

2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbook

Environmental Science Magnet School

Houston Independent School District

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HSTON INDER ENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

025 YEARLY CALENDAR

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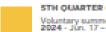
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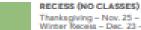
SCHOOL DAY START AND END TIMES

7:30 – 3:00 Elementary 8:30 – 4:00 K-8 and Middle School 8:30 – 4:00 High School



5TH QUARTER (SUMMER 2025)

Voluntary summer courses 2024 - Jun. 17 - Jul. 19 2025 - Jun. 16 - Jul. 23 [Mandatory for some students]



Thanksgiving - Nov. 25 - 29 Winter Recess - Dec. 23 - Jan. 3 Spring Recess - Mar. 10 - 14



STAFF PD (NO CLASSES)

Jun. 14, Sep. 3, Oct. 3, Nov. 8, Jan. 6, Feb. 14, May 2, Jun. 5, Jun. 13



August 12, 2024

INSTRUCTIONAL DAY START

AND END TIMES: NES

8:00 - 3:30 PK - 2⁻⁴ grade

8:30 - 4:30 6* - 12* grade

8:00 - 4:00 3 - 5º grade

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

HOLIDAY (NO CLASSES)

Jul. 4 - Independence Day

Sep. 2 - Labor Day Oct. 4 - Fall Holiday

Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving

Jan. 1 - New Years Day Jan. 20 - MLK Jr. Day

Apr. 18 - Spring Holiday May 25 - Memorial Day

Jun. 19 - Juneteenth

Feb. 17 - President's Day Mar. 31 - Chavez Huerta Day

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS June 4, 2025

June 5, 2025

GRADING CYCLES REPORT CARD

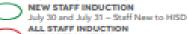
Aug. 12 - Sep. 20 Sep. 23 - Nov. 1 Nov. 4 - Dec. 20 Jan. 7 - Feb. 21 Feb. 24 - Apr. 17 Apr. 21 - Jun. 4

Sept. 27 (Friday) Nov. 11 (Monday) Jan. 13 (Monday) Feb. 28 (Friday) Apr. 25 (Friday) Jun. 4 (ES, K8, MS) Jun. 13 (HS)



SCHOOL LEADERS' INDUCTION AND PREPARATION

July 22 - July 29 - Principals and APs



AND PREPARATION Aug. 1 - Aug. 9 - All staff

School Hours

Building Hours

Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Instructional Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Breakfast is served to students from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

School Contact Information

Main Office Phone Number (713) 696-2700

School FaxNumber (713) 696-2701



About Our Environmental Science Magnet Program

Welcome to Berry Elementary, an Environmental Science Magnet School. We are excited to have you as part of our school family. Our environmental science magnet program is designed to help the students grow in their understanding of what it means to be an environmental advocate. As advocates, students in each grade level will have a specific project to carry out the environmental responsibilities of our campus. This year, some of our partnerships include the following: Recipe for Success, Can Do Houston, Katy Prairie Conservancy and the Native Plant Society of Texas. We continue to work with others to see how we can create a partnership and how they can assist us to educate our students.

The students will learn about environmental science in both the magnet science class and in the regular classroom. Your child will attend a magnet science class for 5 consecutive days based on a schedule provided by the magnet coordinator. The homeroom classes will have 6-week rotations in order to provide all our magnet students an opportunity to participate in these project-based magnet classes. The magnet classes include an environmental science lab, science PODs and several outdoor education areas. In each learning area, your child will be engaged in hands-on science activities and rigorous learning experiences. During this learning, students will be learning about environmental science and our LEED green building. In the outdoor education classes, your child will be harvesting, cooking, learning about the outdoors and various vegetables that are growing in the gardens. They will also interact with nature in our many different habitats available at the school grounds.

Your child will also become aware of how environmental problems affect our health and understand that humans have a large impact on the environment. With this awareness, students can make choices that reduce the harm to our environment and protect our wonderful planet for generations to come.

It takes all of us to put forth a sincere effort, to protect our environment and make change happen.

Berry Magnet Pillars:

Conservation: Build consciousness of our environment, focusing on the three R's: Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle.

Community: Build community engagement through schoolwide events such as Expos, Fairs, Beautification events.

Knowledge: Foster global learners who are able to successfully use technology to meet the needs of our dynamic world.

