



# Welcome to Kindergarten 2011-2012



***The mission of the Thompson School District is to  
Empower to learn • Challenge to achieve • Inspire to excel***

Dear Parents,

Welcome to an exciting beginning of an educational journey. Entering kindergarten marks the beginning of one of the most important experiences in your child's life.

We want this first contact with school to be a positive and happy experience. Your home has been the center of interest in your child's life. Now the school is entering into a partnership with you to help provide additional experiences and promote growth and development. Parents and teachers working together is important to your child's success. You can encourage our child by taking an interest in school work and regularly communicating with your child's teacher.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline important information and responsibilities that you as parents and we as teachers have in providing the best possible education for your child.

For additional information or questions contact your school's principal or the Elementary Education Department at 613-5054. The staff of the Thompson School District wish you and your child a happy and successful year in kindergarten!

Paul Bankes, Ed.D.  
Director of Elementary Education



### **Vision**

The Thompson School District will be a school district that empowers, challenges and inspires students, faculty, staff, parents, school leaders and community members to learn, achieve and excel.

### **Board of Education**

Lola Johnson  
Janice Marchman  
Sharon Olson  
Leonard Sherman  
Lucille Steiner  
Karen Stockley  
Leslie Young

### **Superintendent**

Ronald G. Cabrera, Ph.D.

### **Superintendent's Cabinet**

Mike Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources/School Support  
Judy Skupa, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent of Learning Services  
Steve Towne, Chief Financial Officer  
Wes Fothergill, Director of Communications and Community Resources  
Erv Klein, Director of Instructional Support/Technology Services  
Annette Overton, Director of Quality Performance

**[www.thompsonschoools.org](http://www.thompsonschoools.org)**

## REGISTRATION

### **Entrance Age**

A child may enter kindergarten if he/she is five years old on or before October 1 of the year of enrollment. Younger students shall be accepted if transferring from a public school kindergarten program.

The district does provide early access to education services for kindergarten students who meet the unique needs of the highly advanced gifted child. For more information contact your school principal.

### **What to bring...**

- child's birth certificate;
- completed health and immunization forms;
- phone number of doctor and local phone numbers of relatives or friends to be included on the emergency card (these cards are provided at the time of registration);
- proof of residency (example: utility bill); and
- information that may be helpful to the school (example: special health or family concerns); the health of your child is most important to his/her success.

### **Immunizations required by Colorado State law:**

- DTP\* (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) – 5 doses
- Polio\* – 4 doses
- Hepatitis B – 3 doses
- Varicella (chicken pox) – 2 doses
- MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) – 2 doses

\*Only 4 DPT and 3 polio doses are required if the last dose is given after age 4 years.

The first doses of the immunizations listed below must have been administered on or after the first birthday:

- Measles (hard, red) – 2 doses
- Rubella – 2 doses
- Mumps – 2 doses
- Varicella – 2 doses

## ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

Some elementary schools offer extended day or full-day kindergarten programs, in addition to morning and afternoon half-day kindergarten classes. Contact your school for specific details.

### **School of Choice/Transfer Policy**

All students are expected to enroll in the school whose attendance boundary includes their residence. Students who wish to attend a school outside their attendance boundary must follow the *School of Choice/Open Enrollment Policy*. The student transfer policy may be obtained at any school, on the district website (<http://www.thompsonschoools.org>), or at the Administration Building (800 South Taft Avenue, Loveland).



## **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.

### **Literacy**

Screening of pre-reading literacy skills will be conducted at each school before the start of the school year. Your school will contact you to schedule a time in August.

### **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
- encouraging your child to count things around the house:
  - the knives and forks on the table,
  - the cars on your street, and
  - the items on a grocery list or in a bag.
- 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.

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

[http://www.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/preschool/part\\_pg4.html#pg5](http://www.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/preschool/part_pg4.html#pg5)

### **You can help your child everyday with...**

- bathroom habits
- knowing when and how to use tissues
- 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 all clothing and materials*
- 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?

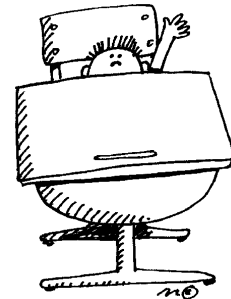
Tell me the story your teacher read today.

Who did you play with at recess and what did you play?

