

Lone Rock School



Kindergarten Parent Handbook 2017-2018 School Year

Scott Stiegler, Superintendent/Principal

Lone Rock School Mission

We at Lone Rock School, in partnership with the community, strive to empower ourselves with knowledge and become respectful contributing citizens.

READINESS FOR KINDERGARTEN

Although Montana law requires a child to be five years old prior to September 10 to enter Kindergarten that school year, age is not the only factor to consider in deciding whether or not to register your child for Kindergarten. Your child's success in Kindergarten is dependent upon his/her physical, social, and emotional age as well as his/her developmental/behavioral readiness.

Parents, if you are to answer "yes" to a majority of the questions contained in the preceding pages of this handbook, your child is likely ready for school and will enjoy the experience.

"The importance of a positive self concept cannot be overemphasized. When a child feels pushed and pressured, all the avenues for learning are cut off. When a child feels secure and comfortable, things can really blossom." (Quote courtesy of Nancy Bohl, "A Gift of Time: The Transition Year" Early Years, Jan 1984)

It is our hope that this information will assist you in determining whether or not to send your child to Kindergarten this year. Since Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory, enrollment is a parental choice requiring careful consideration.

Research has shown that a strong Kindergarten experience provides greater opportunity for more successful elementary years. Given the wide range of maturation levels among children, as a parent, you may determine to allow your child one more year at home prior to enrolling him/her in our Kindergarten program. Please do not hesitate to seek additional information and assistance from the District's professionals if you are still uncertain as to your child's readiness for school.

CONSIDERATIONS TO ASSIST PARENTS IN DETERMINING READINESS OF YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

Physical Considerations:

1. Will child be 5 years before September 10?
2. Does child possess basic self-help skills? (Zipping coat, tying shoes, cleaning up after him/herself)
3. Does child have well-developed fine and gross motor skills? (Can child draw or copy a square?)
4. Are visual perception and eye-hand coordination skills fairly well developed?
5. Is your child alert all day? (Not tired in P.M.)
6. Can child draw or color beyond a simple scribble?

Social Factors:

1. What is the position in the family? Oldest? Youngest? (Younger children learn from older siblings.)
2. Is your child used to playing with others? Does he/she relate well with peers?
3. Is child used to being away from home? (Experiences outside the home--preschool, daycare, etc.)
4. Can child travel alone a distance of two blocks?
5. Does child have good communication skills?

Emotional Factors:

1. Does your child have a good attention span? (Listen to story for 10 minutes.)
2. Is your child able to choose and finish activities?

3. Is your child not easily frustrated?
4. Is your child interested in books, numbers, letters, or school itself?
5. Is your child self-confident? (willing to try something new, willing to separate from parent for a short period of time.)

Cognitive Factors:

1. Can your child name four or more colors to which you point?
2. When shown a drawing of a cross, square, or a circle, can your child say its name?
3. Can your child repeat a series of four numbers without practice?
4. Can your child tell left hand from right?
5. Can your child tell what things are made of such as cars, chairs, shoes, etc.?
6. Do you feel your child is ready for academic learning?

A Big Day is Coming . . . And It's Very Exciting!

You have been your child's most important teacher since the day he/she was born. But now a big day is getting close . . . your child's first day of school!

We look forward to having your child in school. We want to work closely with you too. You will always be an important teacher and role model right at home. We know that your child will learn more and be happier if we can work together as a team. When home and school are partners, children learn best. Making sure all children start school ready to learn is an important goal. This booklet can help you work with us at school. Together we can make sure your child gets off to a good start!

Kindergarten Schedule

Lone Rock School offers full-day Kindergarten.

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (M,T, Th, F)

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Wed.

Bus Service

Buses run in the morning getting students to school by 8:10 A.M. Buses are loaded in the afternoon at 3:30 P.M. (Wednesdays at 2:30 P.M.) You will receive information from the school about where your child's bus stop is and when he/she will be picked up at the beginning of the day and dropped off at the end of the day.

