G. Bush Middle School Student Handbook 2023-2024



Principal Elliott Hedin

Assistant Principal

Shawn Guthrie

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Student Rights

Contact Information

Bush Middle School 2120 83rd Avenue SW Tumwater, WA 98512 Main Office: (360) 709-7400

Fax: (360) 709-7402

Attendance Line: (360) 709-7412 TSD Safety Tip Line: (360) 709-7998

Website: https://www.tumwater.k12.wa.us/Domain/10
Skyward Family Access: https://eaplus.tumwater.wa-k12.net/

Mission Statement

Bush Middle School is a learning environment where students, staff, and families work together as a community to help students achieve their highest potential. Like every school in the Tumwater School District, our goal is to provide continuous student learning in a caring, engaging environment. Student learning is central to everything we do at BMS, and our teachers and staff are dedicated to providing educational opportunities that challenge the mind and foster academic growth.

Philosophy of Teaching and Learning

Research shows that positive relationships help students learn. BMS staff works to build positive relationships with students using a variety of skills and strategies, including communicating with understanding and empathy and recognizing students' individual strengths.

At BMS, we teach behavioral expectations with a positive, consistent approach that emphasizes doing the right thing. We hold students to high standards of citizenship, and our goal is to create citizens that are responsible, optimistic, courageous, and kind.

Bush Falcons R.O.C.K.!

Responsible	O ptimistic	Courageous	K ind
Be accountable for one's own actions.	Have a positive attitude and an open mind.	Do the right thing, even when others aren't.	Treat others how you would like to be treated.

General Policies and Procedures

School Hours

- Our building opens at 7:30 am Monday Friday. Our office is open from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm Monday-Thursday and 7:30 am to 1:45 pm on ACT Fridays.
- School is in session from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm Monday Thursday.
- Friday is early dismissal. School is in session on Fridays from 8:00 am to 1:15 pm.

Before School

Students who do not ride a bus should be dropped off/arrive at school no earlier than 7:30 am. Students are to remain in an assigned area during this time. Breakfast is served starting at 7:30 am. Students are to make their way to classes at 7:55, classes begin at 8:00am.

After School

Students are asked to leave campus at 2:30, unless in a supervised activity. Students are not allowed to stay after school for events that start later in the afternoon or evening.

Visitor Sign-In

To ensure the safety of our students, all visitors, including parents/guardians, must sign in at the Main Office upon arrival.

Parking Lot

The parking lot directly in front of our building is designated for visitor parking. Student pick-up/ drop off entrance is off of 83rd. Please follow all posted signs and traffic rules.

The entrance on Kimmie Street is for bus and staff use only.

Messages for Students

We ask that you respect our school's cell phone policy ("off and away") and not communicate with your child via cell phone during the school day. Our office staff is able and willing to deliver messages to your student if necessary.

Lost and Found

BMS maintains a "Lost and Found" area. Names on items allow them to be returned to the owner. Items not claimed will be donated at the end of each semester.

Telephone Use

Students will be allowed to use the student phone in the Counseling Center if they have a written pass from a teacher or permission from office staff. Classroom and office staff phones are not for student use.

Fines and Fees

Any student who acquires a fine or fee is responsible for paying that fine/fee by the end of each semester. Unpaid fines and fees may result in the loss of privileges such as athletics, reward activities, and/or field trips.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks may be purchased for \$25.00 throughout the year on the Josten's website. Yearbooks are delivered the last week of school.

Bicycles

Bikes should be parked and locked in designated areas. Students should always dismount and walk their bikes on campus.

Food, Drink, and Gum

Food, candy, and drinks should be consumed in the cafeteria only. Chewing gum or eating food during class time may be allowed at the discretion of the individual teachers. Water only is allowed in classrooms and hallways.

School Meals

Breakfast/Lunch Prices: Breakfast \$2.20 Lunch \$3.70 Milk \$.50

Lunch Accounts: Students may pay cash on a daily basis for their lunches or use a lunch account. Students will be issued a lunch account number on their ASB/ID cards. They may deposit any amount of money into their account. Students may bring checks with them to school and give them to the main office to apply to their accounts or parents/guardians may log on to Skyward and deposit money in their student's lunch account for a small fee. Student breakfast and lunch purchases can be monitored by parents/guardians through Skyward Family Access. Students may withdraw the balance of their account only if they withdraw from school. Students are not permitted to authorize the use of their lunch account by another student.