Citizenship: Create respectful, disciplined citizens who are advocates for the environment.

Berry Mission Statement

At Berry, we will work diligently to develop strong student leaders. This will be accomplished by ensuring our students are excellent:

- Communicators
- Problem solvers
- Good citizens who are technologically savvy
- Advocates for the environment

Berry Daily Schedule

6:30 a.m. School doors open

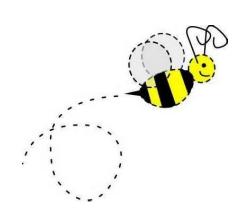
7:00 a.m. Breakfast begins in cafeteria

9:00 a.m. Instruction Begins

9:30 a.m. Official ADA Attendance

4:00 p.m. Dismissal

5:00 p.m. Building closes



Arrival on Campus

For their own safety, students are not allowed to arrive at school earlier than 6:30 a.m. or remain in the building after 4:50 p.m.

□ Students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. are considered late/tardy. Students arriving late must be issued tardy slips at the Welcome Desk. Parents need to escort their child into the building.

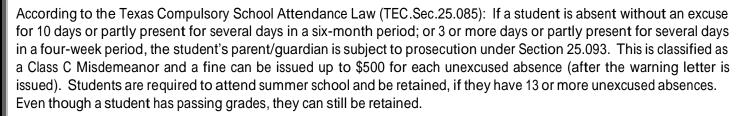
Berry Attendance

Students are expected to be present and on time each day. If a student needs to be absent due to an illness or another unforeseen incident, the reason for the excused absence must be stated in writing and signed by the parent/guardian. The written excuse must be received within 3 days after the absence, otherwise it is considered unexcused. The student will be given 3 days to make up all missed class work. The attendance specialist may investigate any absence.

Excused Absences:

The only acceptable excuses for tardiness and absences are:

- Personal illness
- Sickness or death in the immediate family
- Quarantine; example: head lice
- Severe weather conditions making travel dangerous
- Emergencies or unusual circumstances recognized by the principal or designated person
- Participation in school activities with permission from the principal



Students with Perfect Attendance: At the end of the school year, students will receive a perfect attendance reward. To qualify for perfect attendance, students need to come to school every day. Students who are sick and miss school, do not qualify for perfect attendance. Excused absences also count against perfect attendance.

Berry Tardy Policy

Students are dismissed to their classrooms at 7:45. At 8:00 a.m., they are considered tardy. School officials understand that occasionally traffic, weather, or oversleeping may cause a student to be late. However, persistent tardiness will not be tolerated. According to the **Student Code of Conduct**, being tardy is a Level I violation (please refer to the Student Code of Conduct). Level III violation is any repeated Level I violation. Violation of the tardy policy has the same consequences as a Level III violation. Level III violation calls for the suspension or referral to the alternative school.

When students are tardy, they miss important instructional time. This can cause them to fall behind or not meet grade level expectations. It's in the best interest that all students to be on time each day.



Berry Registration Requirements

To register a child in school, the following items must be provided:

- Proof of residence, such as a utility bill or rent receipt with the correct name and address
- Certified copy of a birth certificate or birth registration card
- Proof of immunization record/shot records
- Report card from last school attended
- If enrolled during the current school year, a withdrawal form from the previous school
- Guardianship papers are required, if the student is residing with someone other than the parent
- Child's social security number (if available)



Berry Withdrawal Procedures

Advance notification (24 hours) is required to complete all withdrawal forms. This notice is also required to determine if fines and textbooks have been cleared. Please inform the school of the student's last day of attendance, new address and the name of the new school the child will be attending. Parents must personally come to the school office and officially withdraw their child. The completed withdrawal form must be taken to the new school with a copy of the last report card, if available.

Berry Dress Code

Our school community has set high standards for appropriate attire and personal cleanliness. Below are the required uniform guidelines:



Green Yellow
Polo Shirt with Collar Polo Shirt
with Collar



Blue Jeans



Khaki Uniform Pants



Khaki Skirts



Khaki Jumper



Khaki Shorts

Shirts	Pants & Shorts	Shoes
School green or yellow polo shirt with collar	Plain khaki uniform style	Sneakers or closed shoes
Berry Spirit shirt	Blue jeans	No sandals
	No decorations	Must wear socks
		Laces must be tied
		Toes cannot be exposed

Jewelry:

- Chain/necklace is limited to one small to medium in size
- Large hoop earrings are not permitted (must be smaller than a quarter)
- No high heel shoes or flip-flops

Grooming Habits

- Hair must be neat, clean and well-groomed. <u>Hair style/color must not create disruptions/distractions nor</u> disrupt the view of a student.
- Make-up and acrylic nails are not allowed.
- Caps and head coverings may not be worn in the school building.

