

Welcome to Kindergarten 2020-2021



*The mission of the Thompson School District is to
Empower to Learn • Challenge to Achieve • Inspire to Excel*

Dear Kindergarten Families,

I could not be any more excited to welcome you to the start of your child's educational journey in the Thompson School District. This is truly an exciting moment in time. Entering kindergarten is one of the most important educational experiences in your child's life, and we want your first contact with our school community to be a positive and happy experience. The purpose of this transition handbook is to provide a connection that supports the school to home partnership, and to share important information about kindergarten.

Over the past several years, your home has served as the center of interest in your child's life. Beginning the school to home partnership is important for success in kindergarten. Kindergarten experiences will help to provide additional learning opportunities and promote growth and development for your child. Parent and teacher partnerships are important to your child's success. As a learning community we encourage you to support your child by taking an interest in schoolwork, school activities and regularly communicating with your child's teacher.

Providing the best possible education for your child is our goal. Accomplishing our district mission to ***Empower to Learn, Challenge to Achieve, and Inspire to Excel***, begins in kindergarten. The Thompson school district and your school community wish you and your child a happy and successful year in kindergarten. For additional information or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school's principal or the Learning Services Department at the Administration Building. Welcome to the start of your child's educational journey with the Thompson School District.

Warmly, **Marc Schaffer**
Thompson School District Superintendent

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Elementary School	Telephone	Principal	Secretary
Ponderosa Elementary 4550 Florence Drive, Loveland 80538	679-9500	Lorynda Sampson	Sheri Fender
Sarah Milner Elementary 743 Jocelyn Drive, Loveland 80537	613-6700	Dale Bryant	Kari Berg
Truscott Elementary 211 W. Sixth Street, Loveland 80537	613-6900	Karen Hanford	Michelle Mueller
Winona Elementary 201 S. Boise Avenue, Loveland 80537	613-7100	Kim Tymkowych	Jordan Pendleton

For more information about vaccine requirements, resources and exemptions, please visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's [School Immunization](#) page or contact the Larimer County Health Department at 970.619.4580 for assistance getting immunizations or for assistance with understanding your child's immunization record.

Find Your School of Enrollment

To learn about your attendance boundary and determine your child's home address school please access our district website at <http://www.thompsonschoools.org> and click on main menu, then *Parents/Students*, then *Attendance Areas*, and *School Locator*. Questions can be answered by contacting our Thompson School District Planning office at 613-5017.

School of Choice/Open Enrollment

A Schools of Choice/Open Enrollment Policy exists to assist students who want to attend a school other than their designated home address school. This policy can be found at any school, on the district website at <http://www.thompsonschoools.org>, or at the District Administration Building, located at 800 South Taft Avenue.

School Specific Enrollment Options

Enrollment options and - before and after-school care

All elementary schools offer all-day kindergarten programs. If there is an interest in a half-day program please contact your school directly. Some elementary schools offer before- and after-school care. Please refer to the chart below to determine exactly what programs are offered at each school.

Elementary School Name	School Focus	Before/ After-School Care
<i>Berthoud 613-7500</i>		YMCA
<i>B. F. Kitchen 613-5500</i>	<u>Health & Wellness</u>	Boys & Girls Club
<i>Big Thompson 613-5600</i>	<u>STEM</u>	YMCA
<i>Carrie Martin 613-5700</i>	<u>Leader in Me</u>	Boys & Girls Club
<i>Centennial 613-5800</i>		YMCA
<i>Cottonwood Plains 613-5900</i>	<u>Spanish Dual Language Immersion</u>	Boys & Girls Club
<i>Coyote Ridge 679-9400</i>	<u>International Baccalaureate</u>	YMCA
<i>Garfield 613-6000</i>	<u>LISA -Loveland area Integrated School of the</u>	Boys & Girls Club
<i>High Plains (K-8) 679-9800</i>	<u>STEM</u>	YMCA
<i>Ivy Stockwell 613-6100</i>	<u>STEM</u>	YMCA
<i>Laurene Edmondson 613-6300</i>	<u>STEM</u>	YMCA
<i>Lincoln 613-6200</i>	<u>PBL</u>	Boys & Girls Club
<i>Mary Blair 613-6400</i>		Boys & Girls Club
<i>Monroe 613-6500</i>	<i>Innovation School, Leader in Me</i>	Boys & Girls Club
<i>Namaqua 613-6600</i>		YMCA
<i>Ponderosa 679-9500</i>	<u>School of Global Learning</u>	YMCA
<i>Sarah Milner 613-6700</i>		Boys & Girls Club
<i>Truscott 613-6900</i>	<u>Spanish Dual Language Immersion</u>	Boys & Girls Club
<i>Winona 613-7100</i>	Innovation School	Boys & Girls Club

