Phone	E-Mail
	M T W Th F full day/part day	
School or Program	Child Attends	How long has this child been in your program?

In your opinion, will this child be ready for a full-day pre-kindergarten program next fall? Please comment.

If we need additional information, may we contact you? **Y N** Best hours and contact method:

<b>Language</b>	<i>rarely</i>	<i>occasionally</i>	<i>usually</i>	<i>almost always</i>	<b>Please share an example or comment:</b>
Has clear, understandable speech					
Demonstrates imaginative use of language					

<b>Mathematics</b>	<i>rarely</i>	<i>occasionally</i>	<i>usually</i>	<i>almost always</i>	<b>Please share an example or comment:</b>
Applies math concepts in play (sorting, counting, building)					
Demonstrates skill with puzzles and mazes					

<b>Work Traits</b>	<i>rarely</i>	<i>occasionally</i>	<i>usually</i>	<i>almost always</i>	<b>Please share an example or comment:</b>
Demonstrates developing independent work habits					
Sustains attention and focus during work time					
Initiates activity					
Uses self-help skills (asks for help, gets own supplies)					

<b>Motor Skills</b>	<i>rarely</i>	<i>occasionally</i>	<i>usually</i>	<i>almost always</i>	<b>Please share an example or comment:</b>
Demonstrates age-appropriate gross motor skills					
Demonstrates age-appropriate fine motor skills					

<b>Attitude and Behavior</b>	<i>rarely</i>	<i>occasionally</i>	<i>usually</i>	<i>almost always</i>	Comments:
Displays confidence and positive self image					
Cooperates and participates in work and play					
Accepts responsibility for behavior					
Respects rights and feelings of others					
Observes class and school expectations					
Is developing negotiation and compromise strategies					
Shows self control					
Makes transitions from one activity to another					

**Social and Emotional**

Peer relationships	<i>relates poorly to peers</i>	<i>has satisfactory relationships</i>	<i>has occasional problems with peers</i>	<i>enjoys good relationships</i>	Comments:
Leadership	<i>exhibits poor skills</i>	<i>exhibits average skills</i>	<i>exhibits good skills</i>	<i>exhibits excellent skills</i>	
Emotional maturity	<i>is very immature</i>	<i>is somewhat immature</i>	<i>is of average maturity</i>	<i>is very mature</i>	
Self esteem	<i>has a poor self-image</i>	<i>needs some support</i>	<i>seems overly confident</i>	<i>has a healthy self-image</i>	
Relationship with adults	<i>is uncomfortable</i>	<i>is dependent</i>	<i>is uneasy</i>	<i>is comfortable</i>	
Group Skills	<i>attention seeking</i>	<i>observes</i>	<i>tries to control</i>	<i>takes the lead</i>	<i>participates cooperatively</i>

What do you see as the special strengths of this child?

Does this child have any areas of concern? (social, emotional, academic, etc.) Please specify.

Are the child's parents supportive of your school and its programs? **Y N** Comments:

Has this child had any discipline/behavior issues? **Y N** Comments:

Please rate this child's level of toileting independence:

<i>inconsistent, or requires structured bathroom visit times and staff assistance</i>	<i>somewhat consistent, requires structured bathroom times and some staff assistance</i>	<i>consistent, requires some staff assistance</i>	<i>consistent and usually requires no staff assistance</i>	<i>completely consistent and requires no assistance</i>
---	--	---	--	---

Signed

Date