Students not wearing their school uniform must call home to have a change of clothing brought to school. Students will not be allowed in the classroom, until they are dressed in their uniform.

Parents are encouraged to donate uniforms their child no longer wears. With your donations, we will establish an exchange program at Berry that will assist other family's uniform requirements.

Appropriateness of clothing and hairstyles will be determined by school administrators.

Volunteer Opportunities at Berry

Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS)

Each year, parents, students, and community partners support HISD students and teachers by kindly volunteering their time. VIPS represent all economic, ethnic and educational backgrounds. They are caring adults or older middle school/high school/college students who tutor students, serve as classroom assistants to teachers, work in the library and provide other support.

How Can I Become VIPS Approved?

All volunteers must register online or at their home school. They must also pass a criminal background check before participating as a volunteer. To become an HISD volunteer, visit the HISD VIPS webpage and complete the steps there: https://www.houstonisd.org/vips#calendar347170/20220829/month

What type of identification is accepted for VIPS?

- Texas Driver's License
- Official Passport
- Texas Identification Card
- Official U.S. Military ID
- Driver's License (issued by any state in the U.S.)
- Matricula Consular
- Resident Alien Card

For more information about volunteering at Berry, please contact Ms. Cruz at 713-696-2700 or email OCRUZ1@houstonisd.org

Please visit the Berry Welcome Center to sign-up for these **VIPS** opportunities:

- Work in the parent room
- Classroom volunteer
- Arrival and Dismissal support
- Make copies for teachers



Berry Emergency Contact Form

An "Emergency Contact Form" will be sent home with each student for parents/guardians to inform the school who will pick-up his/her child during the school day. Only the people listed on this form will be allowed to pick up your child/children. *If your address or phone number have changed, please make sure to update the contact form. This must be done in person. Changes over the phone are not allowed.

Berry Early Release of Students

Children are not permitted to leave school after they arrive unless certain procedures are followed. **ONLY** the people listed on the *Emergency Contact Form* will be allowed to take a child from school during regular school hours. **A** <u>picture ID is required</u>, such as a driver's license. Changes to the Emergency Contact Form must be done in person. Students will be called to the office, after they have been signed out. Teachers are not permitted to release students unless this procedure has been followed. Parents are not allowed to go to the classroom to pick-up their child.

Releasing students after 3:15 p.m. is not allowed.

This time is instructional time. Every minute counts. Early release of students is strongly discouraged.

CAFETERIA RULES

Students are to:

- 1. Walk in a single line to the assigned serving line and to their classroom
- 2. Sit at their designated tables
- 3. Raise their hand for assistance
- 4. Ask permission to leave the cafeteria
- 5. Use inside voices when talking
- Clean up their tables and seats, as well as the trash beneath their seats before
- 7. Line up quietly as they wait to be picked up
- 8. Not share their food with other students.

LUNCH

Every student at Berry Elementary will be provided a lunch application for this school year.

The lunch application must be submitted.



Classroom BirthdayCelebrations

Short Birthday celebrations are allowed and will take place at 3:30 p.m. before dismissal.

During this designated time, parents can only bring store bought cupcakes (No Pizzas or Homemade food) If they are dropped off early, treats will be delivered by the Welcome Center to the appropriate classroom. For safety reasons, the use of candles is not permitted and no balloons.

As mentioned, all cupcakes and cakes must be store bought.



Classroom Parties:

According to school board policy, only (2) class parties may be held per year. At Berry, these parties may be held on the day before the Winter Holiday Break and during the last week of school.

Berry DisciplineCode

Parents and students can access the *HISD Code of Student Conduct* booklet on the HISD.org website. This booklet details the expectations for student behavior and the consequences for misbehavior. The rules of conduct are established to achieve and maintain an orderly environment conducive to learning. At Berry, we use this resource to follow our district's expectations regarding misbehavior. Please be sure to thoroughly read the HISD Code of Student Conduct.