*Yearly application is required to qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch. Forms are available at the BMS website, Main Office, and with Food Services.

Special Menus

If any student is a vegetarian, allergic to milk products, or has any other concerns regarding the menu, please submit a written doctor's note to the kitchen.

If you have any concerns or questions about breakfast or lunch, contact the BMS kitchen at (360) 709-7424 or Tumwater School District Food Services at (360) 709-7740.

Student Life

Locks and Lockers

Students choosing to use a locker can request one from their Homeroom teacher. Students are responsible for the care and condition of their locker and the lock that is assigned to them. Lockers are the property of the school and are subject to inspections.

It is important that students make sure that their lockers are locked at all times. Students should not exchange lockers, locks, or combinations with other students. Lost or damaged locks cost \$7.00 to replace. For safety and security reasons, only locks provided by the school are permitted. Others will be cut and removed immediately by our custodial staff. Students in PE will be assigned a PE locker and lock.

Personal Technology

While we understand many middle school students possess cell phones, the distraction/disruption of cell phone use during class time detracts from student learning. Cell phones, earbuds, headphones, computer watch devices, etc *are to be turned off and put away* during school hours (8-2:30) with the exception of students' lunch period. Students are not allowed to text other students who are in class, take videos of other students without their permission, or use their technology to harass others. Please support us in helping students use their technology in a responsible manner. If an emergency arises during the school day, students can ask permission from their teacher, or the office/counseling staff for help. We are happy to assist a student in the event they need to contact a parent during the school day and ask that students request to do this in the office or counseling center. If a student is not feeling well, they need to go to the Wellness Center where we can assist in notifying a parent/guardian.

If a student demonstrates irresponsible behavior or refuses to put their personal technology away, the following consequences may apply:

- First offense: Reminder/warning by staff
- Second offense: phone/device collected and stored in the office until the end of the day, parent contact.
- Third offense: phone/device collected, parent contact, and phone must be picked up in the office by a parent or guardian.
- Subsequent offenses: disciplinary action in accordance with BMS behavior policies and/or cell phone contract.

ASB/Identification Cards

All BMS students are issued an identification card free of charge. Identification cards include a student photo and a student ID code which allows use of the Library and lunch account.

Students are encouraged to purchase an Associated Student Body (ASB) card. All student athletes must purchase an ASB card. The funds generated from the sales of the ASB cards are used to enrich our student body programs (i.e. student incentives, assemblies, clubs, after school events, athletics, reward activities, field trips, etc.). The cost is \$25.00. A \$5.00 fee will be assessed for the replacement of either an ASB or ID Card. Students with this card receive reduced admission to all Tumwater High School events.

PE Dress Expectations

All BMS students are required to dress down for PE every day. The required PE attire consists of an athletic shirt, shorts/pants, and shoes. BMS shorts and shirt can be purchased at the ASB Window for \$18.00. Alternatively, students can wear clothing they already own, as long as it meets the standards of PE attire. Only athletic shoes can be worn in the gym (shoes with soles that do not leave black marks or gouge the floor).

Personal Property

Students are to assume responsibility for loss or damage to personal property. School personnel attempt to protect personal property, but the school is not responsible for the replacement of personal items.

Gifts at School

Deliveries of gifts are strongly discouraged. All deliveries will be held in the Main Office until after school. **Items** containing latex are not allowed.

Food Deliveries

Deliveries of food from app based sites are not allowed at BMS. Our office staff will not accept any food ordered by students.

Attending Assemblies

During school assemblies, students are expected to show respect for all participants, spectators, and each other.

Classroom Behavior

Students must comply with all classroom behavioral expectations. If a student becomes disruptive to the classroom environment, the teacher reserves the right to refer the student for additional support.

Conferences

Conferences are held in the Fall and Spring. Families are always invited to conference with teachers, counselors, and administrators throughout the year through a scheduled appointment. If a parent/guardian has a concern or wishes to make an appointment to see a teacher or group of teachers, emailing the teachers (or just the homeroom teacher) is the best way to schedule a meeting.

