

CITY OF RENTON FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Renton to host tuition-free Bezos Academy Preschool in 2022

Montessori-inspired preschool will be housed in the North Highlands Neighborhood Center

RENTON, WA – The City of Renton has signed a 15-year lease with Bezos Academy to open a tuition-free, Montessori-inspired preschool in the North Highlands Neighborhood Center in 2022.

“Finding quality and affordable preschool programming is difficult for many of our families, and COVID has increased that challenge, said Renton Mayor Armondo Pavone. “Adding the Bezos Academy is an investment in our children by providing them quality programming during their critical developmental years.”

The academy results from consultation with multiple civic agencies and community organizations, including Renton School District.

“On average, about half of all preschool-aged kids in the U.S. aren’t in school,” said Mike George, President of Bezos Academy. “For too many, preschool isn’t an option due to cost or because there isn’t enough availability. We’re honored to offer an early learning solution at no cost to the families of Renton.”

The Bezos Academy preschool will be located at the North Highlands Neighborhood Center. It is slated to open multiple classrooms in 2022 following renovations by Bezos Academy. The academy will follow a full-day, year-round schedule.

Families earning up to 400% of the federal poverty limit with children aged three to four can apply. Once the school opening date is set, more information and an application to the lottery-based selection process will be posted at bezosacademy.org/.

About the City of Renton

The City of Renton, Washington, with a population of 106,500 (2021), is located on the southeast shore of Lake Washington, just south of Seattle. Renton's strong economic base, diverse marketplace and favorable business climate have attracted nationally recognized companies that wish to provide employees and their families an outstanding quality of life. Renton is the home of Boeing, PACCAR, IKEA, the Seattle Seahawks, and the eternal

resting place of Jimi Hendrix. More information is on our [website](#), in [news releases](#), or on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Nextdoor](#).

About Bezos Academy

Bezos Academy is a non-profit organization that is building a network of high-quality, tuition-free preschools. The preschools offer year-round, full-day programming, five days a week, for children ages 3-5 years old from low-income families. Bezos Academy also provides students with all necessary educational supplies and services to set each student up for success, including Montessori materials, books, arts and crafts, field trips, and meals. For more information, visit www.bezosacademy.org.

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