



BUILDING
BLOCKS
PRESCHOOL

Building Blocks Summer Newsletter



First Day of School Announcement

It is our honor to welcome you to the inaugural year of Building Blocks Preschool. We are so excited to meet all of our Building Blocks families and students and can't wait for the first day of school to arrive! While we had hoped to start on August 10th, given Governor Ducey's recent order to delay school openings, we have decided to delay our first day of in-person school to August 17th. We know quality education is one of the main reasons you have chosen Building Blocks Preschool for your children, so we didn't make this decision lightly. The week of August 3rd, we will be sending out an "All About My Family" project, and some other fun activities for families/kids to complete during the week of the 10th. We hope that this delay is the last one, but please know that in the case of extended school closures, Building Blocks is 100% committed to pivoting to online/distance programming for our students.

Upcoming Dates

Mid-July: COVID-19 Parent Survey

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top concern. Therefore, we will not only be utilizing CDC and local health official guidance to keep students safe, but we want to hear from you. It is important to us that our families have a voice in safety practices we implement at the school. The survey will be incorporated into our next newsletter, so we encourage you all to participate.

July 31st: Registration & Project/Equipment fees are due. Families will receive an invoice including payment instruction in mid-July.

Week of August 3rd: Enrollment packets will be sent home via email. Completed packets will be collected at the Parent Orientation & Welcome event.

Week of August 3rd: "All About My Family" project sent home to families

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn more about our students and their families. We can't wait to see what you create and hear something each student wants to share about themselves.

Week of August 10th: Parent Orientation & Welcome Event (tentatively in-person)

This is an event for parents and the Building Block students. Parents will review our school handbook and policies with our Site Administrator while the students meet and socialize with their classmates. More to come on our first family event!

S.T.R.E.A.M. Learning

We are excited to announce that our curriculum is inspired by S.T.R.E.A.M learning; Science, Technology, Reading and Writing, Engineering, Fine Arts, and Mathematics. Our classroom is set up into S.T.R.E.A.M centers that integrate thematic units. Check out what we have planned for the month of August!



August: All About Me & My School

This three-week unit will allow students to learn about school rules, routines, and supplies. They will be introduced to their classmates and explore each other's families and interest. Students will understand that there are differences between themselves and their peers and learn to accept others and treat them with kindness.

- **Science:** Exploring classroom tools
 - **Technology:** How to take care of our supplies
 - **Reading & Writing:** Exploring letters in our first names, Book handling, Introduction to voiced and unvoiced phonemes (sounds)
 - **Engineering:** Exploring ways to build, Building Homes
 - **Fine Arts:**
 - **Music:** Greeting Songs and School Songs
 - **Art:** Exploring with art tools
 - **Drama** Birthday Party theme dramatic play center and Home and Kitchen Play
 - **Movement:** Safety & Rules, Hand Washing, Body Awareness
 - **Mathematics:** Counting letters in our first names, Introduction to Sorting
 - **Social/Emotional Skills:** Welcoming others, Friendly Greetings, Manners
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Meet Your School Leaders

Christine Foppe-Villafuerte is the Site Administrator and Early Education Teacher. Ms. Foppe graduated from Otterbein University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education with an Intervention Specialist concentration and Reading Endorsement. Ms. Foppe has seven years of teaching experience in Kindergarten. She received her English-Learners certification as she spent two years working with EL Kindergarten students in Glendale, Arizona. Ms. Foppe joined BASIS in 2015 as a Kindergarten teacher at BASIS Scottsdale Primary East. Ms. Foppe continued her Kindergarten career at BASIS Phoenix Primary in 2018, she served as a Subject Advisor and Teacher Mentor, followed by her role as Interim Dean of Students for grades K-2. Ms. Foppe is very passionate about creating memorable and meaningful experiences in the classroom. She is extremely excited to join the Building Blocks

family and is enthusiastic for her students to become life-longer learners!



Stephanie Behning is the Director of Academics at Building Blocks Preschools and BASIS International School Prague. Ms. Behning is an educator who has worked in private, public, and charter schools for over 20 years. She has her BFA in Sculpture and her MEd in Early Childhood Education. For the last eight years, Ms. Behning has worked for BASIS Curriculum Schools. Ms. Behning wrote the Connections Curriculum for the BASIS Primary schools. She then moved to Shenzhen, China, where she became the first Director of Early Childhood at BASIS Curriculum Schools in China. Her specialty is developing a curriculum that is academically and creatively focused. Ms. Behning wants all students to develop critical thinking skills that inspire them to think creatively, innovatively, and make connections with the world.



Respectfully,

Building Blocks Preschool

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