<u>Textbooks and Equipment</u>

Each student is responsible for all books, chromebooks, and other equipment that is checked out to them. Book covers are recommended. Students should note any existing book damages on their Book Loan Form at time of issue. The full cost of a lost or stolen book(s) and equipment (including computers and Chromebooks) must be paid. Unpaid fines for 8th grade students will be passed to the high school and must be taken care of in order to participate in HS activities and graduation.

Library

Our Library is designed to prepare students to be successful learners in an information age. It promotes a love of reading, provides recreational reading opportunities, and enables students to explore a multitude of resources. A student can visit the Library with their class, in small groups, or individually with a pass. Materials will be checked out using the student ID number. The students are responsible for the care of and the return of all items checked out under their number.

Technology at BMS

Chromebooks

All new BMS students will be issued a Chromebook to maintain for the duration of their middle school career in Tumwater School District. Students and families will receive guidelines for technology use, including fines that can be incurred for Chromebook damages. Students are responsible for following school and District technology guidelines regarding the use and maintenance of their device. At the completion of 8th grade, all students will return their Chromebook, case, and charger.

Technology Use

Inappropriate or unethical use of school computers, student Chromebooks and student online accounts may result in corrective action, including possible loss of technology privileges. Students are responsible for their online school accounts and any use or access to their account by others. Students are reminded that staff members have authority to monitor their accounts and TSD Chromebook use. Information transferred from, to, or on the District's computers and/or Chromebook is NOT confidential.

Technology Expectations

- Students are reminded to only visit school-appropriate websites.
- Use of social media is not allowed.
- Interfering with other students' computers, Chromebooks, or work is not allowed.
- Changing or modifying technology settings, including default passwords, screen orientation, and language, violates appropriate use expectations.
- Printer use is strictly for school assignments and assessments.
- Accessing or distributing information about or materials promoting violent acts/threats, pornography, or harassing/threatening/bullying/demeaning acts is prohibited.
- Altering, damaging, or attempting to repair school technology is prohibited.
- Students and families are expected to watch the Chromebook Training video (available on the BMS website), and agree to, and sign the TSD Chromebook Expectations form.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is important. Absences, tardies, late arrivals, and early dismissals impact student learning and achievement. Students are expected to be ready to learn at the beginning of each period.

Attendance Policy

Washington State's attendance law, known as the Becca Bill, requires all children between the ages of 8 and 18 to attend school. If the child fails to attend school without valid justification, the following will occur:

- Upon the first unexcused absence, the school will notify parents.
- After the third unexcused absence within any month, a parent/student/administrator or designee conference will be scheduled in an attempt to resolve the problem.

- No later than the student's fifth unexcused absence in a month, during the current school year, the district
 will enter into an agreement with the student and parents/guardians that establishes school attendance
 requirements and refer the student to a community truancy board. Additionally, the district will file a stay
 petition and affidavit with the juvenile court alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010.
- If the above interventions are not successful, a truancy petition to juvenile court must be filed alleging violations to truancy laws by the parent, child, or both, no later than after the seventh unexcused absence within any month or upon the tenth unexcused absence during the school year. The juvenile court will then determine actions to improve student attendance.

Notification

Contact us immediately if your child will not be at school due to an illness or appointment. Please call the **24-hour Attendance Line at (360) 709-7412** to report absences. Please leave your child's complete name and reason for the absence. If you are unable to call, written notes upon your students return are acceptable. Absences will only be excused within 48 hours of the start of a student's absence.

Absences

A student is considered absent for a whole day if they have missed 3 or more class periods. A student is considered absent for an entire class period if they miss 10 minutes or more of the beginning of a class period.

Excused Absences: School-approved activity, illness, chronic medical condition, medical

appointments, family emergency, religious/cultural purposes, court, disciplinary

actions, and homelessness (See TSD handbook for expanded list)

Unexcused Absences: Any absence from school that does not meet the above criteria

Sign In/Sign Out

Students arriving after the start of school or leaving before the dismissal time must be signed in/out in the Main Office by a parent/guardian.

