**Welcome to BOLPA Senior K: Chosen Cheetahs**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Breath of Life Preparatory Academy’s Senior Kindergarten program! We are delighted that you have chosen us to meet your scholar’s educational needs. This year will be a year of marvelous wonder and amazing growth for your scholar. We are going to have so much fun this year and learn a lot of new things!

I am looking forward to working with you and your scholar as we teach them to soar. I believe that communication is key to your scholar’s success and to a great parent/ teacher relationship. At any time should you have any questions or concerns I encourage you to contact me, as I will do the same. I look forward to having a fantastic school year with your scholar and family.

Thank You,

 Mrs. Yalanda Taylor



**Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: Meet the Teacher**

Greetings Parents and Scholars,

My name is Yalanda Taylor and I have had the privilege of being a part of BOLPA since 2019. This will be my second year serving as the kindergarten teacher. My first year at BOLPA I had the privilege of working with Miss Brown and assisting her with the kindergarten and first grade scholars. I became a part of the BOLPA family after working over twenty years of working in government. After I retired the plan was to work in ministry and heed the direction of the Holy Spirit. I found myself led to BOLPA and the rest is history! Though my educational background is in Sociology and Human Resource Management, my volunteer work and ministry outreach has consistently led me to caring for children. I have served as a Summer Camp Coordinator, Sunday School Teacher, Angel Choir Director, and Compassionate Giving Coordinator, positions that all afforded me the opportunity to work with, supervise and teach children of all ages. When I am not in the classroom, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling and working in various ministries in my church. I feel very privileged to be a part of this amazing team of teachers and honored to have the opportunity to teach your scholar this year! I look forward to fostering an environment that promotes fun, a sense of family, as well as educational and spiritual growth for your scholar. I am excited about the possibilities this year holds!

**Senior K Chosen Cheetah: Mascot Letter**

This year our classroom name will be the Chosen Cheetahs. The Cheetah was chosen as our mascot for several reasons. Cheetahs have a quiet spirit. Cheetahs do not have a floating hyoid bone in their neck; therefore, they cannot roar causing them to have a quiet spirit. It is my desire that scholars assigned to my class would be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger (James 1:19-20). Cheetahs are also known for unparalleled speed, for being smart and intelligent, for strength, agility, and adaptability. All the traits of the cheetah lend themselves to aid scholars in becoming perseverant and overcoming a myriad of life challenges, both academically and spiritually without conforming to the world. According to Romans 12:2, we are not to conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Chosen means to be selected as the best or most appropriate. It is my belief that every scholar was handpicked by God to be in my class, and I was handpicked to be their teacher, that we may learn and grow from each other. I am so excited to be your scholars teacher this year! I can hardly wait to see God’s plan for this class unfold!!

Welcome to the Chosen Cheetah family!!



**Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: Classroom Rules and Expectations**

**The rules/class expectations:** 

* The Scholar will listen and follow directions quickly.
* The Scholar will raise their hand to talk.
* The Scholar will always be respectful to all teachers, all staff, and peers.
* The Scholar will work quietly when working independently.
* The Scholar will walk in the school building (**Not Run).**
* The Scholar will not leave their seat without permission.
* The Scholar will keep the classroom and personal areas neat.
* The Scholar will be prepared for class each day.
* The Scholar will be on time.
* The Scholar will respect the property of the school and others.
* The Scholar will be still and quiet during prayer and participate in devotion.
* The Scholar will put forth their best effort on all assignments and complete them in a timely manner.

**The consequences when expectations are not followed are:**

* The Scholar will receive a verbal warning for his/her first offense.
* The Scholar’s second offense will result in a five-minute time out and their conduct will be denoted as a S for the day.
* The Scholar’s third offense will cause them to lose their classroom job for the day and their conduct will be denoted as a N for the day.
* The Scholar’s fourth offense will result in a referral to the office and their conduct will be denoted as a U for the day. (This will be accompanied with a formal write up for the parent to sign).
* If the Scholar gets three or more N’s or U’s for the month in conduct, they will receive an N or U on their progress report. **(A behavioral plan will be created, and parents will be asked to attend a conference regarding their behavior.)**
* If the Scholar continues to show the same behavior it will result in an N or U on their report card. If the behavior continues to persist, their file will be turned over to Mrs. Love for suspension or expulsion from the program**. (Please see BOLPA handbook for suspension and expulsions, regulations, and policy pg.21).**
* **If the scholar receives any N or U’s in conduct overall or any office referrals, he/she will not be eligible for any honor awards, such a Valedictorian/ Salutatorian/ Most Improved, and Citizenship.**

**Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: Classroom Rules & Expectations**

* Please note that some behavior such as using foul language or being excessively violent to classmates or teachers will result in immediate suspension or expulsion from the program. (**Please see BOLPA handbook pg.21).**
* **Consistent poor behavior can prohibit the scholar from participating in school activities such as field trips, programs, and promotional ceremonies.**

**Rewards:**

The Scholar will receive positive reinforcement from their teachers when meeting classroom expectations. Scholar’s will be able to earn Cheetah Change {coins} for meeting classroom expectations! At the end of the week scholars will count their Cheetah Change and use it to buy items from the classroom treasure box. Scholars will work together collectively to fill a marble jar to earn a treat for the entire class. (**This technique teaches our scholars that their behavior, whether positive or negative affects the entire classroom environment and creates a sense of responsibility**).



**Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: Classroom Schedule**

8:45- 9:00 Morning Work/Open Centers

9:00- 9:30 Devotion/ Morning Meeting

9:30-10:00 Phonics/Language Arts

10:00-10:30 Readiness / Reading Groups

10:30-10:45 Handwriting

10:45-11:00 Restroom Break/ Station/ Brain Break

11:00- 11:30 Mathematics

11:30- 12:00 Lunch

12:00- 12:20 Art

12:20- 12:30 Restroom Break

12:30- 1:00 P.E./Recess

1:00- 1:30 Science/ Social Studies

1:30- 2:00 Math and Phonics Stations Review

2:00-2:30 Character Development / Quiet stations

2:30-3:00 Story Time/ Creative Writing Journals

3:00-3:30 Recall Meeting

3:30 – 4:00 Restroom Break/ Prepare for Dismissal

4:00 Dismissal

* **Please note that schedule is subject to change due to school events.**
* **Reading Groups for Sr.-K Scholars begin towards the end of first semester.**

**Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: The ABC’s of Senior Kindergarten**

**Arrival / Absences**  Class will begin promptly at 9:00 am. If your child is late, they must have an excuse, or they will be marked tardy. Five tardy marks will equal one unexcused absent. If your child must be absent from school, please send a note or a doctor’s excuse when they return, so I can turn it into the office. Vacations not scheduled during school breaks will result in an unexcused absence. Please plan vacations during scheduled school breaks. If your scholar has an excused absence, a folder with their makeup work will be sent home with them. It will be the scholar’s responsible to return the folder with the assignments completed. Test and quizzes can only be made up if the absence is excused. All make up work will have a due date. Please turn in all make up work on time, or your scholar will be penalized ten points for every day pass the due date, which will be deducted from their grade. If your scholar has an unexcused absence that exceeds two weeks, he or she will not be allowed to make up any assignments that they missed during that time.

**Birthdays / Backpacks / Breakfast**

Birthdays are to be celebrated! Feel free to send a special treat to share with the class if it is **store bought**. All birthday snacks will be eaten during lunch time. If your child is having a birthday party and you are inviting **ALL** the children in the class, you may send the invitations with your child, and I will distribute them. If you are not inviting everyone, please mail the invitations instead of sending them to school. **(Due to COVID you are only allowed to send treat bags for your scholar’s classmates).**

Respectfully, I do not attend my student’s birthday parties outside of school. I do recognize and celebrate their birthdays at school with their classmates as I know it is a very important time in their lives. I think that birthday parties outside of school should be celebrated with family and friends.

Backpacks are required for each student. Please make sure that your scholar’s backpack is large enough to hold a binder, a change of clothes and their textbooks. Backpacks will go home every day. Please urge your scholar to keep their backpack clutter free.

Breakfast will be served from 8:00 -8:30. Should your scholar come to school after 8:30 he or she will not be allowed to eat breakfast and no outside food is permitted.

