Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

Children and Families Empowered for a Lifetime of Learning. Our vision statement for the Early Childhood Program reflects what we believe in. We see every year as a new opportunity to partner with you to help your child succeed and grow through the home and school partnership. Together, we can set the foundation for years of success in school!

I invite you to get involved with our program. This can be achieved in many ways, such as participating in Families Partnering in Education, Colorado Preschool Advisory Council, volunteering in your child’s classroom and attending the different events we will be offering this 2018-2019 school year district wide and at your centers.

I feel honored to work with our highly-qualified and dedicated staff, who are committed to helping your child grow academically and socially. The Early Childhood years are critical times of development for students and we look forward to working with all of you to make this 2018-2019 year successful.

Sincerely,

Lamb Caro
Early Childhood Administrator

Upcoming Events

September 5
Board of Education meeting
Administration Building Boardroom
6:00 p.m.

September 10
Family PIE meeting
Monroe Early Childhood Center
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
(Dinner and Childcare provided)

September 19
Board of Education meeting
Administration Building Boardroom
6:00 p.m.

Important Announcement

September 3
NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY

September 27
EC HUGS Family PBIS Night
Conrad Ball Middle School
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
PARENTS: If you have not already completed a Free and Reduced Lunch form, please do so and return it to your child’s teacher or Nutritional Services as soon as possible. The completion of this form helps Early Childhood to cut costs and be able to purchase more supplies for our classrooms to benefit your child’s education.

PARENTS: PLEASE be sure to notify your child’s teacher if your phone number or address change. It is very important that we have correct contact information. THANK YOU!

Social Emotional Resources...

Welcome to school! I’m sure you and your child are excited and possibly a little bit nervous. I hope that you have had a smooth transition into the school year. If you run into any bumps along the way, please feel comfortable talking to our fabulous teaching staff about your concerns.

My name is Mary Bowman, the Early Childhood Mental Health and Autism Coordinator. Susan Bartlett is our School Social Worker and Therapist. Susan and I will be working together to bring ideas, resources and information to you about the social and emotional needs of young children. As we move through the year, you will receive information about:

- Hugs (our mascot) and “PBIS”- Positive Behavioral and Intervention Supports
- Home strategies
- Parenting support
- Community resources
- Web-based resources
- And more

Feel free to contact either one of us at any time at 613-5052.

Have a great year!

Mary Bowman
Mental Health/Autism Coordinator
970-613-6179

English Language Development...

If you speak a language other than English in your home continue to speak and read to your child in your home language on a regular basis. Strengthening your child’s first language will help build important early literacy skills that will support their development as a multilingual person.

Offer your skills as a person with a native language other than English - volunteer in your child’s classroom to read books or sing songs in your native language to the children in your child’s class. You can play an important role in your child’s education both at home and in the early childhood classroom.


Erin Ridge
English Language Development
970-613-6084
erin.ridge@thompsonschools.org
Keeping ourselves safe!

Safe Pedestrian Tips from the Health Office

As a reminder, school busses and cars are back in full force on the neighborhood streets and around schools at this time of year. This greatly increases the chances of accidents with small children running into the school building or running through the parking lot to meet their families. It is very important to teach your children how to be safe when crossing the street or walking through the parking lot at school.

- Do not allow children to cross streets alone. Teach your child to ask an adult for help before crossing the street or parking area.
- Do not allow them to run or dart across the street or parking area.
- Use sidewalks as much as possible.
- Teach children to be careful at cross walks. Even if the flashing sign says “walk”, look both ways for cars turning or not obeying before crossing the street.
- Teach children to treat driveways like intersections. Stop at the edge, and then look right and left for cars pulling out. Teach them to look for back-up lights on a car which means they are moving.
- Children getting off the bus must always cross in front of the bus, look left and right for oncoming cars and make sure the bus driver sees you before you cross. The bus driver will signal that it is safe to cross.
- Parents crossing the street with children must use the cross walk. It teaches children to do the same and it is much safer. There is often a crossing guard or flashing light that will signal the driver to stop and look for pedestrians. Running across the middle of a street is never safe.

Here’s to a safe school year!

Christiana Shorten
Health Coordinator
970-613-5063
kiss them goodbye and reassure them that you will return to pick them up soon. You are welcome to check in with staff to make sure that your child is doing well. Rest assured that our skilled staff will comfort your child and keep them safe!

When you pick up your child, talk about what you did while they were in school and then ask them about their day. Emphasize your feelings in your conversation. For instance your conversation may go something like this...

“While you were at school, Daddy had a meeting, but my computer wouldn’t work. I was embarrassed and frustrated, but I asked my boss and he let me use his. How was your day? Did you feel frustrated at all today?”

Or...

“While you were at school, Mommy had to go to Walmart to buy some spaghetti noodles for dinner. I know that spaghetti is your favorite and I wanted to make you a special dinner after your long day at school. What did you have for lunch today? I want to hear all about the fun you had today!”

Conversations with your child are an important part of their language development, as well as the development of a positive self-esteem.

Thanks for partnering with us in the education of your precious little ones!

Amy Gerhard
Education Coordinator
970-613-5078

Preschool education is important for school readiness. We focus on social-emotional skills, math, language, literacy, physical development, and of course we have fun!!

There is a misperception that preschool attendance doesn’t matter. Unless your child is ill, it is very important that your child attend school every day. Research shows that students with lower preschool attendance have lower scores in all subjects when they reach kindergarten. Children who do not attend preschool regularly, are less likely to read proficiently by the end of third grade.

We know that children get sick, and we certainly want you to keep your child home if he or she isn’t feeling well. Be sure to call your child’s teacher by 8:30 am if your child will not be in school.


Julie Lindsay
Family and Community Partnership Coordinator
(970) 613-5053
julie.lindsay@thompsonschools.org