



July 10, 2020

Dear DKH Academy Families,

Our responsibility to the safety and wellness of your children while in our care is something we do with professionalism, preparedness, and confidence in all situations. Knowing this, as the Coronavirus is currently threatening our ability to return in the normal setting we were hoping for, it is clear that a revised operating plan is needed to **minimize the risk of exposure** and illness. As the situation evolves, we will reserve the right to add to or modify these protocols to align with the needs in our specific community.

Here are the updated protocols DKH Academy will implement for Fall 2020 in accordance with the newest CDC and Texas Health and Human Services orders and recommendations:

- Our school year will begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- Parent Orientation and Meet the Teacher schedules have been mailed out and we look forward to having these exciting and important opportunities while protecting the health and safety of all. We will be doing Meet the Teacher, drive-by style, to greet your child at a safe distance in your vehicle, and to give families necessary paperwork, dismissal cards, and classroom information for you to have prior to your scheduled virtual Parent Orientation.
- **ALL staff will be required to wear face coverings** while in our building and classrooms (playground is not included as there is ample space to physically distance). Face masks can be removed for small intervals, such as story time, provided the teacher can physically distance appropriately for that time frame.
- **Children (2 years or older) will be required to wear face masks every day during arrivals and dismissals until they are safely inside their classrooms. This means all children, except toddlers in our 18-24 mo. class, will need to bring a face covering to school.**
- Children (2 years or older) who are comfortable wearing a face covering **are highly encouraged to do so throughout the school day.**
- **NO ITEMS can be brought from home other than a backpack.** We cannot allow children to bring in any personal items or toys.
- **All classes will remain isolated from other classes** throughout the school day to minimize exposure.
- **Physical distancing** will be practiced by staff but will not be required within each isolated classroom to allow for normal social interaction and play as appropriate for young children.
- **Temperature checks will be required daily for all staff and students.** Students will be screened in the car line before unloading.
- Arrival and dismissal procedures will remain the same with the exception that **we cannot allow parents to enter the building requiring all students be dropped off and retrieved in the car line. If you walk to school, those students will need to be temperature screened outside near the flagpole area and will be walked in by a DKH staff member. NO WALK-UPS for dismissal unless your child will be walking home with you and you do not have a car. No parking and walking up will be allowed. Toddler parents**

**are the exception if they chose to drop off outside on back preschool deck area. Toddler pick-ups will also occur here at 12:30.**

- All students will immediately wash hands upon entering their classroom each day and will frequently be asked to wash hands and use hand sanitizer throughout the school day.
- Enhanced daily cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be employed in all classrooms and throughout the buildings and common areas.
- **All daily lunches and snacks will need to be provided from home, including children staying for LEAP and Spanish Immersion.** Those students will need an extra snack each day.

Participation by both staff and families in protecting our school from unnecessary exposure is critically important to a safe return. We encourage everyone in the school and community to practice preventative behaviors including wearing face masks in public places, frequent hand washing, monitoring for and responding to symptoms of COVID-19 and keeping children home who exhibit any of the symptoms noted on the CDC family checklist (available on our website) until this pandemic slows its threat.

The DKH team is so anxious to get back to school, and to do what we love in our most natural way, but for now, these measures are critical to allowing us to even open our doors. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of smiles, discovery and learning! This pandemic forces us all to look ahead with a wide lens and see that this immediate problem will not change what we are about or alter our passions, and it requires us to find ways to continue living and connecting for quality of mind, soul and heart!

Warmest Regards,

Nancy Parra, Director

DKH Academy