Severe Behavior Clause:

Severe behavior cases will be referred to the office immediately. Examples are as follows:

- Disrespect towards school personnel
- Abusive and offensive language
- Fighting
- Weapons (including toy guns, pocketknives and laser pointers) brought to school
- Drugs (including cigarettes) in student's possession
- Obscene materials
- Defacing or vandalizing school property
- · Gang related behavior, signs, and paraphernalia
- Other conditions that could prove detrimental to others

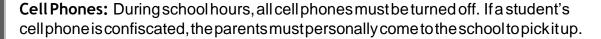
When a student is referred to the office for behaviors, the following actions may occur:

- Parent/Student/Principal Conference
- Detention
- In-school suspension (Zoom)
- Out—of-school suspension
- Assigned to an alternative school
- Removed from field lessons and after school/other school activities

Disruptive Items are NOT Allowed:

No electronic devices (pagers, laser pointers, radios, iPods, etc.), toys or games (fidget spinners, Pokémon cards) are permitted at school, except for cell phones. These items will be confiscated if brought to school. If these items are lost or stolen, school employees will not be held responsible.

Berry Student Personal Technology





Cameras: Students may not take class room pictures without permission from the teacher. Pictures of other students may not be taken unless that/those student(s) have given permission. In addition, pictures of Berry students may **never** be posted on the Internet without the parent's permission. The school sends home a **Media Release** form that parents must sign. Signing this form, parents give permission for the school to post pictures of their child. Also, all visitors in our building are **not permitted** to film or take pictures of students without the principal's written consent.



Student Use of School Telephones

Student use of the telephone is prohibited except in the case of an emergency. Plans for after-school pick up, need to be established before a child comes to school each day. Parents are to leave messages for their child *ONLY* in case of an emergency. Students will *NOT* be dismissed from class, until the parent arrives and sign them out from the main office. *NO* child will be dismissed after 2:15 p.m. If you need to pick your child up before school ends, please make sure it is before 2:15 p.m.

Lost and/or Damage Textbooks



Students are responsible for textbooks issued at the beginning of the school year and books checked-out from the library. Books lost and/or damaged must be paid for by the student's parents/guardian. Books not returned or paid for will result in the loss of privileges for the student (i.e., field day, field lesson, or end of year class celebration). If the book is paid for and later found in good condition, the money will be returned to the parents/guardian.

Berry Homework

Regularly assigned homework assists students in achieving satisfactory school progress and develop good study habits. *Homework is regularly assigned*. It is each student's responsibility to complete homework assignments and meet all deadlines. Consistent failure to complete homework (3 or more times) will result in disciplinary action. In addition, all students are encouraged to read or be read to at least 30 minutes each night.

General Guidelines for Homework:

- Students should complete their homework independently, but parents/guardians may provide supervision and guidance as needed.
- For homework not to be too excessive, teachers will carefully monitor assignments.
- Homework reading assignments are frequent and meant as independent work. This is to help the students become fully prepared to participate during class activities.
- Homework is checked for completion and monitored for understanding/progress.



Berry Parent-Teacher Conferences

At Berry, we encourage teachers and parents to collaborate regarding student academic progress. Parents may request a conference to discuss a variety of issues. It is recommended that parents contact the teacher (s) a few days before scheduling a conference. All conferences will be held:

- Before school
- During the teacher's conference period
- After school

Eyeglasses



If your child uses eyeglasses, it is important that they wear them daily. Not wearing them, can impact their learning. For those students having difficulty with their sight, vision screenings will be conducted by the school nurse. She will notify you if your child is recommended to see an optometrist.

Berry Communication

BERRY NEWS: The official school communication, which includes school news, activities, and notices, will be sent home. Teachers are expected to communicate with parents by sending a grade level newsletter or note home every month.



To check student grades online, Houston Independent School District provides parental access. Go to www.houstonisd.org, Access Student Information

HISD Connect (Parent Portal) / Log In to HISD Connect (houstonisd.org)



Parent-Student Connect

Provides parents with access to daily grades, assignments, progress reports, and more! A step-by-step guide is \available in English and Spanish

Mobile Devices: Berry will be using Class Dojo to communicate campuswide and classroom updates. Please make sure you connect with your child's classroom teacher and enroll in the ClassDojo for your child.