Early Dismissal

If it is necessary for a student to leave school early, the student must bring a note signed by their parent/guardian stating the reason and time for the early dismissal. The attendance staff will issue a dismissal note. This note should be presented to the teacher at the early dismissal time; the student will report directly to the office. Students will only be released to approved people listed on their Skyward student record. ID may be requested at the time of dismissal.

Planned Absences

Vacations during school days are discouraged. Students who are anticipating an absence of three days or more should stop by the main office to pick up a Planned Absence form. Students must return the completed, signed form to the main office prior to the planned absence. An administrator must approve the absence for it to be excused. It is the responsibility of the student to make up missed school work within the agreed upon timeline..

Student Support Services

The guidance counselors, health assistant, nurse, therapists and school psychologist are core members of the BMS team that work collaboratively with staff, families, and community organizations to deliver support so that students are able to be successful in school and beyond.

School Counselors

The school counselors are available to meet with students and parents/guardians. If a student would like to meet with a counselor to discuss concerns, fill out a Counselor Request Form at the Counseling Center. A pass will be sent to the student. If the student needs to talk with a counselor regarding a safety concern, please let a teacher, office staff or Counseling Center staff know immediately.

Wellness Center

The Wellness Center is located in the main office. The Wellness Center is covered by a health assistant during school hours. The School Registered Nurse is available by phone at all times during the school day. Parents/guardians are asked to complete a current health information form at the beginning of each school year, providing us with the most current medical information for each student.

Injury/Illness at School

If an illness or injury occurs after a student arrives at school, they are to report to their teacher for a hall pass (unless an emergency) and then to the Wellness Center.

Medication at School

Medications, such as prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines, and nutritional supplements, should be taken at home before and after school. No medications are furnished at school (such as Ibuprofen). If your child needs to take medication during school hours in order to attend school, a Medication Authorization Form for each medication must be completed by the licensed healthcare provider, parent/guardian, and school nurse before any medication may be given.

Medication must be in the original container and stored in a locked cabinet in the Wellness Center. Students are not allowed to carry any medications except Epi-Pens, insulin, and asthma inhalers. These may only be carried by students after the appropriate paperwork is completed and signed by the school nurse.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are an important extension of the school day. School behavior and safety expectations remain in effect.

Athletics

Bush Middle School's athletic program encourages involvement of our 6th, 7th and 8th Grade students. We have a "No Cut" policy. Cooperation, teamwork, fair play, and good sportsmanship are all promoted through extra-curricular activities. Students will gain knowledge and skills through practice, games, and contests. They will have opportunities to compete with other athletes their own age in school-arranged games/matches/meets. Schedules for practices and games will be posted on the school website and will be provided by coaches.

The following sports/activities are offered at Bush Middle School:

Season 1: Cross Country (6-8), Football (7-8), Girls Soccer (6-8)

Season 2: Dance (6-8), Girls Basketball (7-8) Wrestling (6-8)

Season 3: Boys Basketball (7-8)

Season 4: Girls Volleyball (7-8)

Season 5: Track (6-8)

Sports Clearance

All athletes must be cleared through the ASB office prior to participation each season. Sports clearance paperwork is available on the BMS website through Final Forms. All fines and fees must be paid, including the sports participation fee of \$40.00, and all athletes must purchase an ASB card. ASB cards are \$25.

Attending Extracurricular Activities

The privilege of being an active participant or observer in an extracurricular activity helps to instill a sense of pride and ownership in our school. In an effort to maintain a safe environment, students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects the high standards of BMS. Students who wish to attend as an observer are expected to follow the procedures below:

- All students wishing to be a spectator at after-school events must leave school at 2:30pm and return no
 earlier than 4:00pm. BMS does not provide after-school supervision for students wishing to attend athletic
 events as spectators.
- All school rules and expectations apply at BMS athletic events. Any student violating school rules/expectations is subject to corrective action.
- All student spectators must stay in the area of the athletic event. Students are not allowed in other areas
 of the building or campus without being escorted by a staff member.

Students who violate any of the above expectations may be asked to leave the campus. A parent or guardian may be called to pick up the student; the student will be asked to sit in a safe, supervised waiting area until a ride arrives.

