Zaner-Bloser Handwriting

TEACH ALL STUDENTS TO SHINE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW with Sample Lesson Pages
It’s a feeling only teachers can describe: the moment they share students’ joy at printing their names for the first time, or watch as students express themselves with ease and fluidity through a handwritten essay.

That combination of pride, accomplishment, and excitement is a feeling that every student should experience—and every teacher should have the opportunity to provide.

Research shows handwriting instruction in both manuscript and cursive can benefit students’ learning. Building and refining these foundational skills over time increases fluency and automaticity in writing and improves both composition and comprehension.

TEACH WITH THE GOLD STANDARD. SEE THE RESULTS FOR ALL STUDENTS.

When you teach with Zaner-Bloser Handwriting®, you’re teaching all students to shine, with proven, research-based instruction that has helped generations of children to excel. Together we can help them gain the key literacy skills they need to develop into confident, capable communicators who are prepared to succeed in school and in life.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Case for Handwriting</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focused and Flexible Instruction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Zaner-Bloser Method</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaningful Practice</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence of Instruction and Sample Pages</td>
<td>10-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Components</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exciting New Online Tools Extend &amp; Engage!</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Instruction</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Case for Handwriting

Research proves explicit handwriting instruction is an important component in building literacy skills and a strong indicator of future success for all students. Following are just five key points regarding the importance of handwriting.* For the complete article, go to zaner-bloser.com/Handwriting2020.

1. Self-generated action, in the form of handwriting, is a crucial component in setting up brain systems for reading acquisition. (James 2010)

2. Children with stronger fine motor skills do better not only in literacy tasks such as letter writing, but also in kindergarten math; in addition, these skills are associated with ongoing reading and math achievement as late as fifth grade. (Dennhardt et al., 2014)

3. For developmentally typical students in grades 4-7, fluent cursive writing consistently predicted both higher level spelling and composing skills at each grade. (Beminger et al., 2015)

4. Research results show that fluency in handwriting is strongly related to the quality and quantity of students’ complex written texts as late as Grade 8. (Christensen and Jones, 2013)

5. People who take handwritten notes process information better than those who type notes on a laptop. (Mueller & Oppenheimer, 2014) Students who type notes tend to record what they hear verbatim, whereas those who take handwritten notes are more apt to write more reflectively as they translate what they are learning into their own words.

* excerpted from the Teacher Edition of Zaner-Bloser Handwriting

Read on to see how research directly informs the pedagogy of Zaner-Bloser Handwriting and how you can effectively put it into practice.

Resources:
Focused and Flexible Instruction

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting is the definitive method used by generations of children. Available in English and Spanish, the Zaner-Bloser approach teaches lifelong handwriting skills, from kindergarten through grade 6, in a comprehensive, skills-focused program, with time-tested techniques that don't take a lot of time to implement.

Whether it's five, ten, or 15 minutes, lessons work within your daily plan and fit alongside any type of curriculum to facilitate handwriting expertise.

SHORT WORK YIELDS LONG-TERM RESULTS.

The Teacher Edition's three-step lesson presents a clear, simple instructional plan—Model, Practice, Evaluate—to help you easily and effectively teach handwriting in fewer than 15 minutes a day.

1. Model
   Instruct: students to look at the two keys on the student page. Read and discuss the information about Shape and Size.

2. Practice
   Ask: students to complete the student page at a literacy center, during independent work time, or for homework.

3. Evaluate
   Discuss: the letters students marked and help them determine whether each mark is correct.

Additional tools in the Teacher Edition include:
- clearly stated learning objectives
- detailed letter models and formations for accurate modeling
- Handwriting Digital Tutor QR Codes
- Practice Masters facsimiles for quick reference

NEW! MyZBPortal.com includes easy-to-use digital teaching tools to engage students and support teachers.

For example, teachers can use Animated Letter Models to introduce letter formations to the whole class on a whiteboard. It’s an effective way to integrate a short burst of engaging instruction.

As handwriting practice becomes part of the routine, students can watch the modeling videos on their own while they practice.

CONSISTENT PRACTICE EQUALS CONTINUAL LEARNING.

Teacher Editions are packed with tips for quick, explicit instruction, coupled with practice opportunities and reinforcement, that teachers can implement throughout the day across disciplines and assign homework.

Handwriting Coach

Home Practice

English Language Learners

Writing in the Content Areas

Teacher Edition, Grade 1
The Zaner-Bloser Method

Effective handwriting instruction isn’t complicated—in fact, the simpler the better. Zaner-Bloser keeps it clean with fewer strokes, accessible language, and a common-sense approach to letter introduction that easily surpasses other handwriting programs.

BEGIN WITH THE FOUR KEYS.

