

Kindergarten Parent Handbook



BARTON CREEK ELEMENTARY
2017-2018

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to the Kindergarten program at Barton Creek Elementary! This handbook is designed to give you important information that you will need to know about the **first day** and **first few weeks** of school. Please read it thoroughly.

Please fill out the Parent Questionnaire, Transportation Form, and Bluejay iPad Contract all located at the end of the handbook and return as early as you can, but please no later than **Monday, August 21st** (you can send via email or return a hard copy). We'll also have hard copies available at Back to School Night and the Lemonade Social.

Thank you,

Leslie Abbott, Emily Hanley, and Chrissi Knox

First Day Checklist

- Backpack labeled with child's first and last name
- 2 snacks packed **separately** from lunch and labeled with child's name - nut free, please
- Lunch from home OR purchase in cafeteria
- Flip top water bottle labeled with child's name
- Parent Questionnaire, Transportation Form, and Bluejay iPad Contract filled out for teacher**
- School hours are 7:40-2:50
- Your child should go directly to the **classroom** on Monday, August 21st. Be prepared to leave your child with their teacher in the classroom.
- A good night's sleep and a healthy, hearty breakfast!



Important Information

Transportation Home - It is imperative that your child's teacher knows how your child is getting home each day. **Please sign your child up as a bus rider, car rider, office pickup, or Easy Care via the Transportation Form at the back of the handbook.**

Bus Rider - If your child will ride the bus, please indicate which bus he/she will ride. Bus tags will be attached to student backpacks in order to help identify which bus they ride. Please leave these attached to your child's backpack. A Kindergarten teacher will walk all the bus riders out to the busses at the end of the day.

Car Rider - If you are picking your child up from the car line, you will drive through the parking lot, to the right of the school, and around to the back of the school by the playground. A teacher will assist with calling children to the car. Please stay in the car and be on the lookout for your child. A Kindergarten teacher will walk all the car riders to the back of the school at the end of the day.

Office Pickup - If you are picking your child up from the office in person, please park and walk in through the front doors. You will not need to sign in and get a badge at this time. Parents may wait in the front foyer area outside of the office, but are not allowed down the 100 hallway. A Kindergarten teacher will walk students to this area on their way to drop off other students at Easy Care, so please keep an eye out for your child.

Easy Care - A Kindergarten teacher will walk the Easy Care students to the cafeteria at the end of the day.

Please send an email if transportation needs change on any given day. We will **not** change your child's daily transportation (from the Transportation Form) without your written permission. Thank you for your cooperation with this! ****If transportation changes during the school day, email me with the change. If you do NOT hear back from me by 1:30 pm, please call the office and let them know about the change. We will NOT send a child home a different way unless hearing from a parent.**

Per district policy, students are not allowed to ride a bus that is not their assigned bus. If you wish to set up a play date for your child, please arrange a different mode of transportation

Backpacks- Each day your child will be responsible for bringing things to and from school. Please send a labeled backpack with your child that is large enough to carry a lunch, snacks, folder and books. Please put one or two books in the backpack for your child to enjoy on the mornings he/she may need to wait in the cafeteria before the first bell.

Snack- Each child will need to bring 2 healthy snacks to school each day. Snacks should be small enough to fit in a baggie or small reusable container. If the snack requires a spoon or fork, please send one with your child. Make sure the snacks are labeled with your child's name, and pack it separately from lunch to avoid confusion. We suggest nutritious snacks such as apple slices, raisins, carrots, pretzels, granola bar, crackers, etc. **ALL Kinder classrooms are NUT FREE. *Please inform the nurse of any food allergies immediately.**

Lunch- Please provide a healthy lunch for your child each day by either sending a lunch with him/her or adding money to their account in the cafeteria or through skyward. You can find more info on lunch accounts at bce.eanesisd.net > Quick Links > Online Payments > Student Meals & Fees. If you send a lunch, please send a labeled lunch box or sack. Please use containers that your child can open and close independently.

Water Bottles- Please send a labeled, flip top water bottle, that can be opened independently, with your child each day. It is important that your child drinks water throughout the day and it is helpful if the water bottle is reusable. Only water is allowed in the classroom as a drink.

Arrival- On the first day of school, please walk your child to the classroom upon arrival. Beginning on August 22nd, students arriving before the first bell rings (7:35 am) will need to report to the cafeteria. If they arrive after the first bell, they can walk straight to class. If arriving after 7:40 am, students will need to stop in the office for a tardy slip before proceeding to class.