To ensure the safety of students and community visitors, the school administration or activity supervisor reserves the right to take actions deemed appropriate. Such actions could include requesting that an individual leave the campus, closing sports practices, or loss of privileges to attend after-school activities.

Our Commons area is equipped with restrooms, water fountains, and beverage vending machines. Please be reminded that food, drinks, and gum are not permitted in the gym area.

Safety and Security

Closed Campus

BMS is a closed campus. We do not allow visits by non-enrolled students. All visitors must check in at the office.

Students must stay on campus at all times from arrival in the morning until dismissal. In order to leave campus during school hours, a parent or approved guardian must sign their child out of school in the office. Students are to leave campus immediately following dismissal, unless participating in a school-approved function or activity.

Emergency Preparedness

An emergency plan for Bush Middle School will be reviewed with students at the beginning of the year. Drills are scheduled throughout the year to familiarize the students with all contingencies. Emergency Drills include: fire, earthquake, lockdown, and shelter-in-place. In the event of an emergency, parents will be informed as to the specific procedures to be followed in assuring the safety and security of their child. It is important that parents/guardians contact the office or update Skyward with any/all medical, address, phone number, and emergency contact changes and/or additions.

Transportation

School bus transportation is a privilege. Students who behave inappropriately may be denied that privilege. All bus riders and their parents/guardians should read the bus guidelines provided by the District..

Students are not permitted to ride buses they are not assigned to. If a parent or guardian would like their student to ride a bus route that is different from their assigned route, they can contact the TSD Transportation Department at 360-709-7700.

Student Support Process

The best teaching and learning occurs in an environment where students are on task and engaged. The BMS staff expects all students to give and be given the opportunity to learn. To help ensure that every student succeeds at BMS, students can expect teachers and staff to:

- Teach clear behavioral expectations to which students are held accountable
- Teach clear standards of behavior that ensure consistency and equitable treatment for all students
- View behavioral incidents as an opportunity for student growth and learning

During the first days of school, designated school and class time are devoted to discussing and ensuring an understanding of behavioral expectations and school rules. Students are expected to review and discuss school behavioral expectations with their parents/guardians. The involvement of parents/guardians is a critical factor in the implementation and success of a building-wide Student Support Process.

BMS Philosophy of Student Behavior

Middle school is a time of transition for our students, from children to adolescents, and from elementary to secondary students. Indeed, middle school is a time of incredible change and growth! We recognize that students develop as they grow and mature, and need to learn to make appropriate decisions concerning their behavior. It is the responsibility of staff to reinforce students' positive behavior patterns and promote equity and consistency for all. Students should behave in a manner that will be respectful, responsible, and safe.

Bush Middle School utilizes the PBIS approach to teaching behavioral expectations to students. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. The goal of PBIS is to improve school climate by establishing schools that are predictable, safe, consistent, and positive. PBIS is a philosophy that believes behaviors need to be taught just like English, Math, Science, etc. Appropriate conduct and positive concern for others is essential in creating a safe environment that is conducive to learning. No student has the right to interfere with the education of others.

Restorative Practices

Our goal is to keep students in the classroom and allow teachers to continue teaching. Teachers will try a number of strategies before a Student Support Team Member (SSTM) is called to the classroom. When this occurs, the SSTM will lead the student in a restorative conversation. The restorative questions that will be used are as follows:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking of at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way?
- What do you think you need to do to make things right?

The purpose of the restorative questions is to help the students problem-solve and take accountability for their behavior. Students who violate rules and expectations will need to "restore" the relationship that has been damaged. When this step in the process is reached, the parents/guardians will be contacted by the SSTM, and a follow-up report on the student's behavior will be provided by the teacher.

Reward Activities

Approximately every five weeks, BMS students may earn the privilege of attending a reward activity, such as a dance, a movie, open gym, field day, etc. Students earn the opportunity to attend reward activities if they have no major referrals and no more than 3 minor referrals. The reward period resets every 5-weeks, and all students start with zero minor referrals at this time.

Minor/Major Referrals

When an SSTM is contacted, the restorative questions will be utilized. If the student is able to return to the classroom after successfully responding to the restorative questions, a minor referral may be assigned by the SSTM. If the behavior is sustained, repetitive, high intensity or severe and/or the student is unable to successfully return to class, a major referral may be assigned by the SSTM. Minor and major referrals may result in additional school consequences.