General Important Information

Contact Information

*If you have a change of address, phone number or emergency contact person, please notify the school secretary. If someone other than the parent/guardian is to pick up your child from school be sure to send a note to the teacher or office. Unless the school is informed ahead of time, students may leave the school grounds *only with those persons listed on the emergency card.* This is for your child's safety.*

Attendance

Your own reactions and attitudes will go a long way toward determining how your child feels about school, and overall school success depends greatly on school attendance. Missing school creates learning gaps, which could impede student progress. Students are expected to have a minimum attendance rate of 95%.

Absences

If your child is sick and will miss school notify the school before school starts to report the absence. This is a safety precaution for your child. If your child will be out of school for a family reason (emergency or non-emergency) please let the teacher know ahead of time.

Communication

Back-to-School Night will be held at the beginning of the school year to give you a chance to meet teachers and staff at the school. Check with your school for date and time.

Parent/teacher conferences will be held twice during the school year. Check with your school for dates(s) and times. *Check regularly for written information from the teacher and the school.*

Parent engagement and an open, positive relationship with your child's teacher are strong indicators of student success and enjoyment of school. The teacher will be happy to arrange a time for you to talk about your child's progress. Please call for a time that is convenient for you and the teacher. Phone conversations and emails are also welcome.

Medication

Parents are encouraged to give medications outside of school hours whenever possible. If a child must take medicine during school hours, the medication must be labeled with the original prescription. This includes the child's name, date, and name of physician, name of drug, dosage, and prescribing information. A written note from the parent and the child's physician, stating the exact dates and times the medicine is to be taken, must be sent with the prescription. All medication should be taken to the health office by the parent upon arrival at school.

Physical Examinations

Physical examinations for all kindergarten students are encouraged. Physical and immunization forms are available on the Health Services page of the district website at <http://www.thompsonschoools.org>, from the Administration Building, 800 South Taft Avenue, Loveland, and at most local doctors' offices.

Nutrition Services

Breakfast and Lunch

The Thompson School District participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. With the help of the program, we are able to offer nutritious, well-balanced meals at all elementary school locations.

Menus are planned by Registered Dietitians and our District Chef. Menus are planned based on past popularity, current trends and sound nutrition. All menus meet the current USDA dietary recommendations.



Cost

The chart below reflects current year prices. The *Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application* can be found at www.myschoolapps.com or your school office.

Menus can be found at www.thompsonsdnutrition.org. Please contact the Nutrition Services Office at 2890 North Monroe Avenue, Loveland, (970) 613-51456, if you have further questions.

2020-2021	BREAKFAST PRICES	LUNCH PRICES
<i>Elementary Student</i>	<i>\$1.75</i>	<i>\$3.00</i>
<i>Secondary Student</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>	<i>\$3.25</i>
<i>Reduced Grades pre K-8</i>	<i>FREE</i>	<i>FREE</i>
<i>Universal Breakfast is free at participating sites, regardless of status.</i>	<i>FREE</i>	

Meal Accounts

Meals can be paid for in three ways:

- online at <http://www.myschoolbucks.com> (this option will provide parents with email alerts when accounts are low)
- prepay by check
- cash daily

Transportation



Buses

For kindergarten students living outside of the 1½ mile walk zone round trip transportation is provided. Routing and scheduling information is available at your child's school office mid-August, or by contacting the **Thompson School District Transportation Center at (970) 613-5185**.

During the first few days while your child is new to riding the bus, we recommend that parents provide their child with a note listing the child's name, home address, contact phone numbers and bus number. While all drivers do try to learn individual student's names and stop locations as promptly as possible young riders often become anxious or confused during the bus ride and may not be able to readily provide this information to the driver when asked.

Students/parents should plan to arrive at the bus stop **5 minutes prior** to the scheduled stop time. Due to factors that may affect the arrival time of buses at designated bus stops (student absences, weather, road construction, etc.) buses may arrive earlier or later than scheduled stop times. Drivers will not drop kindergarteners off at their assigned stop more than 5 minutes earlier than the scheduled time.