**Conferences / Communication / Conduct**

Conferences can be scheduled by contacting the school office, by sending an email, or a written note**. Conferences cannot be held during instructional time**. I will request a conference with parents if deemed necessary, or if immediate concern with your scholar should arise; otherwise, conferences will be held during the progress report periods. I will communicate with you through the following methods: week at glance, remind app, progress reports, report card comment boxes, scheduled parent conferences, open house, phones calls and emails. Parents can communicate with me by using the following methods: sending a note in your scholar’s binder, scheduled parent teacher conferences; by calling the school’s direct line (**please do not call during instructional time)** and e-mail.

Conduct grades will be located at the front of your scholar’s binder daily. Please review his or her conduct, as well as any written communication and initial the conduct box. The conduct rubric is as follows: E= Excellent, S=Satisfactory, N=Needs Improvement, and U=Unsatisfactory.

**Daily Progress / Devotion**

To provide you with information concerning your scholars ’s daily progress, updates will be sent home daily, please check your scholars’ binder. Each day your scholar will be encouraged to strive for an “E”. Obtaining an” E” means that they have followed the rules and stayed on task. If your child needs to work on a skill, it will be noted in the comment area of their daily progress report. Please check his or her binder each night so you are aware of their progress and conduct each day.

Devotion is a very sacred time between your scholar and the Lord. It is the most important part of the day. Please encourage your scholar to participate and be respectful during devotional time. **If your scholar is tardy, please remind them not to enter the classroom once devotion has begun. Quietly, stand outside the door until devotion is over before entering the classroom.**

**Email**I check my email at the end each day. Sending me an email is the best method for contacting me. Please feel free to email me at ytaylor@bolpp.org. Be sure to put a heading in the subject area and give me 24 hours to response to you. You may also use Remind to contact me as well.

**Field Trips** Field trips will be planned throughout the school year. Please keep in mind that some field trips require an admission and transportation fee. **This fee is non-refundable**. If you have any concerns regarding fees, please discuss it with the Head Mistress. It is your responsibility to pay the fee before the deadline. **Please know that poor conduct can result in your scholar losing his or her field trip privileges.** We would like every scholar to be able to share the same experiences and opportunities.

**Grading / Graduation**

 Scholars will be graded in the following areas, which is covered in the curriculum: Bible, Math, Science, Social studies, Readiness/Art, Reading (reading is 2nd Semester only), Handwriting, Phonics, and Spelling (spelling is 2nd semester only). They will be given numerical grades that will be averaged. The averages will decide what letter grade the scholar will receive on both their progress and report cards. Throughout each nine weeks scholars will have at least two quizzes and two tests in core subjects (Reading, Handwriting, Phonics, and Math). Please always encourage your child to do his or her best, that their grades will reflect their hard work. Graded papers will be sent home every Tuesday in your scholar’s yellow folder. **Please sign and return the entire packet**. Should your scholar fail to return his or her graded papers, no additional graded papers will be sent home. **Grading Rubric is outlined in the BOLPA Student Handbook (pg.25)**.

 Graduation is a wonderful time to celebrate your scholar’s accomplishments. **The Graduation fee is 100.00.** This cost generally includes cap and gown, class shirts, spirit week, and graduation portraits. Graduation information, code of conduct, and details concerning graduation will be sent home every month starting in February. Please make sure you stay abreast of this information prior to graduation.

**Homework** Your scholar can expect to have homework Monday through Thursday. Look for the assignments in their daily binder (in the return to school section of their binder). Please take time to check your scholar’s assignments each night and do not forget to return them to school the next day. **It is the scholar’s** r**esponsibility to place their homework in the homework basket and to place homework assignments in their folder daily.** Please put your scholar’s name and the date on all their homework assignments. **Homework not labeled will result in their grade being lowered by five points.** Make sure homework is done correctly, neatly, and to the scholar’s best ability. **Homework is graded!** Should your scholar turn his or her homework in late it will result in a lower grade **(ten points will be deducted every day after the due date).**

**Independence** At the beginning of the year your scholar will probably need some assistance completing his or her assignments and preparing for school activities. As the year progresses, you will find that they have become more independent. Please encourage this and let them know how proud you are of them. **Please allow the scholar to do his or her own homework and or projects**. **Facilitate with work, but do not do it for them.** Remember, they will never soar if we do not push them out of the nest!

**Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: The ABC’s of Senior Kindergarten**

**Jobs** We will have a chore chart in class and each scholar will be assigned a job every week. Jobs will alternate weekly. This will help scholars to become more responsible, as well as give them a sense of class ownership. **This is not my class; it is our class!**

**Kindergarten** Kindergarten is an extremely exciting time for parents and scholars! The kindergarten year lays the foundational groundwork for success in your scholar’s elementary education. Research shows scholars whose parents are interested in their schooling, who learn with them, and provide extra learning opportunities beyond school are the most successful. Be sure your child is well rested, well fed, and emotionally ready for school each day. Make sure their supplies are laid out the night before and make their morning commute and preparation as pleasant as possible.

**Love / lost items**

Your scholars will receive lots of love and care in my classroom. We will foster an environment that promotes Godly love by learning to love and respect ourselves, our teachers, and our peers.

BOLPA will not be responsible for any lost or stolen items belonging to your scholar. It will your scholar’s responsibility to keep up with his or her property, toys, and or clothing**. BOLPA will not be responsible for replacing or compensating our scholars for these items.**

**Morning Procedures / Money / Morning Work**

 When your scholar arrives each morning, they are to unpack. This includes getting hand sanitizer, putting up their backpack, coats etc., putting away binders and placing their homework in the homework basket before being seated to begin morning assignments.

**I will not accept any money.** Please do not put money in binders or give it to your scholar. Please put all money in the drop box located on the preschool. (Pending COVID restrictions). Most the activities that we have will be paid for electronically. You will be made aware of how to pay for activities as they come about.

Morning Work will begin promptly at 8:45 each morning. This time will be used to review skills previously learned.

**Naps / Newsletters**  **Sr-K scholars will not have a set nap time.** They will be offered a quiet station time where they can choose to work quietly in a center of their choice or rest their heads on their desk. Please make sure that your child gets adequate rest nightly to be alert and ready for the school day.

Our weekly classroom newsletter is called a Week at a Glance. The Week at a Glance will list all the curriculum standards and goals for each week, as well as weekly events for the classroom and the school. The Week at a Glance will be posted **every Sunday** on the school’s website.

**Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: The ABC’s of Senior Kindergarten**

**Outside** Weather permitting; we will play outside each day to develop social skills and release some of that “kid” energy. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outside activities.

**Parent Involvement** We invite and encourage parents get involved and to be a part of our classroom. If you have a special interest, occupation, or hobby you would like to share with us, please let me know so that I can schedule a time for you to share it with us. (**Parent involvement is pending COVID restrictions)**

 **Questions** Jot down any questions you may have and placed it in your scholar’s binder. I will send you a written response or an email within a 24-hour period.

**Rules / Reading groups**

 Please remind your scholar to always be on their best behavior follow the classroom rules. Rules and consequences need to be consistently enforced at school and at home.

Reading groups will start in late fall. Please practice reading the books assigned to your scholar nightly, as well as blend sounds. Make sure your scholar is reading with accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. Your scholar will be given an oral reading test to assess their ability.

**Special Enrichment Activities / Standardize test /Spelling City and Special Services**

Scholars will participate in special enrichment activities weekly. These activities include Spanish, Music, Library, Computer, and Stem classes.

Standardize Test- Your scholar will take the Stanford Achievement Test in the spring. It is particularly important that you review skills daily with your scholar. The week of the test please make sure your scholar gets plenty of rest and eats breakfast each morning.

Spelling City is a website that is used to enhance our spelling curriculum at BOLPA. Please expect weekly assignments in Spelling City, your scholar will also be given their weekly spelling test via this app. **Individual passwords and login information will be assigned to each scholar to gain access to the website. Your scholar’s login and password information will be in his or her binder. Please make sure your check the Week at a Glance weekly for Spelling assignments.**

Special Services are not offered to scholars with special needs directly by BOLPA. If deemed necessary by your scholar’s teacher or administration special service resources may be offered to aid and meet your scholar’s educational needs. Parents may request an IEP {Individual Education Plan} to receive outside references and services. This request should be written and given to your scholar’s teacher or an administrator.

**Time / Tutoring**Time is valuable! Please try to be prompt, arrive at school on time each day. Let us start each day eager to learn! Remember, time is the only thing we cannot get back; therefore, it is precious and not to be wasted. Encourage your scholar to use their class time wisely!

