



# Welcome to Kindergarten!

Towanda Elementary Kindergarten 2023-2024



Hello future Bulldogs  
and Bulldog families!  
We are looking  
forward to meeting  
you!





# Our School



[Towanda Elementary Website](#)  
Check out our Instagram @towanda\_elementary

# Meet Your Kindergarten Teachers



**Mrs. Lange**



**Miss Leman**



# Meet Mrs. Lange

- I am so excited for your student to start Kindergarten and join the Towanda Family. A few facts about me...
- I graduated from Monmouth College.
- I have been teaching for 19 years. 14 of those years have been in 1st grade and 5 in Kindergarten.
- I started my career in Danville IL and have been at Towanda for 17 years.
- My world outside of school is my family.
- My husband and I have 2 daughters who are 3 and 5.
- My favorite part about Kindergarten is watching them grow throughout the school year.



# Meet Miss Leman

- Welcome to Towanda! I am so excited to meet everyone! Here are a few facts about me:
- I attended Unit 5 schools from Kindergarten all the way to graduation.
- I graduated from Illinois State with a degree in Early Childhood Education.
- I worked at Little Jewels Learning Center for 5 years before coming to Towanda.
- This will be my second year in Kindergarten at Towanda.
- When not at school, I love to spend time with my family, especially my new baby nephew!
- I also love to bake and play board games.
- I am so excited to help your student grow throughout the year!



# Meet Mrs. Bennington



**Principal**

Welcome to Towanda! I am so excited to have you join us!

Here are a few facts about me:

- I have been a principal for over 20 years and have been at Towanda since August 2022.
- Mr. Bennington and I have two children who attended and graduated from Unit 5 schools.
- We have 2 dogs named Jake and Parker.
- My favorite color is purple.
- I like to spend time with my family, read, and exercise.
- I love the Towanda Bulldogs! I can't wait to watch all of you learn many new things and practice respect, responsibility, and safety!

# Arrival & Dismissal

There are several different ways to come to school and to leave to go home. Be sure that your child knows how they are coming and going. Also, please make sure your child's teacher knows the regular plan, as well as any changes that may arise on a given day. If your child will be riding a bus, help them to learn the number before school starts. School starts at 7:45am and ends at 2:30pm.

## Towanda Drop off & Pick up Map

Parent Drop Off/Pick Up  
Front (West) Side of School



# Kindergarten Classroom



Voice Levels at School



# A Typical Day in Kindergarten

- Language Arts Block: Morning Message/Phonemic Awareness/Shared Reading/Word Work/Reader's Workshop/Guided Reading/Writing/Share time/Centers
- Math Workshop: Whole group/Small group/Share time/Centers for independent practice
- IMC/Music/Art/PE
- Purposeful Play
- Social Emotional Learning
- Lunch/Recess - 11:10-12:00





**Ms. Eilts**



**Mrs. Kath**



**Mrs. Killam-Davis**

# Art

**Students attend art once a week for 50 minutes. They learn about a variety of artists and techniques. They will have the opportunity to create many different works of art throughout the year.**



# IMC - Instructional Materials Center

Students attend IMC once a week for 50 minutes. Not only do they check out books to read, they also learn many technology skills.



**Mrs. Stiers**



**Mrs. Thompson**





# Music

**Mrs. Bland is our music teacher. She makes music fun, and students look forward to her classes each week!**

**Music is twice a week, for 25 minutes each class period.**

**Kindergarten students learn about rhythms, beats, vocal music, instrumental music, and more!**



# PE in the Gym



**Mr. Emerick**



**Mr. Wright**

**Students attend PE every day for 25 minutes. They learn a variety of skills and games. Teamwork is an important focus, too. PE is often inside, but it can be held outside at times.**



# The Office



**Mrs. Drew and Mrs. Bennington are here  
to help our students and families.**

# The Cafeteria

We are at a voice level 1 in the cafeteria.



This is what our lunch tables look like.



Here is where you will stand in line if you are getting school lunch.



Milk comes with school lunch. We have white milk and chocolate milk. You may also purchase a milk to go with your lunch from home.

