

ARMAND BAYOU ELEMENTARY
STUDENT INFORMATION BOOK
2009–2010

Principal
Robin Williams

Assistant Principal
Lisa Helmle



16000 Hickory Knoll
Houston, TX 77059

Phone: (281) 284-5100
Fax: (281) 284-5105 or (281) 284-5106

School Hours: 8:00 to 3:15



Welcome Back Terrapins!

On behalf of our entire staff, I would like to welcome our new families to Armand Bayou Elementary (ABE). I am eager to get to know each one of you!

Armand Bayou is built on a tradition of excellence in the heart of our space community. I want to say thank you and congratulations to all the teachers and staff that nurture and challenge all ABE students. It is through providing rigorous and relevant instructional opportunities that led to a TEA Exemplary school for the 2008-09 year. This great achievement would not be possible without positive parent and community relations.

ABE is where **A**ttitude
Boosts **E**xcellence, and

CCISD is where **C**ourage,
Collaboration, **I**nnovation and **S**elf-
Direction provide endless possibilities.

Sincerely,
Robin Williams



ABE Core Values

Armand Bayou believes in the Love and Logic Way. Our vision is for all Terrapins to treat each other with dignity and respect at all times. Our goal is to empower students to own and solve their own problems.

We commit to giving logical consequences instead of punishment when possible. If a problem becomes chronic, you will be contacted and the incident will be documented. We will treat any problem behavior as an opportunity for your child to learn and grow.

ABE's History

The Clear Creek Independent School District was founded in May, 1948. Armand Bayou Elementary School opened its doors on August 20, 1976. The school was named after Armand Bayou Nature Park and Nature Center, a 2000-acre preserve that adjoins the Johnson Space Center in the Clear Lake Area. The bayou and park were named for Armand Yramategui, a Houston naturalist, who worked to preserve the natural beauty of the area.

School Song

We're terrapin terrific, we're white blue and green.
We're terrapin true at Armand Bayou.

We're terrapin terrific, each student, teacher, principal
Is terrapin true at Armand Bayou.

We're terrapin terrific our "Attitude Boosts Excellence!"
We're terrapin true at Armand Bayou.

Our knowledge is growing, our future is glowing.
We're a terrapin terrific school!

Lyrics by Nicole Luedeman
Music by Leslie Kowolski, 1989

Absences & Tardies

Upon returning to school from an **absence**, all students must have a letter explaining the date and reason. All notes must be received within three days of the absence for it to be counted excused. Email notices and phone messages will not be accepted. Students that are absent from school will receive a phone call home by our automated calling system.

Students who arrive **tardy** for school will be issued a tardy slip. Excessive tardies are reported to the CCISD Attendance Office. Parents are responsible for making sure their child arrives to school on time. The doors open at 7:45 A.M. and all students are admitted to class at 8:00 AM. Any student not in class by 8:15 AM is considered tardy.

If a student must be checked out early for medical appointments, etc, parents/guardians are required to sign-in/sign-out students for removal from school. **Students will not be released after 2:40 as it is too disruptive for the students and teachers while preparing for dismissal.** When a child returns from an appointment, he/she should have a return to school notice from the doctor.

Any student who has reached the legal limit of unexcused absences will receive a warning letter and you will be required to attend a conference at the school. If absences continue, the school will file a case in the Justice of Peace court, where you and your child must appear in response to the charges. For more information, please contact the Attendance clerk at the school.



Arrival and Dismissal

ARRIVAL SCHEDULE

7:45 a.m.	School Opens (students wait in supervised area)
8:00 a.m.	Students are released to class. (after the first week of school, parents will not be allowed to walk their child to class)
8:10 a.m.	Announcements begin
8:15 a.m.	Tardy Bell rings

DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

3:00 PM	All DAY CARE and BUSES Kinder, First, and 2nd grade WALKERS (K-2nd walkers will be held in the cafeteria to wait on sibling in 3rd-5th)
3:05 PM	3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade WALKERS and BIKERS
3:10 PM	All CAR RIDERS

WALKERS

- Parents picking up walkers will be asked to stand under the shade trees behind the bike racks.
- No foot or bike traffic will be allowed to cross thru the car rider area. If you will be walking or riding your bike along Running Springs, you will be asked to cross at the cross walk.