Visiting School

Since the home has a major part in shaping a child's educational growth, the development of a common understanding between the home and the school is extremely important. We welcome you to our classroom as we are eager to learn anything that will help us understand your child better. The teacher and your child need some time to get acquainted, but after the first few weeks of school, you are invited to come and see how your child is adjusting to school life. It is preferred that visits not be made during the first two weeks of school.

School Volunteer Program- Parent Teacher Membership

Lone Rock School has an active volunteer program. It involves people working on a regular weekly basis or those

who come for a special project. Watch for a separate handout explaining the program in more detail. This vital program has contributed greatly to the quality of education produced in our school.

Conferences

Individual conferences are scheduled at the end of the first quarter (November) and the end of the third quarter (April) to discuss your child's progress and to answer questions you might have. Please feel free to schedule individual conferences with your child's teacher at any time. Call the school to arrange a convenient conference time.

Progress Reports

Progress reports are issued four times per year. The report can assist you in understanding your child's strengths and weaknesses. It offers an opportunity for you and the teacher to work together for the good of your child.

Party Invitations

If birthday invitations must be passed out at school, students will give invitations to the teacher who will pass out the invitations discretely at the end of the day. We would prefer that party invitations be sent by mail to avoid any hurt feelings of children not included.

Toys

Students are not to bring toys to school unless it is the child's turn to "Show and Tell" or if it is part of an assignment i.e. toy car when studying the letter c.

Snacks

The kindergarten teacher asks parents to send a box of easy-to-serve snacks such as crackers, graham crackers. The teacher stores the snacks and each day all children receive a snack. When the supply runs out, the teacher will send home a request for more snack foods.

Kindergarten and First Grade students have the opportunity to purchase milk each day for their snack/story time breaks. Milk is 40 cents and is not included in the free/reduced meal account program.

Breakfast and Lunch Program

Lone Rock Elementary School serves breakfast and lunch daily. We ask that payment be made in advance. Notices are sent home every Thursday when a child's account is running low or if money is owed. For your convenience, we suggest paying at least a week ahead of time or even monthly.

Free or reduced price lunches are available to qualifying students. Forms are sent home with students explaining the qualification criteria. If you believe your family would qualify, please complete and return the form to school as soon as possible. You will be notified within a week as to whether or not your family meets the qualifications.

Meal Pricing 2017-18

K-8 Full Pay Breakfast	\$1.50
K-8 Reduced Breakfast	\$0.30

Adult Breakfast	\$2.50
K-5 Full Pay Lunch	\$2.25
6-8 Full Pay Lunch	\$2.50
K-8 Reduced Lunch	\$0.40
Adult Lunch	\$4.00
Ala Carte Milk (Cold Lunch/Kindergarten Snack Milk)	\$0.40

Parents are invited to join their child for lunch.

What Does My Child Need to Know?

There are some basic *skills* children need as they start school.

They should be able to tie their shoes and zip their coats and take boots on and off. They should be able to use the bathroom and wash their hands.

In addition to *skills*, parents can give children experiences that will help them. For example, children need to have experiences cooperating with other children. In school, they need to wait their turn, work with others, and share classroom supplies. So, you can help your child by making sure he/she has a chance to be a part of a play group or another group where he or she will learn to work with others.

Kindergarten students are introduced to all of the curriculum areas which are included in the other elementary grades. There will be activities designed to:

- build self-confidence
- develop vocabulary
- show differences in sound, size, shape, and color
- increase interest in books, numbers, people
- improve coordination
- introduce new ideas . . . and much more

HELP YOUR CHILD GET OFF TO A GOOD START

Your child should . . .

- Get plenty of sleep. Ten to twelve hours is recommended for children this age.
- Have a good, healthy diet, including a good breakfast.
- Get up in plenty of time for school so he/she does not have to hurry and is wide awake when school starts.
- Wear neat, clean comfortable clothes.
- Get to school at the proper time - not too early (before there is adequate supervision), not too late.

Play Time Can Be Learning Time

To a child, there is nothing as exciting, or as much fun as learning something.