Assemblies- School wide assemblies will be held ever Monday in the cafeteria beginning at 7:40 am (with the exception of the first day). This is a time for the students, faculty, and staff to come together and celebrate BCE! Parents are always invited to attend as well. Other special assemblies will occur throughout the year and we will provide plenty of notice regarding these.

The ABC's of Kindergarten

A

If your child is **absent**, please send an email to bceattendance@eanesisd.net and copy your child's teacher. A note or an e-mail to the school office stating the reason for the absence must be sent to school as soon as possible to avoid an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused with a doctor's note.

Our **art teacher** is Ms. Shafer. Students will go to art every third day.

B

Birthdays are special celebrations in every child's life, and we will honor your child on his or her birthday. At the beginning of each month, I will send home a 'Birthday Bag' for your child. This bag is for you to fill with items for your child to open in front of the class during snack. If you would like to include a treat for your child only in the bag, that is great. If you would like to send something for all of the students in the class, we ask that you only send non-edible items such as stickers, pencils, etc. Do not send **birthday party invitations** to be distributed at school unless all children receive one.

I will frequently send home **book order** forms from Scholastic for you and your child to see. Book clubs offer books at reduced prices. It's a great way to build your child's home library, but it is completely optional. Order online and use your child's class code to earn books for the classroom.

Behavior expectations are aligned with our school Positive Behavior Interventions and Support system. Our goal is to build a classroom community that promotes independence, cooperation, and positive lifelong choices.

C

Parent-Teacher **conferences** are held at the end of the first quarter and by request throughout the year. Watch for information and reply accordingly. Conferences will be held on October 25, 26, 27. Students are released at 11:50 am.

Communication is important. Please contact your child's teacher whenever you have a question, comment, or concern.

Community Building is an opportunity for your child to learn through play and enhance social skills. At times, we will join the other Kindergarten classes in centers, and students will then self-select an area in which to work (play). This is an important time for developmentally appropriate activities and integral to the growth and development of your child.

D

Differentiation will be executed in numerous ways in the classroom, through independent study, research projects, math enrichment, appropriate guided reading groups, leveled activities in centers, and other activities.

Daily Five is a structured time for students to develop daily habits of reading, writing and working independently while teachers work with students individually or in small groups to meet students' individual needs.

E

Please feel to **email** your child's teacher with any questions or concerns you may have.

Early Release Days will take place on September 26, November 7, January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24. On Early Release days, students will be released at 12:50pm. *These are in lieu of Late Start days.

F

Information about **field trips** will be sent home after definite dates have been scheduled.

Students will have a **folder** they will bring home from school on Thursdays with completed work and school notices. Please keep the contents, sign the folder, and return on Friday. We will send home other items occasionally.

G

Students will go to the **gym** on days they do not have art. Coach Linnell prefers tennis shoes on those days to safely participate in P.E.

H

Students will have some **homework** in Kindergarten. The homework will consist of optional projects that are completed at home. We also ask that students have daily experiences listening to someone read to them or reading to someone. You can find other enrichment activities on our websites with ideas for language arts games and math activities.

I

Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. Kindergarteners are very capable of doing many things on their own, and we encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom. Please work on the following self-help skills at home with your child: *zipping, tying shoes, dressing, packing backpack, opening/closing water bottles, and containers, etc.*

During our learning stations, students will work on **independence**, stamina, and fluency with their reading and writing skills.

J

Jump, jump, jump for joy! Movement activities are integrated throughout the day to keep our brains and bodies working at their best potential.

K

Keep updated by reading emails, checking your class website and going over the information in the Thursday folder.

L

Each Kinder class will visit the **library** once a week. Our librarian is Mrs. Fredrickson. Your child will check out a book when we visit the library and return it within the following week. Your child is allowed to keep a library book for 2 weeks without it being overdue. If a book is lost, fines will have to be paid before the end of the year.

Kindergarten eats **lunch** at 10:55. If **lunch money** is sent to school, please send it in an envelope with your child's name and student ID.

M

The children will have **music** with Ms. McNicholas on days they do not have Art.

We will have a school wide assembly every **Monday morning** to celebrate everything wonderful about our school. All students will meet in the cafeteria.

The Kindergarten **math** curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics. Problem-solving will also be integrated into the math curriculum.

N

News can be found on the class and school website.

No Homework Nights are September 26, October 31, January 30, February 27, March 9, March 17, April 24, May 11.

O

Open House will be scheduled in the Spring.