CAR RIDERS

- Children will remain on the porch with the teacher until the parent's car pulls up.
- Never leave your car unattended in the car rider line.
- If you choose to park and walk up to retrieve your child, your child is considered a **walker** and you will be directed to the office for a **“Change of Dismissal Form”**.
- Please do not enter, stop, park in, or block the **HANDI-CAP RAMP, BUS LANE, or FIRE LANE**.

BIKE RIDERS - Bike Safety

- All children should wear bike helmets (state law).
- Park and lock your bike in the bike rack.
- When arriving and leaving the school please make sure that you walk your bicycle until you are off campus.
- Use the crosswalk with the school crossing guards to safely cross Running Springs or Hickory Knoll. Students can also use the bridge under Hickory Knoll.
- Remember to go directly home after school.
- Bikes have the right of way on the bike paths. If passing a walker or jogger, please say “Excuse me” to let them know that you are there.
- Always use hand signals for stopping and turning.



Bad Weather Information

If threatening weather causes school to start late or to be canceled, announcements will be made over local radio and television stations. If school must be closed while classes are in session, the school district will monitor the situation, and students will stay at school until it is safe to transport them home.

Please discuss a RAINY DAY PLAN with your child. Your child should have on record of at least one neighbor to whom they should go with if parents are not available. Turn in a note to the teacher documenting your child’s primary and rainy day dismissal route.

On bad weather days, it is imperative that you stay in the car rider line to retrieve your child. No parent should park and come inside the building to retrieve their child, as it creates more confusion. Please know that all children are safe in the building and will be dismissed to you as you come through the car rider line. Plan on a longer wait time on those days.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast is available each morning from 7:45 – 8:10 AM. Lunch is served from 10:35 – 12:20. Menus are sent home each semester with the meal offerings. There are cafeteria monitors who are employed to supervise the lunchroom daily.

If your child chooses to buy breakfast or lunch from school, it is best to deposit money weekly or monthly into your child's meal account with a credit card at www.mealpayplus.com or through the cafeteria One World Café where cash and checks are accepted.

A special place has been provided for you and your child to eat lunch together. We ask that no other children are invited as space is limited.

Birthdays

Student birthdays are announced at the beginning of the school day. Weekend birthdays are announced on Fridays. Students are given a birthday ribbon by the Principal. If you want to bring your child a treat for his/her birthday, the treat is distributed **by the cafeteria monitor the last 5 minutes of lunch**. Invitations cannot be given out in class unless every child in the classroom receives one. Details are available with your child's teacher.

Textbooks

Students are issued textbooks at the beginning of each school year. If the textbook leaves the school, it must have a cover per state law. Students are responsible for caring for their textbooks. If a student is withdrawn from our campus, the textbooks assigned to that student must be turned in to the office at that time.

Visitors to our School

All visitors and volunteers are required to check-in at the secure entrance area and present their driver's license. The Raptor system will issue a Visitor Label for you to wear at all times. Parents are welcome to walk their children to class during the first week of school.

Volunteer Opportunities

Parent volunteers are an integral part of our success at Armand Bayou Elementary linking the home and the school. Varied programs and volunteer opportunities are available to allow parents to participate in their child's learning. A volunteer packet is distributed at the beginning of each school year with an opportunity for parents and guardians to sign up to volunteer in a variety of programs. We hope you will consider volunteering at ABE!



Opportunities at Armand Bayou

Fine Arts

Your child is provided daily opportunities to explore their individual talents in Art, Music, and Physical Education.

Instructional Best Practices

In order for us to insure that all students achieve academic, social, and emotional success we implement research-based best instructional practices along side many individualized programs. Some of these programs include: Counseling, Dyslexia, ESL/ELL, Gifted and Talented, and Special Education.

State Requirements

TAKS Testing

Students that are in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades are required to take a state test. Depending on the grade level, students take tests in math, reading, science, and writing. Students in grade 5 are part of the Student Success Initiative or SSI, which states that they must pass the reading and math in the 5th grade in order to be promoted to the next grade level.

From the Armand Bayou Health Room: Guidelines for Illness and Medication Administration at School

In order to keep all our students in CCISD healthy and safe, the district has guidelines that all parents are to follow. Students are not allowed to return to school if one of the following symptoms exists:

1. A temperature over 100 degrees F. If a child has a temperature of 100 degrees F or above, during the night or the morning before school, **the child needs to stay home and remain fever free without Motrin or Tylenol for 24 hours before returning to school.**
2. If your child is vomiting or has vomited during the night, keep him/her at home. It is recommended the child consume at least two meals before she/he can return to school.
3. Diarrhea or watery stools.
4. Rash in exposed areas that cannot be identified.
5. If your child has been diagnosed with Strep-throat ,he/ she needs to be on antibiotic treatment for a complete period of 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotic prior to returning to school.

