

Thompson School District Integrated Early Childhood Program • 800 South Taft Avenue • Loveland CO 80538  
970-613-5052 • <https://www.thompsonschoools.org/preschool>

August 28, 2020

Dear Families of Early Childhood,

We're looking forward to our return to learning for early childhood! We have been preparing for your child's return with the highest of hopes that for those of you that chose in-person learning, that the transition between remote learning and school will be smooth. In addition, for those of you that have chosen the Thompson Connect Online option, we want to make sure that your child continues to learn and grow both socially and academically. Partnerships will be a critical component to your child's success so please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions!

#### **Technology Needs:**

If you were unable to check out a device earlier, device checkout will be available this Monday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 1. For grades PreK-10, only Parents/Guardians may check out a device for their student. Each TSD student in a family may receive a device if needed. Staff and families should not come to the checkout station if they, or anyone in their family, is exhibiting symptoms of illness. To qualify, the student must:

- be currently registered at a TSD school (charter schools are responsible for outfitting their own students so they do not qualify for this program),
- have access to an internet connection outside of TSD, and
- have no adequate access to computers at home to access learning resources online

#### **Check Out Procedure:**

1. Families should drive to the checkout station and enter the north parking lot of [Conrad Ball Middle School](#) Monday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 1 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Cars will be split into two lines.
2. If a family has not filled out the aforementioned [request form](#), they should do so before coming to the checkout station. Otherwise, they will be asked to fill out their form in their car while waiting in the checkout line.
3. Cars should stay in line and occupants should stay in their vehicles. Do not park. Keep moving as the parking lot attendant directs. Students are *not* required to be present with the adult checking out the device.
4. Once a vehicle approaches the checkout station, a technician will talk with the family through the vehicle's window and make sure they have the information needed to check out a device to their student(s).
5. The technician will radio the checkout station to check out the device to the student(s). It will be a recently cleaned and bagged device based on the family's choice of educational option.

6. Once a technician has given the device(s) to the family, they can leave as the vehicle line allows and can keep the device(s) as long as the closure continues.

**Consent Form.** In order to meet the needs of each child, we need to have your permission through an on-line consent form. Please click on this [link](#) to access the consent form. Please read through it and let us know if you have any questions!

Here are some ‘need to know’ as we get closer to the start of school:

- September 8 – school begins with *remote learning*
  - Morning sessions are from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
  - Afternoon sessions are from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- School days are Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- Synchronous times/live times for the half day session will range between 1 – 1.5 hours (not continuously) each day
- Synchronous times/live times for the full day session will range between 1.5 – 2 hours each day

### **Attendance**

Attendance will be taken daily. We also recognize the challenges that remote learning presents. Our primary focus is participation, engagement, and communication. We want your child to participate as much as possible, including through synchronous, or live meeting time; however, we also recognize that there are unique challenges that come with this. For all students, we would like students to engage in learning as much as possible. For each week, we ask that all students participate in a minimum of eight (8) activities from Monday through Friday. Please note that the asynchronous activities can be completed up through Sunday of each week. What could this include?

- Synchronous/live time times during the week (large group time, small group time, individual time, story times)
- Asynchronous times (activities related to the learning such as watching the recorded sessions of group times, activities to support the unit, and other activities that can be completed during times that are convenient)
- 4 of these activities will be designated by your teacher as a must do for the week as these specific activities support the learning for the Unit of Study
- Time to meet with a service provider

### **Half and Full Day Expectations**

Although we are starting with remote learning, we know the importance of building routine and consistency for preschoolers. Why are schedules and routines important?

Studies have shown that schedules and routines influence many aspects of children's development (emotional, cognitive, and social). Predictable schedules help young children feel secure, safe and comfortable. Schedules and routines actually help reduce behavior problems, such as tantrums and aggression. A well-planned schedule can encourage children to be more actively involved in their play and in their learning, especially for when we transition back into in-person learning.

What you can expect:

- School day hours:
  - Half Day: 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
  - Full Day: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Your child's teacher will work with you to create a schedule that will allow the most participation throughout the day and will include:
  - Half days: 2 synchronous (meeting "live) times and multiple asynchronous opportunities
  - Full Days: 2 synchronous (meeting "live) times in the morning and multiple asynchronous opportunities and additional synchronous time in the late morning/early afternoon
- Your child's attendance is *critical* for learning and for assessment. Attendance will be based on:
  - Participation in at least two activities (synchronous and asynchronous) daily
  - Parent input about what you have observed your child do
  - If your child is ill or will need to be absent, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible
- Supplies and materials will be provided for you for specific units of study. Teachers will contact you about how to receive these materials
- Creative Curriculum (Early Childhood Curriculum) will be delivered through different mediums (Google Classroom, Bitmoji classroom, video, etc.) to provide different ways to access learning
- Communication between families and your teacher is important! There will be a weekly time when you will meet with your teacher to connect, share, and dialog about many things. This will be a terrific opportunity to partner with you for the year.

On the next page is a sample of what a half day and full day schedule may look like:

### **Example: Half Day Schedule**

8:00-8:15	Greeting Circle/Question of the Day (synchronous held during breakfast)
8:15-9:15	Free Play (Teaching staff could observe this/schedule individual time)
9:15-9:30	Small Group (synchronous CC Math/Literacy)
9:30-9:45	Snack and Second Step Video (asynchronous)
9:45-10:15	Outdoor Play (Synchronous/Asynchronous OT could observe or lead activity)
10:30-10:45	Music and Movement/Closing Circle (Synchronous)
10:45- End of session (Synchronous)	Debrief with parents/individual time with students

## Example: Full Day Schedule

8:00 Breakfast

8:30 Large Group/Morning Meeting

8:45 Music & Movement

9:00 Outside

9:30 Second Step

9:45 Small Groups

10:00 Centers (asynchronous play time)

11:00 Lunch/Conversation (Lunch aide teaches Tues/Thurs)

11:20 Break

11:30 Zoo Phonics

11:45 Read Aloud (moved from morning)

12:00 Afternoon Meeting (kids share asynchronous activities)

12:15 Music & movement, Say “Goodbye”

Key: Synchronous time

Asynchronous

We're looking forward to the start of the school year. If you have any questions, please contact us at 970-613-5052.

Sincerely,

Lamb Caro

Early Childhood Administrator