The Keys to Legibility—Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant—are a hallmark of Zaner-Bloser’s unique instructional system. The Keys appear in every lesson to help students self-evaluate their handwriting.

This continual assessment is critical to developing the handwriting process. By identifying their own strengths and weaknesses, students become independent learners!

USE SIMPLE, STUDENT-FRIENDLY LANGUAGE.

Easy-to-understand language and modeling with fewer, more specific letter formation descriptions make instruction accessible for all students. The same terms are used across grade levels, so no need to relearn terms each year. Students don’t need to have a rich reading vocabulary to master writing!
Meaningful Practice

**ESTABLISH IDENTIFIABLE PATTERNS.**

When a child sees an individual letter and attempts to write it, he or she may look at the letter and try to copy its shape. This can result in incorrect methods for writing letters, like starting at the baseline or using a forward instead of a backward circle line.

For both manuscript and cursive handwriting, Zaner-Bloser presents the letters of the alphabet in groups that share:
- common strokes
- formation patterns
- visual attributes

Presenting letters that contain similar strokes helps children identify patterns and learn to write letters correctly and efficiently.

**Manuscript groupings** are based on the strokes used to form the lowercase letter.

**Cursive groupings** are based on the initial stroke used to form each letter.

**TEACHERS GIVE OWNERSHIP—STUDENTS GAIN CONFIDENCE.**

The proven pedagogy is designed to reach all types of learners—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Not only does differentiated instruction help all students to learn (and shine) on their own, it helps build confidence and allow transfer of ownership for learning onto the student.

**SELF-ASSESS FOR LETTER SUCCESS!**

*Stop sign icons* direct students to pause, identify the best letter they’ve written on the page, and follow the steps in the self-evaluation process to assess their letter-making skills:

- Question and Compare
- Evaluate and Diagnose
- Improve

**Digital Tutor QR Codes** throughout the Student Edition allow students to conduct independent assessment and extend practice. Students simply scan the code with a mobile device to access the tutorials online. These *Animated Letter Models* and how-to videos extend learning to classroom centers and the home.

**Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Apps** provide additional opportunities to practice writing uppercase and lowercase letterforms and numerals in a fun and engaging way. Automatic feedback and a built-in reward motivate students and help them improve their handwriting. Apps are available for iPhone® and iPad®.

*iPhone®* and *iPad®* are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.
Sequence of Instruction

*Zaner-Bloser Handwriting* introduces manuscript, or printing, to students in kindergarten and grade 1. Schools can also choose to include an extra year of manuscript at grade 2.

Cursive instruction begins in either grade 2 or 3, with continued practice and refinement through grade 6. Increasingly, students are encouraged to write original compositions that rely on automaticity and fluency.

**SAMPLE PAGES FROM GRADES K, 2C & 4 TEACHER AND STUDENT EDITIONS**

Callouts identify features to note!

---

**Explore Your Book**

**Meet Zaney**

Zaney will be popping up in your book to help you form letters and make sure your writing is easy to read!

**Digital Tutor**

Scan the **Digital Tutor** codes with a mobile device to watch Zaney’s videos. You will learn how to write your best letters!

**Stop and Check**

When you see a ✓ sign, circle the best letter you wrote on that line.

Circle the best letter on this line.

**Keys to Legibility**

There are four kinds of keys in your book. These **Keys to Legibility** will remind you to check the Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant of your writing.

The **Keys to Legibility** will help you make your writing legible. Legible means easy to read.

---

Students are introduced to elements they’ll encounter across all grade levels, like **Keys to Legibility**.
Discover

Writing Positions

Left-Handed Writers: If you use your left hand to write, follow the rules on this page.

Sit up tall.
Keep your feet on the floor.

Slant your paper.
Put both arms on the desk.
Pull your pencil toward your left elbow.
Use your right hand to move the paper.

Hold the pencil like this.
Do not squeeze the pencil when you write.

Preparatory instruction includes pencil, paper, and sitting position for right- and left-handed writers.

Write

Trace and write. Circle your best b.

Vertical manuscript reflects materials young readers see every day.

Students learn their letters while writing them! Uppercase and lowercase are introduced together in Kindergarten.
Unit 1 provides a quick review of manuscript before introducing cursive in Grade 2C or 3.

**Cursive Letters and Numerals**

Handwriting Coach

**Teaching the Letters: Building Imagery**

1. **Model**
   - Project the student page on a whiteboard or screen. Model the first instruction by saying and writing the uppercase letters that are your initials. Then model the second instruction by underlining the lowercase letters that are in your name.

2. **Practice**
   - Ask students to complete these activities in a literacy center, during independent work time, or for homework:
     - Tell students to complete the student page.
   - Then ask them to identify which manuscript and cursive letters are most alike and which are most different from each other. Have them mark each with a star.

