How to Draw a School

12 easy steps for beginners



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What you'll need

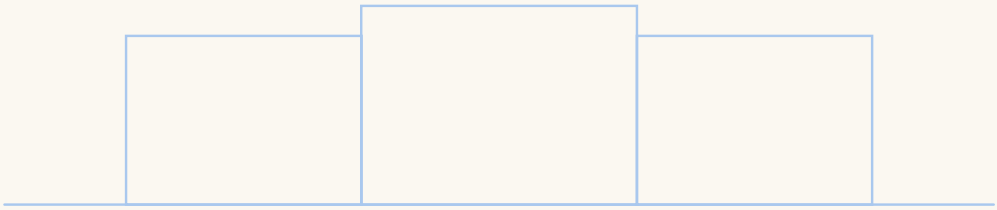
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils

How to use this guide

New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

Read the full tutorial online →

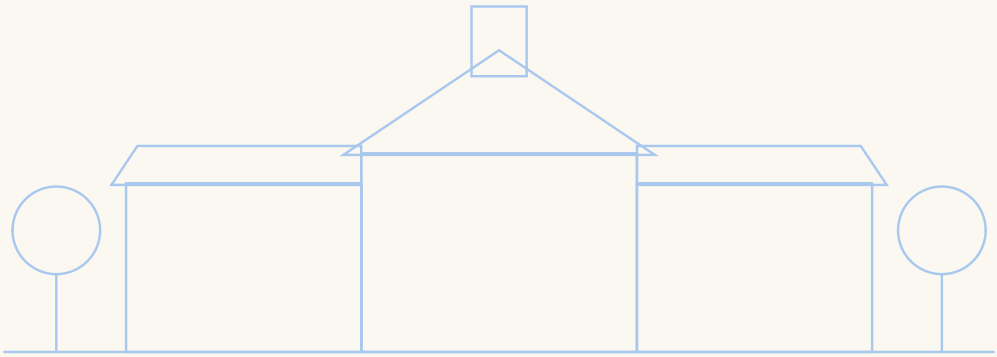
STEP 1 Draw a ground line and three boxes



Turn the paper sideways and draw a long, light line a little below the middle. On it, stand one tall rectangle in the center and a lower, wider one on each side, touching it. The middle box is the entrance and the side boxes are the classroom wings. Leave room at both ends for trees.

💡 **Tip:** Find the center of your page first and mark it with a small dot.

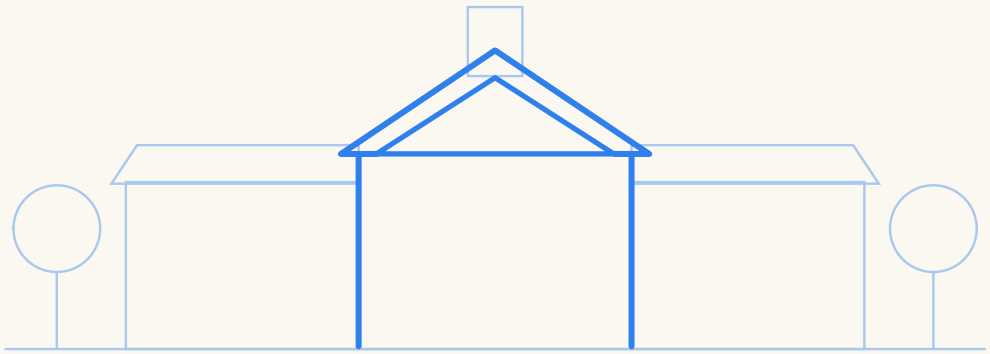
STEP 2 Sketch the roof and tree guides



Put a wide triangle on top of the middle box, letting its corners stick out past the walls. Above its peak, add a small upright box for the bell tower. Over each wing, draw a flat-topped roof whose outer end slopes down. Then sketch a circle on a stick at each end for the trees.

💡 **Tip:** Overlap the tower box with the triangle's tip; the roof will hide its bottom later.