Here are some fun things you can do with your child that will give him a good start in school:

- **Look for shapes.** You might say, "I see a blue square. Can you find it?" When your child locates the item, it's her/his turn to ask you next.
- **Cook together.** As your child helps you measure, he/she can learn some basic math skills. Best of all, the whole family gets to eat the result!
- **Fill your sink with water.** Let your child find objects that sink and some that float.
- **Allow your children to** finger paint, color, draw, cut and paste.
- **Take a walk with your child.** Stop and watch the activity at an ant hill.

It's Important to Read To and With Your Child

It's never too early to begin reading to your child. Even infants love the sound of words. They enjoy listening to lullabies and rhymes like "This Little Piggy." Toddlers love books that involve them in some way (*Pat the Bunny* and *Where's Spot?* are among the best examples). Older preschoolers love to play with words, so nursery rhymes or Dr. Seuss books can offer a rollicking good time.

Set aside some time for reading aloud every day. Let your child snuggle close to you. That way, she/he will think of reading as a happy time when she/he has your full attention. Choose a book you like, then let your child choose a book for you to read.

Your reading time doesn't need to be long -- ten or fifteen minutes each day is fine. But it's important that reading is a regular part of your day. If you read just one story a night to your child, he/she will arrive in kindergarten with more than a thousand story-sharing experiences.

As you read, you can also boost your child's thinking skills -- and have fun at the same time. *Here are some tips:*

Occasionally, stop in the middle of a story. (Choose an exciting place.) Then ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?" Keep reading to see if she/he is right.

Or, ask your child to think about *why* something is happening in the story -- or what she/he might do if she/he were in the same situation. You might ask, "What would *you* do if you were Little Red Riding Hood?"

When you've finished a favorite book, ask your child to think about how he/she might change the story. You might ask, "What would have happened if all three little pigs had built their houses of bricks? What would the wolf have done then?"

You'll have fun with these questions. You may think about stories in a different way. Even better, your child will be developing thinking and reasoning skills that lead to success in school.

Should you teach your child to read before he/she enters school? Most teachers say no. For one thing, it's too easy to make children feel pressured to succeed. Pressure makes reading hard work . . . when it should be fun. Also, we find that most children who are not reading by kindergarten have caught up with the early readers by second or third grade--so there is no real long-lasting benefit. If your child learns to read by himself/herself, that's great. But if he/she doesn't, don't force him/her.

Boost Your Child's Self-Esteem and Independence

When you ask kindergarten teachers what kind of student succeeds best in school, chances are they'll say "A child who believes he/she can learn . . . and one who is eager to get started." You can help build that positive attitude in your child.

Here are some suggestions:

- **Expect your child to succeed in school.** One study of children found that children work harder in school when their parents expect more, and relax when their parents expect less.
- **Give your child challenges he/she can master.** Help him/her learn to climb the steps to the playground slide. Teach her/him to button her/his own clothing. Help him/her learn to ride a bike. Each of these skills will boost his/her confidence. Be sure to praise him/her as he/she meets each new challenge.
- **Let your child make choices.** If he/she is very young, it may mean letting him/her choose whether he/she wants his/her sandwich cut in squares or in triangles. When he/she is older, you can say, "Do you want to have your bath first or pick up your toys?" When you offer him/her a choice, you're letting him/her know you have confidence in him/her.
- **Hug your child and tell her/him you love her/him.** Your love will give her/him the confidence to go out into the world and succeed.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP LANGUAGE SKILLS

Another way you can help your child do better in school is by helping him/her develop language skills. Experts agree that language is the key to learning. A child who can express her/his ideas is well on the road to success in school.

One way to help is to talk with your child as you move through the day. As you take a walk, talk about the things you see. If you are in the car, point out interesting things. Try to spend at least 30 minutes a day talking *and listening* to your child.

It's also important to help your child learn the words he/she will be reading one day. A child who has seen a cow, for example, will be more likely to understand words like *farm* and *cow* and *milk* and *moo*.

Here's a list of places you might take your child. Afterwards, let your child tell you about the visits.

