



SALADO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Michael Novotny, Superintendent
Burt Smith, Assistant Superintendent

Dear Pre K Parents,

We believe that communication to parents is an important piece of helping students become successful learners. Building a strong relationship between the school and home creates a positive attitude towards learning.

For the 2017-2018 school year, Thomas Arnold Elementary will utilize the “Buddy Backpack” system. The “Buddy Backpack” is a way to involve families in their child’s learning.

Parents will receive a “Buddy Backpack” that will include:

- Skills building games for reinforcing vocabulary, rhyming, letter knowledge, category sorts, or retelling a story.
- DVD’s that will have a variety of songs, stories and nursery rhymes to support what your child learns at school.
- Newsletters in English and Spanish that will provide valuable information about classroom activities.
- Parent workshops that will offer a “hands-on way” for parents to help at home and experience what the child participates in at school.

Thomas Arnold Elementary will also utilize the SmartStart Family Engagement piece provided by Waterford, a nonprofit research institute. It has been providing innovative technology based curriculum, proven to accelerate learning development. Publications on achievement have been published in the Washington Post, USA Today and Huffington Post.

SmartStart Home Connection provides family engagement resources designed to extend learning beyond the classroom and include family workshops to focus on supporting motivation and learning.

- Training sessions for parents will include monitoring student progress, interactive learning activities and practice on content skills.
- SmartStart presentations will engage families with English and Spanish languages.
- Families will utilize My Backpack for engaging children anytime and anywhere beyond the classroom.
- Free iPad apps with selections of songs, chants, games and nursery rhymes will challenge and reinforce the content taught in class.
- SmartStart offers home access to students as an option for accessing SmartStart at home. These activities can provide additional curriculum and tips to support student learning from home.

We look forward to a successful time of learning, and having a fun year with your child.

Sincerely,

Katie Mullins

Principal

Thomas Arnold Elementary