

August 24, 2020

Dear DeSoto Private School Parents:

The first day of in-person classes for the Fall semester is **Tuesday, September 8th**. Due social distancing measures, class sizes will be small so there are limited spaces available. If you have not secured a spot for the Fall and would like to do so, please call the school office and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If your child will not be returning, please inform the front office as soon as possible as we do have a waiting list. If you are interested in following along with our curriculum, but choose for your child to stay at home, we do have an academic packet option available for \$80 a week (5K – 6th grade). Contact the front office for more information.

To prepare for the school year, it is important that we all work together to make our school experience as safe as possible. Below is a checklist provided by the CDC to help parents plan and prepare for in-person classes:

- Please be familiar with our DeSoto Private School Safety Protocol. If you did not receive a copy in the mail, it is posted on our website.
- ☆ Check your child each morning for signs of illness. **Do not send your child to school if they have a sore throat or other signs of illness like a cough, diarrhea, headache, vomiting, body aches, or a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher.**
- ☆ **URGENT: Make sure your contact and emergency information in the school office is current.**
- Make sure your child is up-to-date with all recommended vaccines. All school-aged children should get a flu vaccine every season. **New students must bring their immunization records by the first day of school. Current Students: please be sure we have your updated immunizations – especially Kindergarteners (4 year old shots).**
- Review and practice proper hand washing techniques at home, and explain to your child why it is important.
- Develop daily routines before and after school – for example, things to pack in the morning like hand sanitizer and an additional (back up) cloth face covering. When returning home, wash hands immediately and wash worn cloth face coverings.
- Talk to your child about precautions to take at school like keeping physical distance from other students and avoiding the sharing of supplies.

- Have a plan for possible school closures or periods of quarantine.
- Talk to you child about how school will look different (e.g., desks far apart from each other, teachers maintaining physical distance and wearing masks, eating lunch in your classroom)

All children ages 10 and over must wear a face covering. It is optional for other age groups. If your child is wearing a face covering, below is a list of guidelines:

- Have multiple cloth face coverings, so you can wash them daily and back-ups ready. Choose cloth face coverings that:
 - ✓ Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - ✓ Completely cover the nose and mouth
 - ✓ Are secured with ties or ear loops
 - ✓ Include multiple layers of fabric
 - ✓ Allow for breathing without restriction
 - ✓ Can be washed and machine dried without damage or change to shape
- **Label your child's face covering clearly in a permanent marker so that they are not confused with those of other children.**
- Practice with your child putting on and taking off face coverings without touching the cloth.
- Explain the importance of wearing a cloth face covering.
- **Provide a container (e.g., labeled resealable bag) to bring to school to store their face covering when not wearing it (e.g., lunchtime, outside play)**

Important Protocol Updates and Reminders:

- ❖ We will be taking temperatures of all students and staff **at least 2 times a day (morning and lunchtime).**
- ❖ **1st-6th Grade Students:** Please bring **labeled** student supplies to school by Thursday, September 3rd. We will place your supplies on your desk in your classroom. Supply fees are due by September 1st.
- ❖ Children with asthma will be able to use **inhalers only** at school. We will no longer be able to administer breathing treatments with nebulizers. (This is to reduce droplet infection in the air.)
- ❖ Students (5K - 6th grade) may bring an insulated reusable water bottle up to 18 ounces or one unopened 16.9 ounce water bottle to school each day. The bottle must be clearly labeled with the

- student's name. Children will be able to refill their water bottles during the day if needed. Reusable water bottles must be taken home each day and washed.**
- ❖ **Until further notice, in order to prevent food insecurities, children will not be able to bring cupcakes or cookies or any outside food for their birthdays.**
 - ❖ **Breakfast will not be served in the mornings. We will provide a morning and afternoon snack for preschoolers, and an afternoon snack for school aged children.**
 - ❖ **Unless otherwise noted, it is preferred that tuition payments be made through our online portal or by check.**
 - ❖ **Remember that parents and visitors are not allowed in the building at this time. Please do not come to the front door and stay at your car.**
 - ❖ **All students must bring a lunch from home each day complete with a drink. Lunches must be brought with your student in the morning. We will not be able to warm up or refrigerate any lunch items. Lunches must be in a well-labeled lunch kit.**

The first few weeks of school will be very busy. We appreciate the support of our parents as we implement many new practices to safeguard the health of our children and staff. Since parents and visitors are not allowed in the building, please leave yourself plenty of time during drop off and pick up times. Our staff will not be able to hold your child's hand during these times so please roll down your window as you pull up and **be ready at your car** to assist the staff in getting your child safely to and from the building.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

Mrs. Ashford
Executive Board Chairperson