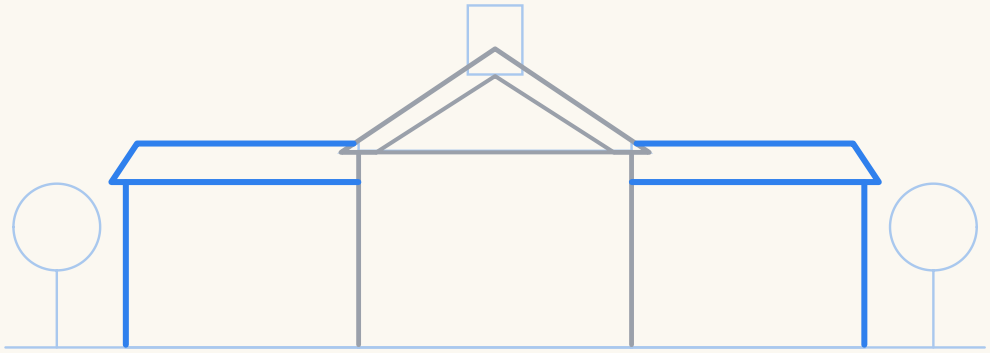
STEP 3 Outline the main block and gable roof



Now press a little harder. Trace the sides of the middle box and go over the big triangle. Inside it, draw a smaller triangle sharing the same base. The space between them becomes the roof edge, and the inner triangle is the cream gable for the clock. I keep that roof band equally thick on both slopes, because a band that thins on one side makes the building look tilted.

💡 **Tip:** Draw both slanted roof lines from the peak downward, so they meet cleanly at the top.

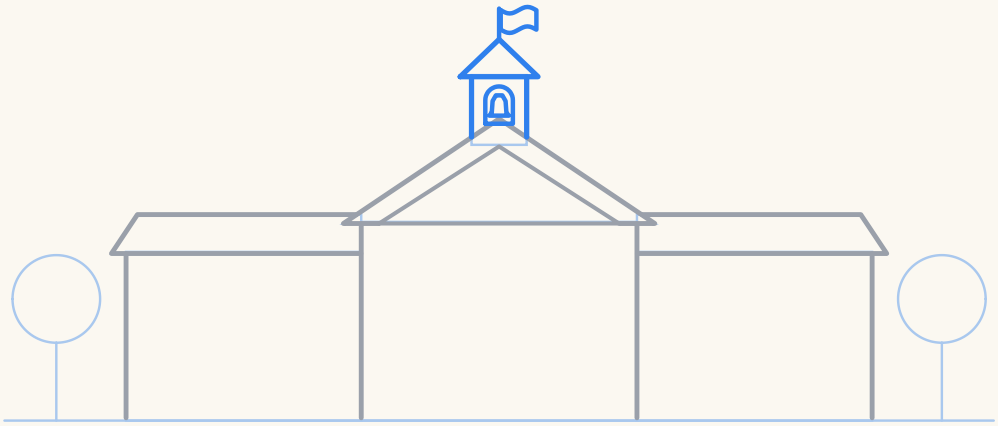
STEP 4 Add the two wings with low roofs



Trace the outer sides of the wings and the line where each wall meets its roof. Go over the roof shapes, stopping where they touch the middle block. The wing roofs sit lower than the gable, which makes the entrance look important. If your wings came out different widths, fix it now.

💡 **Tip:** Hold your ruler against both roof tops at once to check that they line up.

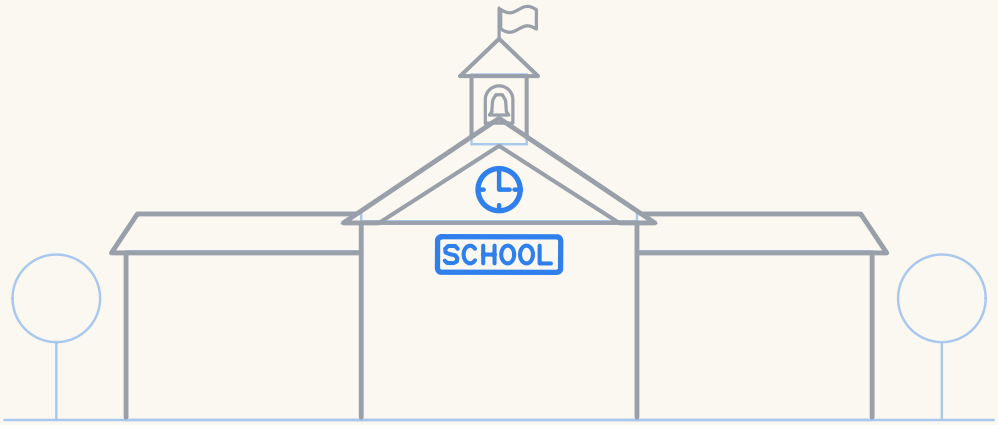
STEP 5 Build the bell tower and flag



Trace the tower box and give it a tiny pointed roof. Inside, draw a narrow arched opening with a small bell, wide at the bottom like an upside-down cup. From the tip, draw a short pole and a plain flag with a gentle wave. Small kids can skip the bell and keep just the arch.