## **KINDERGARTEN ACADEMICS**

### **In kindergarten there will be many activities to...**

- develop social skills and self-concept
- increase vocabulary
- explore differences and likenesses
- improve motor skills
- explore numbers
- introduce new concepts in science and social studies



### **In kindergarten your child will learn to...**

- become an emergent reader – begin to read simple text in books
- become a writer – write simple sentences using phonetic spelling
- demonstrate a 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
- 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 for your local library to enjoy;
- Spend time with you child reading;
- Reinforce reading strategies learned at school; and
- Engage in conversations about the books read at home.

### **Colorado Basic Literacy Act**

The Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) was enacted in 1997 by the Colorado General Assembly to ensure that all students by the third grade have the literacy skills essential for success in school and life. CBLA calls for local school districts to identify students who are reading below grade level and give them the necessary reading interventions.

### **Kindergarten CBLA Proficiencies**

Sense of story including:

- Tell a simple story with beginning, middle and end
- Retell a known story in sequence
- Listen to and comprehend a variety of genres
- Generate a picture/written response to text listened to or read
- Connect information and events in texts to life experiences
- Identify characters, settings, and key events in a text

Concepts about print including:

- Handle books correctly
- Understand directionality of print
- Focus on word after word in sequence
- Use pictures to predict print
- Realize print carries meaning

Phonological and phonemic awareness including:

- Recognize, hear and produce patterns of sound in oral language
- Identify, blend, and segment the phonemes of most one-syllable words

Some letter and word recognition including:

- Recognize and name all letters
- Apply knowledge of letter-sounds to decode single syllable words
- Know letter sounds
- Read simple words including a few sight words

Vocabulary including:

- Talk about words and word meaning
- Identify and sort common words within basic categories

Fluency including:

- Read orally simple text containing familiar word patterns
- Express knowledge of words used in instruction such as prepositions, common nouns, verbs, and pronouns

## **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.*

### **Kindergarten Hours**

Kindergarten hours vary from school to school. Please contact your child's school for starting and ending times.

### **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. Written progress reports will be sent home at the end of each quarter. *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, 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 (<http://www.thompsonschoools.org>), from the Administration Building (800 South Taft Avenue, Loveland) and at most local doctors' offices.

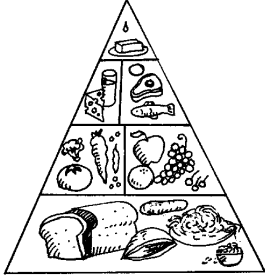


## NUTRITION SERVICES

### **Breakfast and Lunch**

The Thompson School District participates in the National School Lunch Program. With the help of the program, we are able to offer nutritious, well-balanced lunches at all elementary school locations. At many of our school sites, we also offer student participation in the Federal School Breakfast Program.

Each breakfast and lunch menu is planned by our food service staff. We try to take into consideration menu choice popularity by the students and also provide variety and occasional introductions of new menu choices. Our menus are planned using the Food Guide Pyramid as a general guide for choosing a healthy diet. Portion sizes vary according to the age and grade level to better meet the nutritional needs of our students.



Morning, full-day and extended-day kindergarteners with a beginning of the day start time may participate in the breakfast program. Check with your school for availability. All full-day and extended day kindergarteners may participate in the lunch program.

### **Cost**

Breakfast costs **\$1.25\*** and lunch costs **\$2.25\*** for elementary students. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. The reduced price for lunch is \$0.40\*; there is no charge for reduced price breakfast.

The *Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application* is available from your school office or by contacting **Nutrition Services, 2890 North Monroe Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538 – (970) 613-5143.**

\*2010-2011 school year meal prices; 2011-2012 meal prices have not been determined



### **Meal Accounts**

Meals can be paid for in three ways:

- online at <http://www.mylunchmoney.com>
- prepay by check
- cash daily

A note will be sent home when the student's accounts get low.

## TRANSPORTATION



### **Buses**

Bus transportation is available to kindergarteners on scheduled before school and after school elementary routes. Buses do not run separate mid-day routes for kindergarten students. Parents of half-day or extended day kindergarten students will be responsible for providing mid-day transportation.

Routing and scheduling information is available at your child's school office or by contacting the **Thompson School District**

**Transportation Center at 613-5185.** Bus registration forms will be sent home for parents to complete and promptly return to the bus driver.

During the first few days while our child is new to riding the bus we recommend that parents provide their child with a note listing the child's name, home address and contact phone numbers. 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, 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. 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.