All personal articles, such as coats, backpacks and lunchboxes, should be clearly marked with the child's name, address and phone number on this inside of the item. We discourage all students from bringing skateboards, roller blades, scooters or other bulky items on the bus, as appropriate storage space may not be available.

Please notify the transportation office at (970) 613-5185, should your child be sick. We will relay this information to the bus driver promptly to avoid unnecessary stops or route delays.

Safety Rules for Bus Riders

- Line up while you are waiting for the bus.
- Always stay out of the street.
- Listen and do what the bus driver says.
- Stay in the same seat on the bus.
- Keep your head and hands inside the bus.
- Wait until the bus stops before you stand up.

Safety Rules for Walkers

- Always walk on the sidewalk.
- Look both ways before crossing streets.
- Cross the streets at crosswalks when possible.
- Use crossing guards to help you cross a street whenever you can.
- Walk your bike, scooter or skateboard across the street; don't run.
- **NEVER play** or stop on the street.

Kindergarten Readiness

BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

There are many ways you can help make kindergarten a positive experience for your child. Here are a few ways to help make that happy start.

Does your child know...?

- first and last name
- address
- parents' first and last names
- home or parent/guardian cell phone number
- shortest, safest way to school (practice it with your child)
- safety habits – crossing streets at proper intersections, obeying traffic signals, etc.
- to go straight home from school (unless told to do otherwise)
- what to do when confronted by a stranger and not to get in cars with strangers
- manners used to develop friendships, respecting rights and property of others, and how to share.

It would be helpful if your child knows how to...

- dress independently including zip, button, snap and tie shoes; and
- express wants and needs to adults independently.

Parents can help by...

- reading daily with your child to develop a love of reading, letter recognition and print concepts
- playing word games; such as rhyming games to develop phonemic awareness
- Encouraging your child to count things around your house
 - A pile of dry cereal
 - The cars on the street
 - Small pieces of fruit or vegetables
- taking your child with you to the grocery store, gas station, free activities in the community, as well as on family trips to museums, mountains school events, etc. This helps build vocabulary, language development and experiences important to reading success.

For more information, in English or Spanish, on how to help your child's education visit the following website:

<http://BeReadyLarimerCounty.org>

You can help your child every day with...

- bathroom habits
- hanging up clothes
- eating a good breakfast each morning before school
- getting dressed independently

- providing a night time routine (bath, story, bedtime) that allows them to get the sleep they need; most children this age require around 11 hours of sleep
- listening and following directions
- accepting responsibility by doing small tasks at home
- monitoring exposure to media for appropriate content and amount of time (TV, video games, internet)
- keeping track of all clothing and any materials brought to school, *being sure to label the inside of all clothing and materials, including backpacks*
- fastening clothing and putting on boots (please provide clothing that is washable and fastens easily; boots should be large enough to slip on and off without difficulty)
- communication; Talk with your child about their day. Questions such as “What did you do today?” can be overwhelming since so much happens in a day. Try specific questions such as these:
 - What was your favorite part of the day?
 - Tell me the story your teacher read today.
 - Who did you play with at recess and what did you play?
 - What books did you read today?



Family Resources to Support Kindergarten Academics

Beginning of the Year Skills Assessment

Screening of pre-reading literacy and other skills will be conducted at each school early in the year to determine appropriate differentiated instruction. Your child's teacher will communicate the results and instructional plan, including how you can support literacy development and other skills at home.

In kindergarten there will be many activities to...

- develop social skills and self-concept;
- increase vocabulary;
- explore differences and likenesses;
- improve motor skills;
- increase literacy skills;
- explore numbers;
- introduce new concepts in science and social studies; and
- develop critical and creative thinking skills.

In kindergarten your child will learn to...

- become at least an emergent reader – begin to read simple text in books;
- become a writer – write complete sentences;
- demonstrate good number sense, explore data, know shapes;
- have an understanding of time concepts and identify money;
- work individually and in groups;
- share with peers and solve simple problems with peers;
- express ideas out loud with peers and adults;
- listen and follow directions in small and large groups; and
- develop respectful relationships.