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| * Airport | * Library | * Fair |
| * Bank | * Park | * Stores |
| * Farm | * Post Office | * Bus Station |
| * Car Wash | * Parent Workshop | * Railroad Station |
| * School | * Bakery | * Gas Station |
| * Police Station | * Construction Job | * Fire Station |

Here are other ways you can help your child develop language skills:

- * **Buy or make hand puppets.** Help your child put on a puppet show of a favorite story... or one she/he has made up by herself/himself.

* **Talk about familiar items in your home** to help children learn that things have names. Examples might be bed, chair, door, sink, and cabinet. If your child seems interested, try making labels to show that the names can be written down as words.

* **Limit your child’s TV viewing.** Children who are watching television are not playing outside, thinking, or being creative. Many experts think kids should watch no more than 10 hours per week. When possible, watch television with your child. Talk about what you’ve just seen.

Immunizations are Required

Immunizations protect the health of your child and other children in your child’s school. In most states and provinces, immunizations are required before you can enroll your child in school.

If you do not have a family doctor or cannot afford these immunizations, call your local public health department. They will tell you where and when you can have your child immunized.

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE IN MONTANA SCHOOLS

Before a child may attend a Montana school, that facility must be provided with documentation that the child has been immunized as required for the child’s age group. Required immunizations are measles, mumps, rubella, (MMR) poliomyelitis (Polio), and diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, (DTP).

Unless the child qualifies for conditional attendance or other exemptions, (to follow), the following schedule details the required vaccines, ages, and other information.

<u>VACCINE</u>	<u>TOTAL DOSES</u>	<u>OTHER REQUIREMENTS</u>
Polio	3 doses	At least one dose after 4 years old
DTP/DT/ DTaP/Td	4 doses	One dose must be after 4 years old
Tdap/Td Booster	1 dose	Prior to entering the 7th grade a pupil must receive a dose of vaccine containing Td. This applies to those who have completed the 4 doses above.
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)	1 Dose on or after 1yr of age and dose 2 prior to kindergarten entry.	A pupil entering any grade from 7-12 who has not already received the two doses at kindergarten age, must receive a second dose.
Varicella “chickenpox” (Var)	1 dose (dose must be given on or after 1 st birthday)	2 doses (first dose must be given on or after 1 st birthday, spacing between doses is 12 weeks for children under 13 years, and 4 weeks for those older than 13 years)

Polio vaccine: The primary series of polio vaccine consists of 3 doses given at least 4 weeks (28 days) apart. At least one dose must have been administered after the 4th birthday.

Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP, DTaP) vaccine: Prior to school entry, children less than 7 years of age are required to have proof of having at least 4 doses of any combination of DTP/DTaP or DT vaccines.

* One dose must have been given on or after the 4th birthday.

* Children that received DT vaccine, must have a medical exemption for the pertussis (whooping cough) component of the vaccine.

Tdap/Td vaccine: Prior to entering 7th grade, children must receive a booster dose of Td. Tdap is preferred to

provide protection against pertussis.

* A 5 year interval must have passed since the previous dose of DTP/DTaP/ or Td.

* The child must be 11 years of age or older.

* If dose 3 of Td was given at 7 years or older, a booster dose prior to grade 7 is not required.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): First dose must be on or after the first birthday. A second dose is required for school entry and at 7th grade if the pupil did not receive a second dose prior to kindergarten.

New Requirement

Varicella “chickenpox”(Var): **1 dose** (dose must be given on or after 1st birthday) **2 doses** (first dose must be given on or after 1st birthday, spacing between doses is 12 weeks for children under 13 years, and 4 weeks for those older than 13 years)

Conditional attendance: If the pupil has received at least one or more doses of the required vaccine (s), he/she can conditionally attend until the next dose is due. A *Conditional Attendance Form* should be completed. In order to remain in school, the pupil must continue to receive all remaining doses as specified. If the pupil fails to complete the immunization (s) within the time period indicated, he/she must either qualify for and claim an exemption or be excluded immediately from the school.

Exemptions:

Medical-A child seeking to attend school is not required to have any immunizations which are medically contraindicated. A written and signed statement from a physician to this fact will exempt a child from the immunization requirements.

