

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you and your child to Bronte Elementary and the Kindergarten class. I am very excited to have the opportunity to teach your child this year.

No matter which form of instruction your child is receiving this year; "in person" or "online" your child will be a part of our school family. Your child will experience a lot of academic challenges this school year. Your child will grow academically, emotionally, socially, and physically. As a parent, you are your child's most important teacher. I will work with you to help your child reach his/her potential. I am honored to be included in this academic journey with your child.

The following pages contain information about our classroom. This is a lot of information at one time. I do not expect you to remember it all by tomorrow. We will learn together, and I will be glad to answer any of your questions or concerns.

### **School Hours and Safety:**

School begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. ***If your child comes to school early, before 7:45, they will sit in our hall. There will be teachers at the front door and in the halls to greet and watch students.***

At 7:45 students will be able to come into our classroom. All students will be offered a free breakfast in our classroom after 8:00 a.m.

We will eat lunch in the cafeteria at 10:55 a.m. Please contact the cafeteria personal to pay for your child's lunch. If you send money/check, please send it in the Longhorn folder. Money should be in a sealed envelope. On the envelope, please write your child's name and what the money is to be used for.

If your child brings his/her lunch to school, please send it with your child as they come to school. Our school's doors will remain locked during the day.

All students will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m. Our school is using the drop-off and pick-up procedure that we implemented last year. Please make every effort to be on time to pick up your child. It can be very scary and emotional for children to be the only one left with the teacher at the end of

the day. The pick-up line might seem long, but on most days last year, ALL students had been dismissed by 3:40.

**Please help your child feel safe and secure. Show them that you respect their feelings by being on time to pick them up from their school day.**

Students this age are ready to go home. They have had a long and very busy day at school. Let them relax and enjoy the rest of the day before, it starts all over again.

**If someone other than a parent is picking up your child, I will need a note from you. You may send notes with your child in the morning or you may call the office. \* This is for your child's safety.**

Buses will run as soon as they are loaded.

### **Curriculum:**

Our curriculum is mandated by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Kindergarten (TEKS). You can find these on the TEA website:

[www.tea.state.tx](http://www.tea.state.tx) I will use a variety of resource materials to cover these TEKS. The kindergarten (TEKS) are thirty pages long, so to save paper, I will let you look at them online. If you do not have access to this website, please let me know and I will be glad to print you a copy.

### **Benchmarks/Assessments:**

I will Benchmark students three times a year:

Beginning of Year (BOY) assessment in August/September

Middle of Year (MOY) assessment in January

End of Year (EOY) assessment in May

I will assess students over our TEKS curriculum as we progress through the year. I will send a copy of these assessments along with our benchmarks scores.

### **Online learning:**

Our class will be using the Seesaw App as our platform for online learning. Online learning will be more rigorous than last spring. Students learning from home will be covering the same academic areas and skills as the students that are physically in the class. If you came to Meet-the-Teacher on Friday, I gave you an invitation with a "code" to join our Kindergarten class on

Seesaw. If you did not receive this invitation on Friday, it is included in the Longhorn folder. It is very important that all parents/students have this app on a device that children will be able to use. In the case of our school closing, all students will immediately begin online learning using Seesaw.

### **Class DoJo**

Bronte ISD, PreK-12, will be using an app called Class Dojo to communicate with parents. This will alert you of any information you will need to know. Administration as well as teachers, will be able to send messages. You should receive a text message to join Dojo  
Examples of when you might receive a Dojo message; school closing, bad weather days, late starts, changes in calendar.

### **Citizenship:**

In our classroom, I believe that each person is entitled to a safe learning environment that fosters mutual respect, cooperation, and responsibility. I will consistently reinforce positive behaviors and promote student responsibility. I will not report your child's behavior to you each day. If during the day your child's conduct is not appropriate, I will send a note home with your child. If your child's conduct becomes an issue, I will contact you for a conference. I will work with your child to help him/her find their place in our group. If you feel the need to discuss your child's behavior, please call and we will schedule a conference.

### **Longhorn Folders:**

A Longhorn folder will be sent home on the first day of each week. On the front of the folder there is a place for a parent to sign. This folder will have important papers and newsletter for the week. This folder needs to be returned to school the next morning signed by the parent.

\*Beginning Monday, Aug. 17, your child will bring a Homework Folder home each night. This folder will need to be sent to school each day. More information about homework is addressed in the following pages.

### **Conference Time:**

My conference time is 8:35-9:25 a.m. I will schedule two conferences during the year. At this time, due to the precautions for COVID 19, these

conferences will be held virtually. These conferences will be in September and May, after benchmarks are completed. If during the year, I have concerns with your child's progress, I will schedule additional conferences with you. However, if you have concerns at any point during the year, I will be glad to meet with you at your request.

### **Absences:**

Please see information included in the Longhorn folder from Ms. Englert concerning absences. You may also view this information in the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook.