Restorative Conferences

When a major infraction has occurred, a restorative conference may be held in conjunction with other disciplinary consequences. This conference may include the student who violated the expectations, other students/staff involved, and when possible and/or when necessary, parents. The purpose of this conference is to discuss the situation and allow all individuals to restore the relationship.

Behavioral Expectations at BMS

Tardies

- Students must be in their seats at the start time of each period.
- Late arrivals to school must sign in at the office before reporting to class.

Hall Passes

Students must obtain permission and a pass from staff to be outside the classroom during class time or to return to a classroom or locker during lunch.

Dress Code

It is expected that students wear clothing that is appropriate for school and school-sponsored events. Personal dress and/or grooming which may disrupt normal school operations, detract from a positive learning climate, or create a safety or health hazard is not acceptable. The primary responsibility for school dress rests with the parents/guardians. With this in mind, the student and parent/guardian may determine the student's dress provided they are consistent with the following:

- Dress and appearance must not disrupt or interfere with the educational environment/process.
- Clothing should allow one to move comfortably and cover undergarments.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Clothing, backpacks, or any accessories with logos, symbols, scenes of, or advertisements for tobacco, drugs, alcohol, gangs or other illegal activities, which may include but are not limited to intimidation, harassment, sexual innuendo, vulgarity, inappropriate pictures and/or writing and obscenities are prohibited.
- Body or face painting (including markers, pens etc.) is not allowed.
- Sunglasses are to be worn outside the building only.
- Costumes are not permitted, except on designated Spirit Days.

If a student's appearance is considered disruptive or inappropriate by staff, a private conversation will occur with the student requesting that they change into clothing that complies with expectations.

Personal Space

- Students are expected to keep their hands, feet, and objects to themselves. Any form of wrestling or play fighting is prohibited.
- Public displays of affection (PDA) are not allowed. Examples of PDA could include, but not limited to, kissing, prolonged hugging and/or holding hands.

School and Personal Property

- All property of another individual, including staff property, should not be touched without the owner's permission (i.e. items in/on/around the desk, computers, workrooms).
- Students are to refrain from begging for or requesting money or other items on school property.
- Students are not permitted to sell non-school-related items on campus.

Serious Offenses/Exceptional Misconduct

The following offenses constitute misconduct and may be punishable by suspension and/or expulsion. They are prohibited at any time: on, in, or adjacent to school premises; in transit to and from school; and at school-sponsored activities. They may also constitute a violation of federal, state, or local laws. Additionally, ongoing disruption of the educational process may also result in suspension or expulsion.

Students may be referred to the Administration for offenses including, but not limited to:

- Fighting or intent to do bodily harm/assault
- Sexual harassment
- Use or possession of potentially dangerous objects/weapons (including look-alikes)
- Harassment, intimidation, or bullying/verbal threats
- Vandalism/false alarms (including fire)
- Use or possession of tobacco products, e-Cigs, "Vapes," drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol
- Non-Compliance/Refusal; Blatant Disregard
- Profanity directed toward a staff or students
- Criminal actions
- Major disruption to learning process
- Ongoing, repeated offenses that continually disrupt the learning environment

Student Rights

All matters relating to student discipline and/or suspension are governed by the rules and regulations contained in the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* handbook, published by the Tumwater School District. Each TSD family receives this handbook at the beginning of the school year. Additional copies of these handbooks are available in the BMS Main Office upon request. As a matter of practice, no individual student's rights may negatively impact the rights of another student, the student body as a whole, staff, or the safe and effective operation of the educational environment.

The Tumwater School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age and provides equal access to the Boys Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Civil Rights Coordinator/Title IX Officer: Assistant Superintendent Shawn Batstone shawn.batstone@tumwater.k12.wa.us
621 Linwood Ave SW, Tumwater, WA 98512
(360)709-7030

Section 504 Coordinator: Andra Kelley-Batstone andra.kelleybatstone@tumwater.k12.wa.us
621 Linwood Ave SW, Tumwater, WA 98512
(360)709-7030