# The Playground



**Towanda Recess & Lunch Expectations**



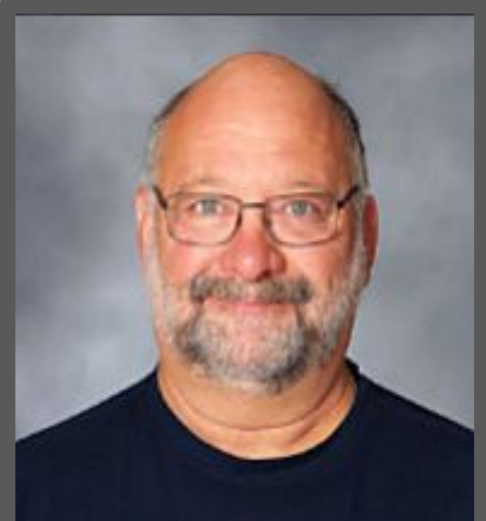
# Meet the Towanda Staff



**Mrs. Drew**  
Administrative  
Assistance



**Mrs. Bennington**  
Principal



**Mr. Rech**  
Head Custodian

# Meet the Towanda Staff



**Mrs. Cole**  
Nurse



**Mrs. Wagner**  
Kitchen Manager



**Ms. Arbuckle**  
Food Service



**Mrs. Syed**  
Family  
Coordinator



# Meet the Towanda Staff



**Mrs. Hamilton**  
Speech  
Pathologist  
(If your child  
currently receives  
speech, please  
note on form.)



**Mrs. Schmidt**  
MTSS  
Interventionist



**Mrs. Buhrow**  
School  
Psychologist



**Mrs. Kloster**  
Social Worker

# Special Events at Towanda



- Spirit Days
- Winter Activity Day
- Spring into Reading
- Ice Cream Social
- Dine to Donate Events at Various Restaurants and Businesses
- Out of the Blue Celebrations
- And more!

# PBIS & Character Grams

- **Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)** is a school-wide behavior program that was designed by eight universities and four educational facilities. Its purpose is to reduce negative behavior and encourage positive behavior.. Students receive Character Grams for positive behaviors and for making good choices. PBIS has specific programs in place for students who need extra support. Towanda is presently using several of these.
- **Students have the opportunity to earn Character Grams throughout the school day. If they are caught being Respectful, Responsible and Safe they can earn a character. Students can then spend their Character Grams in the store, Character Gram raffles, and for other special events.**



# Things to Practice Over the Summer

- Letters and Letter Sounds
- Writing Name
- Recognizing Numbers 1-20
- Shapes
- Colors
- Practice Counting by 1's
- Self Help Skills (unbuttoning pants, unzipping backpack, restroom needs, using a kleenex, keepings hands to self/safe body)
- Opening lunch box/packages independently during lunchtime



# Supplies for Kindergarten

- Backpack
  - No Wheels
  - Folder Size
- Supply Lists
  - Kindergarten supply lists can be found here!
    - **2023-2024 Kindergarten Supply List**
      - Please follow the list specifics
      - Please label according to the supply list





# Transportation

- Bus information should be available in Infinite Campus before school begins.
- If your child's information is not available in Infinite Campus one week before the start of school, please contact Transportation at (309)-557-4287
- If you live in a busing area, transportation will be provided for all students beginning the first day.



# Kindergarten Screening Tool & Snack Today



- Today your child participated in a brief assessment to help us learn a little bit more about them and their kindergarten readiness skills.
- After we finish today, your child may come back into the gym/lunchroom to have a Bulldog cookie and a milk. This is the type of milk they will drink if they eat hot lunch or purchase a milk to go with their lunch from home. They may choose white or chocolate milk. Thank you to our PTO for purchasing the cookies and milk for our new kindergartners!



## Completing the Online Registration Process

- ❑ Call our office at 309-557-4426. We will need to know if you are a current Unit 5 family or new to the district. We will ask for your address, best contact email, and how many children you are registering total (throughout all grade levels).
- ❑ An online registration link will be sent to the email address you provided within 2 business days. Please check your spam folder if you do not receive it within that time frame.
- ❑ Fill out the online registration. Have the necessary documents ready to be uploaded to your registration:
  - ❑ Birth Certificate
  - ❑ 3 forms of Address Verification. Mortgage statement/lease agreement, drivers license, water/phone or other utility bill.
  - ❑ \*Physical and Immunization Records
  - ❑ \*Dental and Vision Exams - \*May be submitted at a later date, but must be submitted by the first day of school to prevent medical exclusion. More information can be found on the next slide.

\*There will be fees for the school year, but they are not due at this time. You may begin paying in July.



# Medical Requirements for Kindergarten

## Unit 5 Medical Requirements for Kindergarten

Please contact our nurse, Mrs. Kelly Cole, at [colek@unit5.org](mailto:colek@unit5.org), if you have questions.

## After School Care Option

If you are looking for after school care, one option is YPALS. While this program is not associated with Towanda, the YPALS after school care program does meet at Towanda. If you are interested in finding out more, please see the linked form below.

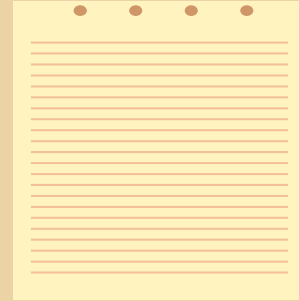
[YPALS QR Code](#)





# **Towanda PTO**

**We have a very active and  
supportive Parent Teacher  
Organization at Towanda.  
Currently we meet one Monday  
night a month at 6:00pm. We hope  
you will join us!**





**We can't wait to meet all of  
you! If you have any questions  
please feel free to contact the  
Towanda office at  
(309)-557-4426 or Mrs.  
Bennington at  
[benninmm@unit5.org](mailto:benninmm@unit5.org).**