3. **Evaluate**
   - Ask students to tell which letters they drew are beside. Have them explain why they think these manuscript and cursive letters are most alike or different.

Helpful strategies for whole-class instruction are featured in the margins.

Clear, concise instruction is accessible for all students.

Write

- **Letter models include arrows to show stroke direction.**
- **Stop and Check icons prompt students to self-assess.**

Objective: Notice the similarities and differences between manuscript and cursive letters and numbers.

1. **Model**
   - Create the student page on a whiteboard or screen. Model the first instruction by saying and writing the uppercase letters that are your initials. Then model the second instruction by underlining the lowercase letters that are in your name.

2. **Practice**
   - Ask students to complete these activities in a literacy center, during independent work time, or for homework:
     - Tell students to complete the student page.
   - Then ask them to identify which manuscript and cursive letters are most alike and which are most different from each other. Have them mark each with a star.

3. **Evaluate**
   - Ask students to tell which letters they drew are beside. Have them explain why they think these manuscript and cursive letters are most alike or different.

Helpful strategies for whole-class instruction are featured in the margins.

Explicit practice on joinings promotes fluidity and legibility.

Green dots indicate where to start.

Models and practice lines are oriented so left- and right-handed students can both see clearly.

Writing in the Content Areas

**Language Arts**

Ask partners to discuss how they feel about learning cursive writing. Are they excited? Why? Are they fearful? Why? How do they think cursive writing will benefit them? Then have students write a journal entry describing their feelings and expectations about learning cursive.
Cursive for Lifelong Literacy

### Write

**Letter Model and Formation**

1. Undercurve; loop back; slant; undercurve.

**Digital Tutor**

- Clearly-stated objectives focus instruction.

### Home Practice

Each three-step lesson presents a clear instructional plan.

### English Language Learners

**Sound Discrimination**

To help students understand the long and short sounds of the vowel e, gather several picture cards containing e or make copies using the Practice Masters Model.

### Occupational Therapist Tip

**American Sign Language**

Using sign language provides opportunities to strengthen individual finger movements and improve visual motor skills. Find pictures of the letters of the alphabet in American Sign Language. Post the pictures around your classroom so students can use them. Help students learn the letter signs, allowing time to practice signing their names.

### Prevention vs. Intervention!

Proven tips from OTs provide classroom teachers with exercises to head off potential issues.

---

**Page orientation in Student Editions switches to portrait in grade 3, along with tighter line spacing.**

**Home Practice opportunities and activities are intended for students to do with their families.**
**Grades 4–6**

**Writing Across the Content Areas**

**Review**

**Additional Resources**

See the Corrective Strategies section on page 104 for tips on correcting common problems in your students’ handwriting.

**My ZB Portal**

For more detailed letter formations, go to MyZBPortal.com.

**Apply**

Four-color visuals engage students and support opportunities for further practice.

**NEW! MyZBPortal online platform provides easy, one-stop access to engaging teaching resources with increased efficiency.**

**Objective:** Review uppercase cursives A, O, D, C, and E.

1. **Model**
   - Review the letter formations and model any letters students have difficulty writing. Point out that all the letters you reviewed are lowercase letters.
   - Ask volunteers to give verbal descriptions of the letters. Challenge the other students to identify the letters being described. Then write the letters on guidelines on the board.

2. **Practice**
   - Ask students to complete the student page during independent work time or for homework.

**English Language Learners**

**Multiple-Meaning Words and Similar Words**

- Explain to students that the meaning of the noun form of desert is dry, but lamellar and that the verb form of desert means to leave a place or people behind. Help students with the different pronunciations of the two words. Have them write a sentence using each word appropriately.

**Objective:** Write a road trip plan using legible cursive handwriting.

1. **Model**
   - Read aloud the directions on the student page and the labeled cities and sites. Print out the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans on the map and answer any questions students might have.

2. **Practice**
   - Ask students to complete the student page during independent work time or for homework.

3. **Evaluate**
   - Remind students to correctly form A, O, D, C, and E when they write their plan.

- Use these questions to help students evaluate their writing:
  - Did you write with correct strokes for your letters have good shape?
  - Did you write letters with good size to fit the writing space?
  - Did you use correct spacing?
  - Does your writing have uniform forward slant?

**Writing in the Content Areas**

**Social Studies**

Give students information about the cities in their Road Trip Plan on the student page. Have students choose one of the cities and write an informative/explanatory paragraph that describes the place. Encourage them to give particular information, such as its population, popular attractions, average seasonal temperatures, and basic geography.
Program Components

**Zaner-Bloser Handwriting** doesn't take a lot of direct instructional time, but it does provide rich and varied opportunities for practice! In addition to the colorful print Teacher and Student Editions, package components include manipulatives for hands-on work as well as black and white practice masters that can be assigned as homework.