💡 **Tip:** Make the flag no wider than the tower roof, or it starts to look like a sail.

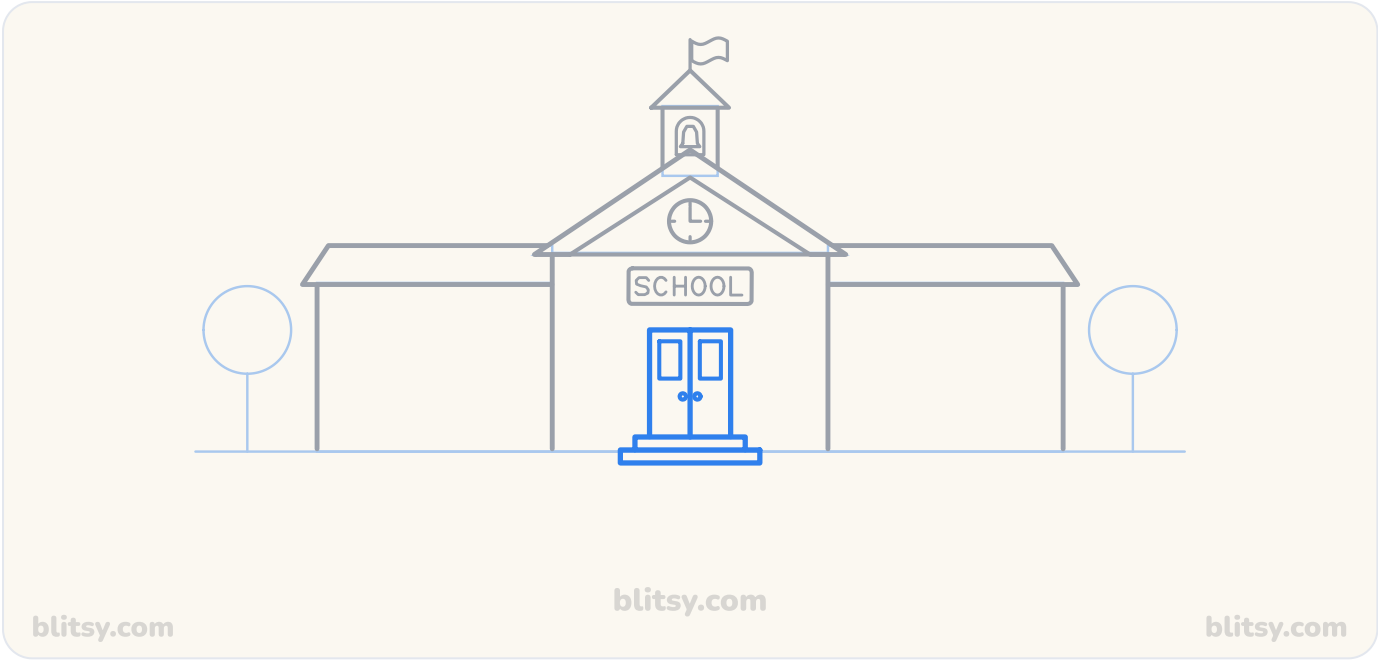
STEP 6 Draw the clock and the school sign



Center a round clock in the gable so it doesn't touch the roof band, and add four tick marks and two hands. Below the roof, draw a rounded sign and write SCHOOL in simple capitals. Letters are where most drawings get crowded, so lightly mark six even spaces first.

💡 **Tip:** Start writing from the middle two letters, the two O's, and work outward.