Religious-A child seeking to attend school is not required to be immunized if immunizations are contrary to the religious beliefs of parent or guardian. A claim of exemption on religious grounds must be notarized each year on an affidavit provided by Montana DPHHS.

If a child in attendance at a school contracts any of the diseases for which immunization is required, this child, along with any children who are not completely immunized against the disease, are excluded from the school until the local health authority determines that the outbreak is over. This also pertains to children attending conditionally or with medical and religious exemptions.

Please Don't Send a Sick Child to School

If your child feels sick, keep him/her home from school. A fever, runny nose, cough, or sore throat can all be signals that your child is too sick to go to school. Check with your doctor before sending your child back to school.

Sometimes it is difficult to tell if your child is not well enough to come to school. **If your child is not able to participate in usual classroom activities (including going outside) he/she should not come to school.**

Please keep your child at home if they have any of the following symptoms:

- 1) **Fever of 100 degrees or greater.** Children should be kept home or will be sent home until the next day after running a fever. Give only Tylenol (acetaminophen).
- 2) **Vomiting and diarrhea.** Children should be without vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours before they return to school. Vomiting includes two or more episodes in the previous 24 hours.
- 3) **Bacterial infections - Strep throat, Scarlet fever, Pinkeye, other skin infections.** Children with bacterial

infections should be treated with antibiotics for 24 hours before they return to school and should be free of symptoms (sore throat, rash, fever, etc.)

4) **Generalized rashes** - These are rashes covering multiple parts of the body or involve more than one member of the family. Rashes are difficult to identify. Children with rashes may need to be checked by their physician before returning to school.

5) **Chickenpox** - Children with chickenpox should stay home until their sores dry up (usually seven days following outbreak of the rash). Give only Tylenol (acetaminophen) to relieve fever.

6) **Head lice or scabies** - Children with head lice or scabies must be treated with an appropriate product before they can return to school. Please let the school know of any problem.

7) **Symptoms of serious illness** - Examples would include uncontrolled coughing, breathing difficulty or wheezing, stiff neck, irritability, poor food or fluid intake, or a seizure. Children with these symptoms should receive an evaluation by a health provider.

8) **Thick green or yellow nasal discharge.** If the discharge is persisting longer than three days and is accompanied by any of the following symptoms: fever, persistent cough, eye drainage, or an ear pain, the child should stay home.

THE WEATHER AND RECESSES

All students go outside daily unless the weather is extreme. Generally, it is believed that children who are well enough to go to school are well enough to go outside. Do dress children for the ever changing Montana weather. Often “layering” of clothes is helpful.

KEEP THE SCHOOL INFORMED! For your child’s safety, remember to provide us with current alternate/emergency contact numbers in addition to the home phone.

Kindergarten Classroom Supply List 2017-18

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 2 24-count boxes crayons | 2 8-count boxes of markers |
| 2 12-count colored pencils | 2 Boxes of 12 Sharpened Pencils |
| 1 large pink eraser | 1 bottle white school glue |
| 1 pair of scissors- NO sharp end | 8 glue sticks |
| 1 box watercolor paints | 1 School Folder |
| 1 large bottle of hand sanitizer | 2 boxes of Kleenex |
| 1 box gallon Ziplock bags | 1 box sandwich Ziploc bags |
| 24 #2 pencils sharpened | 1 box of gallon Ziploc bags |
| 1 box Baby Wipes | 1 box 3 oz. Dixie cups |
| 1 Regular size backpack – NO wheels please | |
| 1 gallon size zip lock bag with a change of clothes to remain in the classroom, Labeled | |
| 1 pair tennis shoes (VELCRO-Only if your child cannot tie their shoes)- Please Label them. | |
| 2 boxes of snacks for 20 children- Additional snacks will be asked for throughout the year. | |

Please bring these items to school at our Kindergarten Orientation in August. Some supplies may need to be replaced throughout the year.