You may find the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook on the school's web page [www.bronteisd.net](http://www.bronteisd.net)

Select: Menu, Resources, then Parent Page

### **Library:**

Each Wednesday your child will have the opportunity to visit our school library to check out a library book. This library book will need to **stay** in his/her **backpack** unless your child is reading it. I have found that it is easier for children to keep up with their library books, if they keep the book in their backpack. If the book is not in their backpack on Wednesday, they will not have an opportunity to check out a new book until the next Wednesday. There will be a fine charged for each overdue book.

### **Birthdays:**

Your child may celebrate his/her birthday with us at school. You may send party treats for your child and his/her classmates to celebrate their special day. At this time due to the precautions for COVID, parents/visitors will not be able to attend parties.

To help keep our classroom clean, please do **not send cupcakes** for parties. Most cupcakes crumble very easily and have an extremely large amount of icing on them. Many young children have a hard time eating cupcakes without making a mess.

Examples of party food: cookies, muffins, fruit snacks, Little Debbie snacks, milk, juice, fruit, Rice Krispy treats, pudding, popcorn.

Please let me know, if you are going to send treats to school, so I can have students ready to celebrate. These parties will be held during the last 20 minutes of the school day. If you are planning to have a party outside of school, you may send birthday invitations to school to be handed out.

However, please make sure **EVERY** child in the class receives an invitation. I will send a class list next week.

If your child has a birth date that is in the summer, we will celebrate during the last 2 weeks of school. There will be more about summer birthdays when it gets closer to the end of school.

### **Toys:**

We will have SHOW-AND-TELL each Friday morning. Children will **not** be allowed to take toys or other show-and-tell items to recess. Please do not send an item that is of special value to you or your child. I cannot guarantee that it will be safely returned home! Please DO NOT send any computer games, small video games, or any toy that operates on electricity or batteries. Show-and-Tell is a language experience for children this age. Please make sure your child is an "expert" at whatever item he/she brings for show-and-tell. Monday through Thursday your child should not bring any show-and-tell items to school.

### **Dress Code:**

If girls wear skirts/dresses, please make sure that they wear shorts underneath. Children **will not** be allowed to wear flip-flops. They may wear sandals with appropriate straps. Please read the Handbook and Student Code of Conduct for more information concerning this topic.

Your children will attend a Physical Education class each day. The shoes that your child wears to school need to stay on their feet when they run. PE class is 30 minutes each day. Children will need to be dressed so they can participate in physical activities. If your child wears sandals/boots, they will need to bring tennis shoes to change into for PE.

### **Water Bottles:**

I have furnished a water bottle for your child to have at school today unless, they brought their own. Water bottle will be sent home each day to be washed and refilled. Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school each day. The drinking fountains will not be used at this time. Please make sure your child's name is also on the bottle.

THANKS!

## Homework:

Starting next Monday, Aug. 17 your child will bring home a homework folder. This homework folder should be returned each day. Inside the folder it will be labeled "Left at Home" and "Return Right Away". This folder will include work your child has done at school on the "Left at Home" side. On the "Return Right Away" side there will be books to read at home or papers to be signed and returned.

The Kindergarten reading program is an extensive program including phonics, sight words (high frequency words), and reading homework four nights per week, (Monday-Thursday). These homework books will be sent home in a baggie with a "Reading Slip". The **Reading Slip** will need to be filled out by the parent (or child) and returned along with the **baggie** and **book** (if it is a school purchased book) the next day. Some books will be Xerox copies or books your child makes, these books may be kept at home for your child to keep. I encourage you to save these copied books for your child to read throughout the year. **These books may be read by the parent, together with the child, or by the child independently.**

You may write down other books, besides the homework book, that you read with your child on the Reading Slip. Your child will keep track of these books on a chart in our room. Once a student has recorded 20 books on their chart they will get to select a treat from the treasure chest.

**Reading Homework should take no more than 10 minutes.** I think you will be amazed at how responsible and eager your child will be towards this "homework". Please help your child develop good study habits that will last the rest of his/her school career.

## Newsletter:

I will send a newsletter home on Mondays, or if Monday is a holiday the first day of the week. This newsletter will be in the Longhorn Folder. This letter is important to keep up with school events, as well as to let you know what is happening in our class. I will also link my newsletters to our school website. [www.bronteisd.net](http://www.bronteisd.net) and post it to our class Seesaw.

The following are the steps to access our Kindergarten Newsletters: from the school webpage: select Menu, Elementary, Elementary Teacher Pages, Alisa Webb. On my page you may scroll down until you see the following buttons: Email, Class Schedule and Newsletters.

**Parties:**

We will be having three parties during the school year. At this time, I am not sure how these parties will look, due to the precautions for Covid 19. As a school, we voted to celebrate Halloween - Friday, October 30, Christmas - Friday, December 18, and Valentine's Day - Friday, February 12. Other Holidays will be tied into our curriculum throughout the year.

*Thanks for sharing your child with me,  
Alisa Webb*

School: 473-2511

Cell: 650-7340

[alisa.webb@bronteisd.net](mailto:alisa.webb@bronteisd.net) -

I check my emails after school each day. I try to check my cell phone during lunch and as we are leaving our room for dismissal. If I do not respond to your call, text, Seesaw or Dojo message during the school day, and you need me, please call the school office.