### **Safety Rules for Bus Riders**

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

### **Safety Rules for Walkers**

- Walk on the left-hand side of the street.
- Look both ways before crossing streets.
- Cross the streets at crosswalks only.
- 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.



**Thompson School District**  
 800 South Taft Avenue  
 Loveland, CO 80537  
 Website: [www.thompsonschoools.org](http://www.thompsonschoools.org)

<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Berthoud Elementary 560 Bunyan Ave., Berthoud 80513	613-7500	Camilla LoJeske	Cindy Westbrook
B. F. Kitchen Elementary 915 Deborah Drive, Loveland 80537	613-5500	Kandi Smith	Wendy Cooper
Big Thompson Elementary 7702 W. Highway 34, Loveland 80538	613-5600	Kellie Bashor	Debi Rom
Carrie Martin Elementary 4129 Joni Lane, Loveland 80537	613-5700	Sheryl Weitzel	Nancy Baranczyk
Centennial Elementary 1555 W. 37th St., Loveland 80538	613-5800	Anne Marie Sanchez	Kim Lucero
Cottonwood Plains Elementary 525 Turman Drive, Fort Collins 80525	613-5900	David Patterson	Pam Svedman
Coyote Ridge Elementary 7115 Avondale Road, Fort Collins 80525	679-9400	Diane Spearnak	Sue Friede
Garfield Elementary 720 Colorado Ave., Loveland 80537	613-6000	Celeste Hyland	Rosanne Boudreau
Ivy Stockwell Elementary 175 Fifth St., Berthoud 80513	613-6100	Rhonda Richer	Holly Ross
Laurene Edmondson Elementary 307 W. 49th St., Loveland 80538	613-6300	Georgianna Dawson	Tammy Wildin
Lincoln Elementary 3312 N. Douglas Ave., Loveland 80538	613-6200	Joan Brockway	Mary Ann Johnson
Mary Blair Elementary 860 E. 29th St., Loveland 80538	613-6400	Traci Gile	Diane Hidy
Monroe Elementary 1500 N. Monroe Ave., Loveland 80538	613-6500	Susan Goppert	Jennifer Kingston
Namaqua Elementary 209 N. Namaqua Ave., Loveland 80537	613-6600	Richard Bowles	Anita McComas
Ponderosa Elementary 4550 Florence Drive, Loveland 80538	679-9500	Lamb Caro	Sheri Fender
Sarah Milner Elementary 743 Jocelyn Drive, Loveland 80537	613-6700	Dale Bryant	June Brewer
Stansberry Elementary 407 E. 42nd St., Loveland 80538	613-6800	Grant Waaler	Janet Richards
Truscott Elementary 211 W. Sixth St., Loveland 80537	613-6900	Wendy Fothergill	Marla Nolan
Van Buren Elementary 1811 W. 15th St., Loveland 80538	613-7000	Kendrick White	Barbara Serrano
Winona Elementary 201 S. Boise Ave., Loveland 80537	613-7100	Larry Shores	Donna Mee

## Thompson R2-J 2011-2012 District Calendar

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	<b>W</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>W</b>	20
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SEPTEMBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### Calendar Legend

- School Begins - Grades K-5 & 6-12
- No School - Holiday or Break
- w** No School - Teacher Work Day
- No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences - Teacher Comp. Day
- Q** End of Quarter/Semester
- School Ends - Grades K-12
- High School Graduation Day

### Special Dates

- August
- 15-19 All Teachers - Work Days
- 22 Transition Day - Grades 6 & 9
- 23 First Day of School - Grades 6-12
- 22, 23 Testing - Grades K-5
- 24 First Day of School - Grades K-5
- September
- 5 Labor Day
- October
- 3-7 Parent/Teacher Conf. Week (contact schools for info.)
- 21 1st Quarter Ends
- 24 Teacher Work Day
- November
- 23 - 25 Thanksgiving Break
- December
- 22 2nd Quarter Ends
- 23 Teacher Comp. Day
- 26 - 30 Winter Break
- January
- 2 - 5 Winter Break (continued)
- 6 Teacher Work Day
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February
- 13-17 Parent/Teacher Conf. Week (contact schools for info.)
- 20 President's Day
- March
- 16 End of 3rd Quarter
- April
- 2 - 6 Spring Break
- May
- 24 K-12 Last Day/End of 4th Quarter
- 25 Teacher Work Day
- 28 Memorial Day

FEBRUARY						
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APRIL						
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JULY						
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[www.thompsonschoools.org](http://www.thompsonschoools.org)