Teachers are <u>not</u> obligated to give personal cell phone numbers to parents.

Health

For the school to be aware of important studenthealth concerns, the nurse requires parents to complete a Health Inventory form. Important examples of health concerns that need to be identified are severe allergies or asthma.

Medication:

HISD Board Policy prohibits school personnel from administering any medication (including aspirin) during school hours. If a child must take long-term medication, the school will provide parents with a form to be signed by a physician. Upon receipt of the signed form, medications will be administered in the clinic under the nurse's supervision.

Immunizations:

As required by law, all students must have current and updated immunizations. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the school with an accurate immunization record. A student may not be allowed to attend school without these state-mandated immunizations. Exclusions from compliance are allowed on an individual basis for medical contradictions and

religious conflicts. Students falling into these categories must submit affidavits as specified by law.

Lice:

Students who have lice must be properly cleaned and return to school within 24 hours. Absences beyond this will not be excused. Upon their return, all students must be checked by the school nurse.

Illness:

Students who are ill should report to the school nurse. Before they are sent to the clinic, teachers needs to provide the nurse with a note regarding the health concern. If a student's condition warrants exclusion from school, the nurse will contact the parents. Once contacted, the parents may transport the student home. If parents are unable to be reached, the nurse will contact other persons designated on the student's enrollment card to transport the student. If the nurse is absent, ill or injured students should report to the Welcome Center. Students running a temperature above 100° F, are vomiting, have diarrhea, or are experiencing problems breathing, should not come to school.

Emergency Care:

The nurse/school personnel will give immediate first aid to any student who has been injured or has a severe illness. Parents will be contacted regarding the injury/illness. Parents will transport their child to a medical facility, unless the child's condition requires immediate transportation. In this case, school personnel will call E.M.S./ambulance for transport.



Berry School Safety Plan

The Berry community is totally committed to our #1 Core Value: "Safety Above All Else." Several safety measures have been put in place to ensure the safety and security of all students, faculty, and staff.

Drills: As required by law, monthly drills are conducted to practice safety procedures in case a fire occurs, disaster strikes, or an intruder enters the school.



Securing School Property: The school relies heavily on friends and neighbors to report any unusual or suspicious activity after school hours. To make a report, please call HISD Police Department at **713-892-7777**. The HISD police officers are on patrol duty during the day, at night and on weekends. Please assist us with securing our school property. We want our students to enjoy coming to a safe school environment.

Parent Transportation of Students to School

Berry Road becomes very busy and congested during arrival and dismissal time. When a parent drops off a student at school, they must drive through the following driveways: in front of the school or by the cafeteria. To quickly dismiss the students from their parents' vehicles, they will get out of the car while parents remain inside. The students must be ready to get out of the vehicle in an orderly manner. Teacher assistants will be outside to assist the students.

Under no circumstances may the parents/guardians drop off students: On the side of Berry Road, at the "Washateria," at the crossing light or along the street curve. **Never** allow a child to exit or enter a vehicle in the middle of the street or have them walk in between parking zones, such as the fire zone and the coned areas.



Berry Dismissal

Dismissal is at 4:00 pm every day of the week.

For the safety of ALL students and staff, we ask for your full cooperation in implementing our daily dismissal procedures. Safety of our students and staff will always be the priority at Berry Elementary. The procedures are as follows:

Student Pick-Up Numbers: All students will be assigned a dismissal number and given a parent pick-up tag. This number will be used at all the dismissal areas. There will be one number assigned per family/carpool. For students to respond when it is called during dismissal time, parents are asked to help them learn this number. Students who are picked up together, need to be taught the same number. If you receive more than one number for your family/carpool, please keep one and return the other to the main office. Even students who walk or ride a bus are being assigned a number in case parents choose to pick them up. Parents using the carpool line must hang their pick-up number on the rearview mirror. Berry will not release any student to a minor with or without a tag. Anyone skipping cars will have to wait to pick up their child until after dismissal.

Parent Pick-Up:

Parents need to stay in their vehicles during pick-up time. To pick-up a student (s), parents MUST have the student pick-up number hanging on the rearview mirror. You may request 3 parent pick-up tags with your assigned number, if you have more than one car that is used for pick-up. Students will not be released, unless the car has a pick-up number, and an adult is in the vehicle. Cost of lost tag is \$5.00.

