



# The Fisher Flyer

Official Newsletter of Fisher Island Day School

October 11, 2018

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, & Staff,

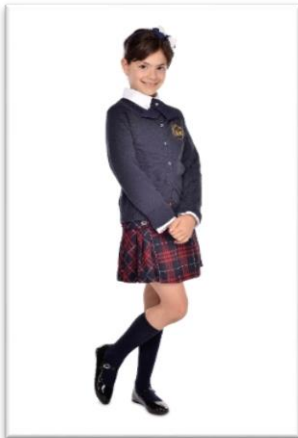
Following are this week's [FIDS](#) updates:

## Calendar at a Glance.

- Fri., Oct. 12, 2018 Parent Association Meeting – Neff Family Library **(8:30 a.m.)**
- Tue., Oct. 16, 2018 School Picture Day in Dress (Formal) Uniform
- Wed., Oct. 17, 2018 School Picture Day – “No Uniform”
- Wed., Oct. 31, 2018 In-Classroom Halloween Celebrations, 2:15 p.m.
- Fri., Nov. 2, 2018 Report Cards Issued for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

**School Uniforms.** FIDS school uniforms are required attire for all students. **School Picture Day on Tuesday, October 16, 2018**, will be the first day all students will be required to wear their dress uniforms. Please plan accordingly, **paying particular attention to the footwear requirements**. Our school uniform provider is Land's End. Please click [here](#) for additional information.

Following are the Formal (Dress) uniform standards for the photographs that will be taken on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. Please pay particular attention to the footwear requirement—the children must wear closed shoes (no sneakers)—for Formal (Dress) uniform. If you do not have a Formal (Dress) uniform for your children, please have them wear their regular uniforms.



### Girls-Formal

- Blouse (choose any from below):
  - Peter-Pan collar polo (long or short sleeve);
  - Short-sleeve Peter-Pan collar broadcloth blouse; and/or
  - Long-sleeve white pinpoint shirt with FIDS logo (long or short sleeve).
- Girl's navy cross-tie
- Plaid box-pleat skirt (2 options)
- Navy-blue button-front cardigan sweater with FIDS logo
- Closed shoes (no sneakers)

### Boys-Formal

- Navy blazer with FIDS logo
- White pinpoint shirt with FIDS logo (long or short sleeve)
- Navy and red-striped necktie
- Tan khaki or chino slacks (no camouflage, cargo pants, shorts, or jeans/denim)
- Closed shoes (no sneakers)





**Access to Age-Appropriate Media.** As FIDS evolves into a Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 school, we are broadening the scope of our instructional catalog of books and educational media to better address the academic and social-emotional needs of toddlers through teens. We pay careful attention to ensure that books and educational media are suited to each child's academic and maturity levels. FIDS's

library—which houses a collection of books suited for toddlers to teens—is organized by reading level. Our faculty and library staff guide children's library book selections according to this organization.

Recently, we have added books to our library that are suitable for middle schoolers, depending on their age. These books are clearly marked by grade level. In addition to being organized by grade level, we have appended a "minimum age" sticker to the middle school books' spines, which specifies the age the child must be to read each book. The "minimum age" sticker reflects the best judgment of staff, based on a review of the book, as well as the recommendations of [commonsense.org](http://commonsense.org). If a book does not have a "minimum age" sticker, it means that there is no age restriction regarding the book's content.

As parents, I ask you to support our recommendations regarding restrictions to certain content based on a child's age. Further, I recommend [commonsense.org](http://commonsense.org) as a tool for parents to use in guiding their decisions regarding when it is appropriate for children to have access to books, films, social media, and—particularly—video games. The amount of [research](#) on the negative impact of violent video games on children and adolescents is frightening. As such, I ask you to be vigilant in terms of what your child has access to, as well as the amount of time spent on such pursuits. As always, thank you for being a partner in your child's education.

**Halloween.** Following is information regarding Halloween. To wit:

- **Wednesday, October 31, 2018**, will be a regular, learning-filled day for students. Students – along with faculty and staff – should arrive at school attired according to school dress-code standards. (Costumes may be brought to school in a labeled bag.)
- We will have a costume parade commencing at approximately 2:00 p.m. Early Learning will have a separate parade and classroom celebration prior to their midday dismissal. Coach D will coordinate the parameters for the parade.
- **Costumes that are scary, sexually suggestive, and/or political in nature are not permitted.**
- **Faux weaponry is not permitted.**
- If masks are worn, they may only be worn during the parade.
- At approximately 2:30 p.m., each homeroom will have an in-classroom celebration, hosted by Room Parents under the direction of the homeroom teacher. In-class celebrations must be contained within individual classrooms.
- FIDS nutritional guidelines remain in place for Halloween; serving sizes should be the equivalent of an "afternoon snack."
- Participation in the costume-portion is optional.

We believe the above will allow us to celebrate the holiday, while maintaining the academic integrity of our instructional program. Parents may join in the fun by wearing costumes—but please remember—this is a celebration for our kids! Let's put them first. Thank you for your support.

**Staff Profiles.** During the next few weeks, the *Fisher Flyer* will introduce you to new members of the FIDS team. This week we are pleased to introduce you to [Ms. Samantha Rosa](#) (nee Turner), 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics/STEM Lead Teacher and FIDS's STEM Coordinator. Although Samantha joined our team in the 2016-2017 school year, she is in a new role at FIDS. Samantha is passionate about aiding students in becoming lifelong learners and active members of society. She is also committed to inquiry-based, challenging, and collaborative learning. In the classroom, Samantha creates an effective learning environment that fosters questioning, exploration, and her students having a growth mindset.



Samantha has seven years of experience in the field of education — teaching, facilitating mentoring programs, building curriculum, and most importantly, learning from a diverse range of master teachers. She completed two terms as a Fellow and Leadership Team Member in the challenging and competitive pre-service teacher-training program, Breakthrough Collaborative San Francisco. Samantha also completed a year of National Service with Americorps City Year Miami, where she worked as an interventionist to develop a literacy program focused on comprehension and analysis. Additionally, she created and managed multiple afterschool enrichment and tutoring programs throughout Florida.

Samantha loves to use her time away from school reading, listening to science podcasts on NPR, and spending time with her husband and dog. Samantha received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology from the University of Florida and is working towards obtaining a Masters of Education in Early Childhood Education.

**Out of Office.** I will be attending a conference in Orlando, Florida—Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. During this absence, Mrs. Mollie T. Small, Assistant Head of School, will be the administrator in charge.

Thank you for your support in making every week at FIDS a wonderful learning experience for our children. Your partnership is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Bell".

[Michael Bell](#)  
Head of School

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