The **Teacher Edition** includes everything you need to teach students to write legibly and fluently in as few as 15 minutes per day.

- Research-based instruction
- Simple, three-step lesson
- Additional resources, including multisensory activities to differentiate instruction, teaching tips, and authentic handwriting opportunities

**Student Edition worktexts** provide meaningful, engaging handwriting practice and application:

- Developmentally appropriate content
- Colorful, fun activities
- Opportunities for self-evaluation
- Digital Tutor QR Codes that link to online videos

**Practice Masters** offer opportunities to strengthen students' handwriting skills and involve families:

- Reproducible practice pages for students
- Use in small groups, centers, or for homework
- Include QR codes to access online tutorials
- Also available online

**Classroom Resource Kits** provide a full selection of classroom multisensory practice materials with extra support for teaching handwriting and making learning fun. Resources include Alphabet Desk & Wall Strips, Touch and Trace Cards, Home Handwriting Pack, and Manuscript/Cursive Cards.

Available as:

- Manuscript Kit
- Manuscript/Cursive Kit
- Cursive Kit
Exciting New Online Tools Extend & Engage!

Enhanced digital tools available on MyZEBPortal.com provide even more flexibility to supplement proven instruction and reinforce handwriting skills across the curriculum.

ACCESS A RICH SELECTION OF DIGITAL COMPONENTS.

The digital tools at MyZEBPortal.com engage students and support teachers in handwriting instruction. They are designed for whole-class or small-group instruction and can be used with any interactive whiteboard or projector.

Access materials easily—everything teachers need is organized by lesson.

- Animated Letter and Numeral Models in English and Spanish
- Short instructional videos
- Teacher Edition eBook
- Projectable Student Edition pages
- Printable Home Practice pages
- Corrective Strategies
- Matching with Zaney Games
- Professional Development resources

CREATE CUSTOMIZED CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

ZB Worksheet Maker makes it easy to generate original documents using Zaner-Bloser’s manuscript and cursive alphabets. Teachers use the grade-specific templates to create customized, printable worksheets. Ideal for incorporating handwriting practice into cross-curricular instruction in social studies, science, even math! Templates include:

- How-To Organizer
- Cause-and-Effect Chain
- Story Map
- Friendly Letter
- And more!
Spanish Instruction

Zaner-Bloser La escritura for Grades K–6 provides parallel instruction to the English program with linguistically appropriate content. Bilingual students can progress in handwriting alongside their English-speaking peers while learning appropriate academic Spanish writing skills.

Manuscript (K–2M)
- Letter strokes:
  - Up to the top
  - Down to the bottom
  - Right
  - Left
  - Diagonal
- Phonic strokes:
  - Curved to the right
  - Circled
- Vertical/
  - Verticals
- Horizontal/
  - Horizontales
- Circle/
  - Circulo
- Diagonal/
  - Inclinadas

Cursive (2C–6)
- Letter strokes:
  - Up to the top
  - Down to the bottom
  - Right
  - Left
  - Diagonal
- Phonic strokes:
  - Curved to the right
  - Circled
- Vertical/
  - Verticals
- Horizontal/
  - Horizontales
- Circle/
  - Circulo
- Diagonal/
  - Inclinadas

Los que trabajamos en Zaner-Bloser comprendemos perfectamente la alegría que comparte un maestro de la escuela primaria, con el estudiante que logra escribir su nombre por primera vez, al igual que cuando ve que el estudiante entiende el “por qué” de las formas ortográficas, y el uso de patrones para escribir palabras nuevas. Esa combinación de alcanzar logros, de orgullo y emoción es algo que todo estudiante debería sentir y que todo maestro debería tener la oportunidad de ofrecerle.

Cuando usted enseña con los instrucciones de Zaner-Bloser Handwriting, Zaner-Bloser La escritura, y Spelling Connections, usted les está enseñando a todos los estudiantes a que se destaquen mediante la adquisición de las destrezas esenciales de lecto-escritura que requieren para convertirse en comunicadores capaces y seguros de sí mismos, preparados para triunfar en la escuela y en la vida.

Online resources in Spanish available on MyZBPortal.com are similar to those available for the English version, including Animated Numeral and Letter Models and Worksheet Maker.
Teach All Students to Shine—Online!

VISIT ZANER-BLOSER HANDWRITING ONLINE

- Access to MyZBPortal.com
- Online Teacher Editions
- Digital Resources
- Research

zaner-bloser.com/Handwriting2020

Why choose Zaner-Bloser Handwriting?

✓ Explicit, systematic instruction  ✓ Proven and research based  ✓ Respects teachers’ time

Zaner-Bloser®
A Highlights Company