P

Play is essential to your child's social, emotional, mental, and physical development. Give your child opportunities and encourage him or her to **play** outside, **play** with **peers**, and enjoy imaginative **play**!

For several of our units, we use a **Project Based Learning** approach. Students are highly engaged in communication, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration to solve a problem and respond to a challenge.

When picking up your child or coming to volunteer, please use the parent and visitor **parking lot** located at the side of the building. You will need to have a badge from the office when entering the building between the hours of 7:40- 2:50.

The **pick up** and drop off lane is a cell phone free zone.

Q

Questions? Please feel free to call or email.

R

Kindergarten **report cards** will be available through Skyward 4 times during the year.

Kindergarteners have **recess** every day from 11:25-11:40 and 1:40-2:05. Please send your child in weather appropriate clothing.

Reading instruction will occur in a variety of ways depending on individual and group needs. Guided reading groups will begin after individual assessments and observations have been made.

S

The focus of the Kindergarten **science** curriculum is to engage students in making predictions, active investigations, recording data and inspire wonderings.

The Kindergarten **social studies** curriculum focuses on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school, and community.

Each week we will celebrate our **Student of the Week**. I will give additional information to let you know some special activities that we will do with the **Student of the Week**.

T

If your child has any changes in their **transportation** please let your child's teacher know by call or email. If you choose to email and do not receive a response by 1:30pm, please call the office. They will get the message to us. Please see the beginning of the handbook for more detailed information, and don't forget to fill out the **Transportation Form** for your teacher.

Fridays are BCE Spirit Days so wear your BCE **t-shirts!** The class with the highest participation is awarded the Spirit Flag for one week.

U

Units of study, skills and concepts, and information on curriculum will be located on our websites.

V

Volunteers and **visitors** must register in the office and pick up a badge. **Volunteers** are a great asset to our Kindergarten program!

If a **vacation** is scheduled during school time, please complete an *Extended Leave* form available in the school office.

W

Writing occurs throughout the day in Kindergarten. Students will be involved in the writing process including drafting, editing, revising, and publishing during

Writer's Workshop. Encourage your child to write at home for a variety of purposes.

One way we accomplish this is through writing stories in our **Writer's Notebook** and during writer's workshop. Encourage your child to write at home for a variety of purposes.

Visit your child's class website for **Wish List** items.

Water bottles are welcome and encouraged. Please make sure that it has a flip top that closes securely.

X

Parents and family members may **eXit** through any door, but must enter through the main school entry.

Y

Your ideas...and suggestions are welcome!
Your help is greatly appreciated!

Z

Zzzzzzz - Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give your child.

Parent Questionnaire

Please note this form is used solely between teacher and parent. If your child has any health issues, allergies, etc. please contact the school nurse, Marilyn Sansom, to complete required paperwork.

Please return Parent Questionnaire to school by Monday, August 21st.

Student Name: _____

Preferred Name/Nickname: _____

Birthdate/Age: _____

Name of Preschool Attended: _____

Health/Diet Information: _____

Parent's Name:	Parent's Name:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Email:	Email:
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please send weekly updates to this email	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please send weekly updates to this email

Address: _____

Siblings/Ages: _____

Other Languages Spoken at Home: _____

Goals for your Child at School: _____

**Parents' Professions and/or Areas of Expertise (occupation/hobby/interests...
how can we utilize your expertise in the classroom?):**

Any Additional Information: _____

**Permission to share for "Class Directory" (Please check all that you give
permission to share. This will only be shared within our class):**

- Child's Address
- Parent Phone Numbers
- Parent Email Addresses

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Transportation Form

Please indicate how your child will typically be getting home by checking the appropriate box for each day of the week. ****If you're planning for something different on just the first day of school or just the first week of school please indicate in the notes section.***

Student Name: _____

Mondays	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Car Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Pickup	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy Care
Tuesdays	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Car Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Pickup	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy Care
Wednesdays	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Car Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Pickup	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy Care
Thursdays	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Car Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Pickup	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy Care
Fridays	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Car Rider	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Pickup	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy Care

Bus Name (if applicable): _____

Notes: _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



Bluejay iPad Contract



I will use clean hands when using the iPad.



I will always use an iHug with two hands to carry the iPad.



I will make sure to plug the iPad in when I see this.



I will only use and download apps my teacher **approves!**



I will keep food and liquids away from my iPad.



I will be responsible and make smart choices while using the iPad.



I will use my voice, not my hands, to help others.



Child's name printed: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____