Thea Bowman Leadership Academy (TBLA) is a tuition-free public school located in Gary, Indiana. Our academy focuses on providing an outstanding educational experience for grades K-12 on two beautiful campuses. TBLA was established by the Drexel Foundation for Educational Excellence in 2003, K-6. In 2004, 7th grade was added. Each year, the next grade level was added until we reached the 12th grade. In 2007, the junior and high school campus was built.

TBLA prides itself in engaging scholars in rigorous & robust curricula and instruction. Our elementary school (K-7) is working to become a world-class model for high performance urban schools preparing all students for academic success and leadership roles in a global society. We offer:

- Leadership Training
- Annual Parent Summit
- Parent University
- Afterschool Tutoring
- Intervention/Enrichment Block
- After School Activities
- Leadership Training

Kindergarten is a major turning point in the lives of children and parents alike. Early school experiences have lasting effects on a child’s attitude about school, their self-esteem and future achievements. Fortunately, the best person to ensure that your children arrive at school ready to succeed is you! Allow us to partner with you on this new journey at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Elementary. We truly love our scholars and we believe in their ability to achieve. We hope that you find this information helpful. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sincerely,

Marisa Simmons, Principal, TBLA

Learn Today Lead Tomorrow at Thea Bowman Leadership Academy!

219.883.4826

www.TheaBowmanAcademy.org

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy ES
975 W 6th Ave, Gary, IN 46402

A PARENT GUIDE TO KINDERGARTEN READINESS
Body parts
- Say body parts

Names of immediate family
- Learn names of immediate family

Phone number & address
- Say phone number & address

Basic shapes
- Recognize basic shapes

Count
- Count from 0-10

ABC’s
- Say (not sing) the ABC’s

School
- Talk positively about school

Physical activity
- Encourage physical activity everyday

Reasonable limits
- Establish reasonable limits on behavior

Read
- Read to them & discuss the story

Social values
- Encourage social values (helpfulness, cooperation, sharing)

ESSENTIAL SKILLS CHECKLISTS

Intellectual: Does your child...
- Hold a book upright and turn pages left to right?
- Tell and retell familiar stories?
- Recognize at least ten letters of the alphabet?
- Know colors, shapes, and sizes?

Social: Can your child...
- Listen to an adult & follow simple instructions?
- Sit for short periods of time?
- Play with other children without hitting or biting?
- Cooperate with other children?

Personal: Without help, can your child...
- Tie their own shoes?
- Snap, button, zip, & buckle?
- Eat with silverware unassisted?
- Wash their hands?
- Blow their nose & cover a sneeze?

Health: Has your child...
- Had all required immunizations?
- Had a recent health check-up?
- Eat at regular times daily?
- Learned to run, skip, jump, climb?

READING
- Prior to kindergarten, children typically learn the concepts of reading through games and activities. Many of these skills are learned through modeling.

MATH
- The development of number concepts – classifying, ordering, counting, and time and space relationships – is directly related to children’s ability to perform mathematical tasks throughout their school years and the rest of their life.

SCIENCE
- As children mature, they become more curious about their environment and begin to interact with their surroundings. This is the best time to introduce them to science. Rich sensory experiences (seeing, tasting, touching, hearing, and smelling) can help children become even more observant about the world around them.

Set your child up for academic growth and success before they start kindergarten by discussing and reviewing the basic principles of reading, math and science listed above.