Parents are given two methods of vehicle pick-up: Green Tag or Red Tag

- 1. **Green Tags:** Parents picking up students with <u>green tags</u> will go through the driveway on the Schneider street (cafeteria side). Students will wait in the multi-purpose room, until their pick-up number is called. Once their number is called, they will be escorted by a staff member to their car.
- 2. Red Tags: Parents picking up students with a red tag will go through the driveway on the Berry Street (main entrance). Parents will stay in their vehicles until the student pick-up number is called. Once their number is called, they will be escorted by a staff member to their car.

Parents: You cannot park your car in any of the school driveways before 2:35 p.m.

Blue Tags: Bus/Day Care Van Riders: Students who ride buses or day care vans will be dismissed from the back driveway. Staff members will be on duty to put the students on the buses and check their names off from a daily checklist.

Yellow Tags: Walkers: Students who walk home will exit from the magnet hallway door. They will be escorted by staff members to the exiting door.

Fire Lane Parking: Parents **cannot** park in the fire lane areas. An HISD police officer will be on duty to issue tickets to anyone violating the fire lane policy. These areas are identified with signs posted and the curbs are painted red. Parking is prohibited in fire lanes to ensure the access of safety equipment in the event of an emergency.

Reserved Parking: Faculty, staff, parents, or guests are **not permitted** to park in any reserved/assigned spaces at any time.

Parents, please be advised, a change will <u>ONLY</u> occur if approved by an administrator. You will receive a call within 48 hours whether your request is approved or denied after submitting the change request form.

HISD Promotion Standards

Pre-Kindergarten/ Kindergarten: Students may not be retained in Pre-K and Kindergarten.

Grades 1-5: To be promoted to the next grade level, a student must pass the following standards:

Standard 1

- 70 percent average or better in reading, math, science and social studies
- Attendance Students may not exceed more than (10) days of excused absences

Academic Assistance:

As soon as a student's performance indicates they are failing, the classroom teacher and administrators will implement *RTI (Response to Intervention)* to help the student improve. This will include but is not limited to additional small group lessons and tutorial sessions. The student must meet all standards by the end of the school year.

By the end of the school year, if the student still fails to demonstrate achievement for one of these standards, they will be required to attend summer school. Summer school is required for promotional reconsiderations. Attending summer school does not guarantee that the student will be promoted. Students must demonstrate achievement, if not, they will be retained for the next school year.



There will be NO FORMAL GRADUATION GOWNS.

(Elementary Guidelines – Board Policy Grading and Promotion Requirements)

END OF YEAR PROMOTION CELEBRATION CEREMONY SCHEDULE (tentative)

Ceremonies will be held in the multipurpose room. Parents will have seating behind the students.

The purpose of this celebration is to celebrate life events as well as academic achievements. Teachers will be responsible for creating minimum 1 certificate for each student in their homeroom. The school will provide Perfect Attendance and Academic (Honor Roll All A's) Certificates.

Balloons are not allowed in the multipurpose room. They must be left in the front office until after the ceremonies.

These dates for end of year celebrations will be released at the beginning of May 2025.

Berry 2024-2025 Staff List

Berry Home-School Compact

Working together, teachers, parents, and students will form a partnership to help each child achieve success in school. Our united effort will benefit your child by supporting his/her success in school.

I. Our Schoolwill:

- 1. Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment.
- 2. Opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's class will be available

II. As a Teacher, I will:

- 1. Provide a positive learning environment for my student
- 2. Make students aware of my expectations for his or her success in school
- 3. Teach strategies to help students become a better reader and writer
- 4. Teach students responsible behaviors that lead to success
- 5. Communicate regularly with families about student progress through conferences, parent-teacher meetings, progress reports, and other available means.

III. As a Parent/Guardian, I will:

- 1. Send my child to school ready to learn
- 2. Make my child aware of expectations for his or her success in school
- 3. Provide a quiet place for my child to do homework and check to see that it is completed
- 4. Demonstrate interest in what my child is learning

IV. As a Student, I will

- 1. Come to school ready to learn
- 2. Maintain a positive attitude toward learning and believe in my ability to succeed
- 3. Complete my homework and turn it in every day
- 4. Respect myself and others