Helping Your Child Become a Reader

One of the most important things parents can do, other than to help their children grow up healthy and happy is to help them develop strong reading skills. How well children learn to read directly affects not only how well they perform in school but also how successful they are throughout their lives. When children learn to read, they have the key that opens doors to all the knowledge in the world.

Although well-trained teachers and research-based reading instruction are important, on-going support and involvement at home are necessary. There are steps parents and families can take to ensure that their children are on track to becoming successful readers:

- Start a home library, showing your child the importance of books;
- Borrow books from your local library to enjoy;
- Spend time with your child reading;
- Reinforce reading strategies learned at school; and
- Engage in conversations about the books read at home.

Colorado's Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (READ Act)

Colorado's Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (Colorado READ Act) was enacted during the 2012 legislative session. The READ Act replaces the Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) as of July 1, 2013, keeping many of the elements of CBLA such as a focus on K-3 literacy, assessment, and individual plans for students reading below grade level. The READ Act differs from CBLA by focusing on students identified as having a significant reading deficiency, delineating requirements for parent communication, and providing limited funding to support intervention. The READ Act requires that all students have an interim assessment in the fall, midyear, and spring that contribute to a body of evidence that helps to identify students who may not meet grade level expectations and to help inform instructional programming. In TSD, FASTbridge aReading will be used in kindergarten as our interim assessment. aReading for Kindergarten and I-Ready in grades 1-3 spring assessment scores will be reported to the Colorado Department of Education to comply with READ Act requirements.



Reading and Writing

Not all children entering kindergarten are ready to read and write. Reading requires many beginning skills to embrace being a reader. Writing requires that both body and mind are ready--small muscles, eye and hand coordination, understanding why we write, are all needed.

Kindergarteners will develop as independent readers and writers. Teachers will support this development with daily reading and writing opportunities.

Don't worry if at first your child is memorizing as they "read" to you. Or if the first few attempts to write are backwards or something less than perfect. You should encourage your child to read and write his/her name. Point out that the first letter is a capital and others are small letters.

Help Your Child Become a Reader

1. Recognize and make rhyming words
2. Identify and produce groups of words that begin with the same sound (alliteration) (ex: cat, car, catch)
3. Segment syllables in spoken words. (ex: pa-per)
4. Identify beginning letter sounds
5. Recognize upper and lowercase letter names
6. Recognize spacing between words
7. Identify front cover, back cover and title of a book
8. Read basic sight words (ex: the, to and, in, look, etc...)
9. Read basic consonant-vowel-consonant (cvc) words (ex: cat, hot, him, get, pup, etc...)
10. develop vocabulary for new, unknown, words
11. ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood
12. follow two-step directions (ex: Please put your shoes on and get your backpack.)

Help Your Child Become a Writer

1. Use the proper pencil grip
2. Write name properly
3. Generate a picture that is relevant to the topic
4. Generate a picture that is complete with a top, middle and bottom
5. With prompting and support, stretch out sounds to make words
6. Write on topic
7. Write using complete sentences

Help Your Child Become a Mathematician

1. Orally count to 100 by ones and tens
2. Recognize and write numbers 0 to 20
3. Count objects one by one
4. Add and subtract up to 10
5. Identify and classify 2-dimensional (2D) and 3-dimensional (3D) shapes



On-Line Links to Colorado Academic Standards

Family and Community Guides to the Reading, Writing and Communication Standards

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/rwcguidek>

Grade Level Specific Reading, Writing and Communicating Standards

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/coreadingwriting/statestandards>

Grade Level Specific: all academic standards

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/gradelevelbooks>

Community Resources and Services

Loveland

Loveland Public Library	300 N. Adams Avenue	962-2665
Hatfield Chilson Recreation Center	700 E. Fourth	962-2386
Loveland Museum and Gallery	503 N. Lincoln Avenue	962-2410
Early Child Council of Larimer County		377-3388
Women's Center	315 E. 7th	663-2288

Berthoud

Berthoud Library	236 Welch Avenue	532-2757
Berthoud Parks and Recreation	100 10th Street	532-1600



Thompson School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, and disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact the Director of Human Resources, 800 South Taft Avenue, Loveland, Colorado 80537, (970) 613-5000 or the Office of Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education, Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building, 1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, Colorado 80204-3582, (303) 844-5695 or

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Learning Services
800 South Taft Avenue
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 613-5000

www.thompsonschoools.org