If your child gets sick at school, the nurse will assess the student and give you a call if the child needs to be picked up from the clinic. The nurse would appreciate if the child gets picked up within one hour after the initial call. Please make sure the office has at least two working phone numbers in case of an emergency. The nurse would appreciate a call or email if your child has been diagnosed with an illness. This helps the nurse look out for any infectious disease that may be spreading in a class or grade level.



Guidelines for Medication Administration at School

Prescription Medicine:

A *Physician Authorization* form (obtained from the school nurse) must be completed by the child's doctor and signed by the parent/guardian for all medications that will be kept/given at school for **10 days or more**.

This also applies to any procedures to be performed at school.

- You may obtain a "school bottle" from your pharmacist with the proper label. You may obtain a "school bottle" from your pharmacist with the proper label.

Non-prescription Medications:

- In order for medicine to be kept/given at school, **a note from the parent/guardian or an over-the-counter medication form** from the school nurse **must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian with the following information:** student's full name, grade, teacher, diagnosis or reason for medicine, any allergies, medication name, medication dose, medication time, instructions for giving medication, beginning and end date for medication administration at school, emergency contact number.

All prescription and nonprescription medication:

1. **Must be** kept in the school clinic (with the exception of some inhalers or diabetic supplies at the parent's discretion).
2. **Must be** in the original container (Original bag for cough drops or box for medication) and labeled with student's name (even cough drops, Triaminic Melt aways). Check the expiration date for the medicine (this is noted in the box or medication bottle) and make sure it is up to date. **No loose pills in a plastic bag will be accepted.**
3. Only over-the-counter medications labeled "**12 years and younger**", "**Children's...**", "**junior...**" will be given at school. This is usually in the "Directions" section of the box or bottle.
4. **Each medication must be** accompanied by the proper authorization form/note discussed above.
5. **Children are not allowed to administer medication themselves at any time.**

NO MEDICATION(S) WILL BE GIVEN AT SCHOOL UNLESS THE ABOVE GUIDELINES ARE FOLLOWED.

Please feel free to call me at (281) 284-5113 if you have any questions or concerns.

Stefanie Clingon, School Nurse

2009-2010 Terrapin Team

Office, 281-284-5100

Principal—Robin Williams
Asst. Principal—Lisa Helmle
Secretary—Janet Castille
Clerical Aide—Jennifer Cannon
Counselor—Linda Stiefel, 281-284-5114
Data Analyst—Susie Galvin
Nurse—Stefanie Clingon, 281-284-5113

PPCD

Rene Seevers
Amy Connolley—Aide

AA—Alternative Academics

Connie Dupler
Aides—Barbara Ponder & Lisa Shaw

Pre- K

Margaret Berti
Aide—Christine McCollom

Kindergarten

Dianna Burrridge
Bonnie Butler
Lisa Nicklow
Stacy Flahaut

First grade

Janet Foltyn
Debra Moreno
Maureen Vyoral

Second Grade

Lesley Brown
Maggie Calagna
Kim Piggott
Kate Rock

Third Grade

Doreen King
Jonica Mangieri
Felicia Sharp
Sheryl Travis

Fourth Grade

Peggy Houston
Felicia Kurtz-Bank
Heather Danek
Deb Gitten

Fifth Grade

Sharon Garry
Angie Janecke
Stacy Tripp

Advanced Academics

Samantha Pulse

Art

Nicole Gilmore

Building Operator

Geraldo (Jerry) Cruz

Cafeteria

Lisa Bridges, Manager
281-284-5116
Renae Slaughter, Monitor

Diagnostician

Caryn Novoninsky

Dyslexia

Karen Holm

Music

Jeff Howard

ESL

Linda Reaves

Librarian

Rosemary Scherer, 281-284-5115
Patricia Basso, Aide

Literacy Coach/Resource

Marny Ethridge

Math Coach

Ellen Cave

Physical Education

Haley Cardenas & Mary Caruth

Resource

Rae Ann Bennett

Speech

Kelley Guarino

Special Education Team Leader/Resource

Suzue Bell