Tutoring will be offered for scholars whose grades reflect a need for additional assistance at the end of the first semester. These sessions will be held in January. A detailed letter will be sent home in January outlining the dates and times for the sessions. Sessions may be held earlier if deemed necessary.

**Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: The ABC’s of Senior Kindergarten**

**Units** The Abeka curriculum unit lessons for kindergarten are broken down by subjects for each day. Language arts: The alphabets are taught out of order; vowels then constants. This will help teach blend sounds. They will eventually begin reading groups and spelling words. In Mathematics, they will be introduced to number concepts, perceptual and conceptual subitizing, addition, subtraction, word problem solving, money, telling time, counting by 2’s. 5’s 10’s, and more advanced geometric shapes. They will also learn number houses, sequence, patterns, and basic graphing. Science will explore God’s world around them with topics such as the creation, life cycles of animals, climate etc. In Social Studies they will learn about the past and explore the present through current events. We will also learn about Geography, our community, and different cultures around the world. In addition to Abeka, we will use Let’s Find Out science and current event magazines. I believe in bringing lessons to life by using more hands-on age-appropriate activities. The goal is to spark and maintain a love for learning. Your scholar will learn and grow tremendously this year!!

**Visits** Classroom visits are welcomed. However, please contact me beforehand if you would like to visit our classroom. Visits must be scheduled through the main office and remember that you must sign- in at the front desk.

**Website Work Stations**

 Visit the Academy’s website at bolpp.org or our face book page. Stay connected! We love technology here at BOLPA! Your scholar will improve his or her technological skills in the I T center which is equipped with age-appropriate software designed to assistance them in honing their computer skills. They will also be able to use the I pad tablets inside the classroom.

Did you know that children learn through play? The workstations in our classroom help aid in the learning process throughout the day. Each day your scholar will have the opportunity to explore different stations in our classroom such as Mathematics, Puzzles/ Manipulatives, Library, Art/ Writing, and Science centers. These activities help your scholar develop lifelong skills through discovery.

**Expectations** Our expectations for our scholars are high!! BOLPA is an excellent school, and we are extremely glad that you and your scholar are here. My expectations for my scholars are to follow the rules, always be respectful, be prepared, put their best foot forward, and to always do their best. I expect parents to work with me to help your scholars to accomplish these goals daily; together, through teamwork we can make great strides and accomplish amazing things. Lastly, you can expect me to love your scholar, to always foster an environment of learning, to bring out the best in your scholar, and to be your scholars’ educational facilitator during class.

**You** You are your scholar’s first teacher and an important part of their development. Together we will make a great team!

**ZZZ....**

Please make sure that your child has adequate sleep each night so that they are prepared for school each day.

**Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: Teacher’s Favorites**

**My favorite places to shop:**

Mrs. Taylor: Dillard’s/Marshalls

**My favorite past time:**

Mrs. Taylor: Singing and reading the Bible

**My favorite color:**

Mrs. Taylor: Purple

**My favorite restaurant:**

Mrs. Taylor: Redland’s

**My favorite character:**

Mrs. Taylor: Minnie Mouse/Wonder Woman

**Greatest Love:**

Mrs.Taylor: My Family and Jesus



 **Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: Supply List**

2 pk of #2 Pencils

1 container Lysol wipes

1 pk expo markers

4 boxes of Crayola Crayons (8ct)

1 bottles of Elmer’s Glue

4 glue sticks

1 pair of scissors

1-1(1/2) inch Binder with front view and pockets

3 Plastic folders with prongs and pockets (yellow, red, and green).

1 pks of Card Stock

2 boxes of Kleenex

3 pk of Unscented wipes

3 reams of copy paper (2white 1 color)

1 standard size backpack

1 green travel soap dish (for crayons)

2 bottles hand sanitizer

\*Let’s Find Out Reader =$7\* to be purchased in the office.



 **Senior K Chosen Cheetahs: Remind Texts**

**Senior Kindergarten Chosen Cheetahs**

**CONDUCT POLICY & CONTRACT**

***I have read along with my parent and I understand the student expectations****.*

Child’s Full Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(print)

***I understand as a Parent, what will be expected of my child and will help them in any way to make sure they meet the expectations afore mentioned.***

***I also understand the classroom consequences and reward systems set in place for my scholar.***

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date Returned: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 