



# Welcome to the Very Busy Kindergarten!

A Note from Mrs. Leach



Kindergarten is such an adventure! Our first few weeks of school have been filled with new and exciting things. We've spent a lot of time learning our daily routine. Things like lining up, walking down the hall, doing our calendar, practicing our cutting and writing skills, making new friends, going to recess, and on and on and on. Our day is very busy and adventurous.

First, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I currently live in Nampa with my husband and 2 children. Emma is in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and Dawson is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We are very active and love to be outdoors and enjoying time together. I've been teaching for 27 years, and this is my 10<sup>th</sup> year here at Chaparral. I've taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade (for 2 very long years), 1<sup>st</sup> grade for several years, and I am starting my 12<sup>th</sup> year in Kindergarten. I must say, kindergarten is my favorite!

I've included in this letter a few details about our classroom. I believe the connection between home and school is vital to your child's education. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. The phone number here at school is 208-350-4180. You can email me at: [Leach.Lisa@westada.org](mailto:Leach.Lisa@westada.org). I send just about everything through the Bloomz App. If you haven't signed up for it, DO IT NOW. I will occasionally send an email, but Bloomz is the go-to for sending messages. If you haven't received an email from me, it's because your child's Power School account email was incorrect. Also, please check my school website for sight words, kindergarten standards, and classroom updates. Here's what to do!

- \*Go to westada.org
- \*Select School (at the top of the screen)
- \*Choose Chaparral Elementary
- \*Select Teachers and Staff
- \*Choose Leach, Lisa

In my teaching philosophy, I believe all students can and will be successful learners. I also believe that all children learn differently. I strive to accommodate all learners by providing a variety of activities. The classroom rules and procedures are meant to assure that every child is allowed to learn with limited distractions. I hope to instill a sense of community and respect in our room. I teach this through modeling, positive reinforcement, verbal warnings, and consistency. I use the "Clipboard" as a reminder for our students.

**Management:** As a behavior reminder the "Clipboard" is used. Students are given a few verbal warnings and then if the situation occurs again, they are asked to write their name on the Clipboard. Once a name is written that student will sit with his/her head down for 5 minutes. If a verbal warning is given again, the student is asked to circle his/her name. At this point, the student will lose recess or there will be another appropriate consequence. A Behavior Alert note will be sent home when necessary. If a minor problem becomes a consistent problem, I will contact the parents.

**Volunteers:** No volunteers at this time. I will send a Sign-Up Genius for party donations when the time comes.

**Kindergarten Homework:** Research has shown that time spent reading with and to your child is the single most important aspect of early reading skills. **Reading is the homework!** Students will be bringing home a Reading Chart in October. Once it's complete, return it to school and your child will join the Kindergarten Book Club. Once it's returned, students will bring another one home. The goal is to complete one Reading Log each month. I know some families will do more and some less. That's ok, just read with your child!!! As the year goes on, students will bring home Sight Words to practice. If a student has a specific skill that needs extra practice, he/she may bring home additional practice pages.

**Unfinished Work:** Because our school day is very short, sometimes things don't get finished. When unfinished work comes home this is a great opportunity to work with your child for a few minutes. The work does not need to be returned to school. If work is unfinished due to a child's behavior or choices, a note will be attached, and the work is expected to be completed at home and returned to school the next day.

**Birthday Celebrations:** Our school follows the district guideline for birthdays. Students are NOT allowed to bring treats to school. Each child will be recognized in class on their special day.

**Attire:** Please make sure to dress your child appropriately for school. Spaghetti strap shirts/dresses are NOT allowed. We play outside every day, unless inside recess is announced. Children who are at school should be well enough to go to recess. Also, please make sure your child wears tennis shoes on PE days.

**Snack:** Eat a good breakfast! There is no snack time in kindergarten. Also, PLEASE send a water bottle. The drinking fountains are not currently working.

A few things to work on right now.....

### **Pencil Grip**

\*\*Please watch the following video and help your child with his/her pencil grip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DP5htYZ5jjQ>



### **Scissor Practice**

Give your child the ads from the newspaper and let them cut, cut, cut. The kitchen floor is a great place to practice, it's easy to clean up.

### **Name Writing**

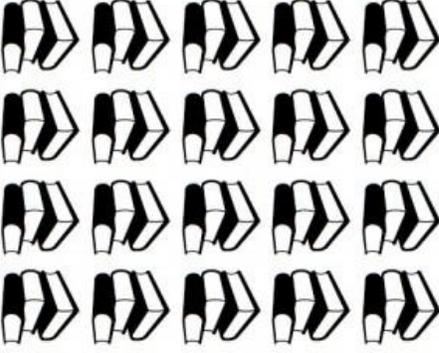
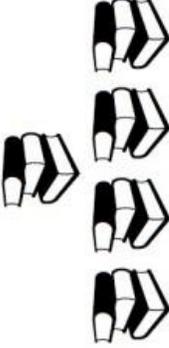
Students entering Kindergarten should be able to write their first name independently. Please start practicing with correct letter formation (one uppercase letter, the rest lowercase). Students should also be able to identify each letter of his/her name individually.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic and very busy year!

Mrs. Leach

# Reading is the Homework!

## WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 20 minutes per day.</li> <li>❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.</li> <li>❖ 1,800,000 words per year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 5 minutes per day.</li> <li>❖ 900 minutes per school year.</li> <li>❖ 282,000 words per year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 1 minute per day</li> <li>❖ 180 minutes per school year.</li> <li>❖ 8,000 words per year.</li> </ul>
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Scores in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Scores in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Scores in the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.</li> </ul>

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

(Negey and Herman, 1987.)

**WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.**

# Sign up for Bloomz!!!!



## Please join Mrs. Leach's Kindergarten class on Bloomz!

Bloomz is a new app that works both on your smartphone as well as on your computer. You will receive quick updates and photos of class activities, be able to access our class calendar, and more. All in a private and secure environment.



### New Bloomz Parent

1. Download the "Bloomz" app from the AppStore/PlayStore and click on "Enter Code". If browser, go to bloomz.com and click on "Join Bloomz" followed by "Enter Code"
2. In the text box, enter **E737UD**
3. Create your account



### Existing Bloomz Parent

1. Log into your Bloomz account
2. Click "+Add Class/Group" on the left navigation.
3. In the text box, enter **E737UD**
4. Click next



### ... or join using text messaging instead

Text **@E737UD** to 1-858-BLOOMZ1 (1-858-256-6691) to receive 1-way text messages from your teacher

Need help? Go to [support.bloomz.com](http://support.bloomz.com) or email us at [support@bloomz.com](mailto:support@bloomz.com)