LONE ROCK SCHOOL | 2017-2018 CALENDAR

Aug. 22 - All Sports Parent Meeting 7:00 pm – New Gym
 Aug. 22 - Booster Club Meeting present at above and meeting after – Gym
 Aug. 24 - Kindergarten Orientation at 6:30pm-Old Gym
 Aug. 26 – Playground Cleanup 3 pm / BBQ 6 pm / Movie Night 9 pm
 Aug 28-29 PIR

AUGUST '17						
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27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY '18						
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25	26	27	28			

Feb. 7 – PTM Meeting 6 pm
 Feb. 9 – Community Dance
 Feb. 16 – 19 - No School
 Winter Break
Feb. 19 - Mid Quarter
 Feb. 21 – Booster Club Meeting 6:30 pm
 Feb. 23 – Family Movie Night

Sept. 5 - First Day of School
 Sept. 6 – PTM Meeting 6 pm
 Sept. 12 - Open House 6:00 – 7:30 pm in the New Gym
 Sept. 20 – Booster Club Meeting 6:30 pm
 Sept. 27 – Fall Picture Day

SEPTEMBER '17						
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MARCH '18						
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March 1 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 6:00 pm
 March 7 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00 – 7:00 pm
 March 14 – PTM Meeting 6 pm
 March 21 – Booster Club Meeting 6:30 pm
 March 23 – Family Movie Night
March 29 - End of 3rd Quarter
 March 30 – April 2 No School
 Spring Break

Oct. 4 – PTM Meeting 6 pm
Oct. 4 - Mid Quarter
 Oct. 18 – Booster Club Meeting 6:30 pm
 Oct. 19-20 - No School (MEA Conference)
 Oct. 27 – Halloween Carnival 6:00 – 8:00 pm

OCTOBER '17						
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APRIL '18						
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April 3 - 1st Day of 4th Quarter
 April 4 – PTM Meeting 6 pm
 April 6 – Meatballs and Monkey Bars
 April 7 – Run for the Rock 3rd Annual 5k Fun Run
 April 18 – Booster Club Meeting 6:30 pm
 April 26 – Spring Pictures

Nov. 1 – PTM Meeting 6 pm
 Nov. 2 – Picture Retake Day
Nov. 8 - End of First Qtr.
 Nov. 9 - 1st Day of 2nd Quarter
 Nov. 11 – Craft Bazaar
 Nov. 13 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 6:00 pm
 Nov. 15 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00 – 7:00 pm
 Nov. 16 – Thanksgiving Dinner
 Nov. 22-26 - No School – Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER '17						
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MAY '18						
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May 2 – PTM Meeting 6 pm
May 2 – Mid Quarter
 May 8 – Staff Appreciation
 May 16 – Booster Club Meeting 6:30 pm
 May 28 - No School – Memorial Day

Dec. 6 – PTM Meeting 6 pm
Dec. 13 - Mid Quarter
 Dec. 21 – Christmas Dinner
 Dec. 22 – Jan. 1 No School
 Holiday Break

DECEMBER '17						
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31						

JUNE '18						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 5 - 8th Grade Graduation
 June 5 – End of Year Carnival
June 6 – Last Day of School
 11:30 am Dismissal
 End of 4th Quarter and End of
 2nd Semester
 June 7 – Post Records Day

Jan. 3 – PTM Meeting 6 p
 Jan. 17 – Booster Club
 Meeting 6:30 pm
 Jan. 19 – Family Movie Night
**Jan. 24 - End of 2nd Quarter –
 End of 1st Semester**
 Jan. 25 - 1st Day of 3rd Quarter

JANUARY '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**LONE ROCK SCHOOL
 2017 – 2018 CALENDAR**

School Hours 8:30 – 3:30 pm
Breakfast 8:15 – 8:30 am
Instruction Begins 8:30 am
Lunch 11:05 – 12:25 pm
Dismissal 3:30 pm

Early Release Every Wednesday at
 2:30 pm

All K-5 students not at breakfast
 are to be outside 8:15 – 8:30 am

Board meetings are held every 3rd
 Tuesday every month and are
 open to the public. Come join us!