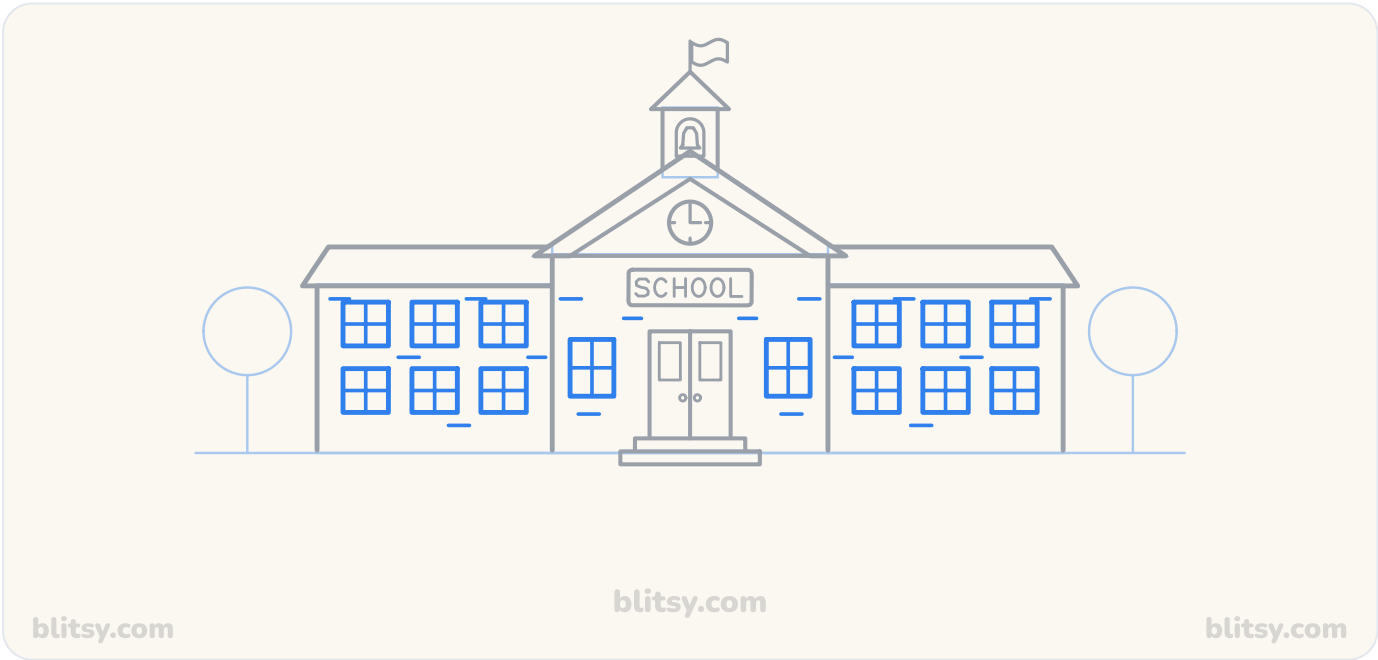
STEP 7 Add double doors and steps



Under the sign, draw a tall rectangle for the doors and split it down the middle. Give each door a small window and a round knob by the center line. Below, stack two steps, the lower one longer. Schools have wide doors, so make yours noticeably wider than a house door.

💡 **Tip:** The lower step should stick out past the upper one on both sides by the same amount.

STEP 8 Fill the walls with windows



Each wing gets two rows of three square windows, and the entrance gets one taller window on each side of the doors. Draw a cross in every window. Then scatter a few short dashes as bricks. Rows are what turn a big house into a school, so keep the gaps equal.

💡 **Tip:** Draw every top edge in a row first, using one ruler line, then add the sides.

STEP 9 Grow the trees and bushes



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Over each tree guide, draw a bumpy crown from four overlapping round shapes and add a trunk that widens at the base. Along the wings, draw four little bushes, each three bumps with a flat bottom. Let them cover the lower edge of a few windows; it makes the picture feel deeper.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the line inside the crown out, so the trunk disappears up into the leaves.

STEP 10 Finish with the path and fence



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From the bottom step, draw a path that gets wider as it comes toward you. Around it, outline a long lawn with rounded corners. On both sides of the path, draw a row of pointed pickets joined by one rail. The fence takes patience; a row of grass tufts works too.

💡 **Tip:** Space the pickets with your fingertip as a quick measuring tool.

STEP 11 Ink the drawing and erase the guides



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Go over every line you want to keep with the black fineliner. Start at the bell tower and work down, so your hand never rests on wet ink. Once it has dried for a minute, erase the ground line, the boxes, the triangle and the tree circles.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long straight walls in one smooth stroke instead of short, scratchy ones.

STEP 12 Color your school



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Color the walls brick red, pressing harder in a thin strip under each roof for shade. Make the gable, the tower and the sign cream, the roofs dark gray and the windows light blue. Doors and trunks are brown; the bell and flag yellow. Finish with green leaves and grass, a tan path and a white fence.

💡 **Tip:** Color the light blue windows before the red walls so the red can't creep into them.