



The Fisher Flyer

Official Newsletter of Fisher Island Day School

August 24, 2018

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, & Staff,

Welcome to our new Faculty! Please join me in welcoming FIDS's new faculty members for the 2018-2019 school year.

For a complete listing of our esteemed faculty—including grade level assignments, biographies, and emails—please click [here](#).

First Day of School—Monday, August 27, 2018.

- Please plan on having your child arrive at school on the first day, no later than 8:00 a.m.
- Greeters will be on hand to help direct you to your child's classroom.
- Our Parent Association will be hosting a Back-to-School Coffee for parents at the Fisher Island Club Vanderbilt Mansion, 8:20 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Please plan on departing from FIDS as soon as your child is settled so that we may begin the learning day.
- We will not be holding traditional Morning Meeting upon arrival on Monday. We will convene welcome-back, student-only assemblies mid-morning in the Neff Family Library.
- **NEW 2018 - 2019 school hours:**
 - 8:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – Early Learning
 - 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Pre-K through Grade 7
 - 3:05 p.m. – 4:05 p.m. – Most Active Hours Classes*

* **FIDS will no longer provide 15 minutes of supervised playground time upon the conclusion of the school day.** In order to accommodate our expanded after-school programs and bus services, Active Hours and Study Hall will commence operation immediately following the 3:00 p.m. dismissal. Students who are not picked up or who are not on the bus at dismissal will be sent to Study Hall. FIDS students who are accompanied by a responsible adult may remain on the playground until 4:00 p.m. on school days.

Student Supplies. Please be reminded that—as a convenience—basic student supplies for grades Pre-Kindergarten through 7 are now included as part of your child's tuition and fees. Children should bring their own refillable water bottles (non-glass), insect repellent, sunscreen, and any required personal items. In addition, students in Early Learning should bring their own supplies pursuant to the directions provided by Ms. Larionova.



Transportation. All parents will be cleared for ferry access for the first week of school. Bus service will be provided starting on the first day of school (based on need). Please refrain from parking cars on the grass. Ferry clearance is limited to the first week of school. We expect off-island parents to commence using our daily bus service for their children **prior** to the conclusion of the first week of school.

Due to construction on the westernmost bridge of MacArthur Causeway, we will likely experience delays on our South-of-Fifth bus routes. We ask for everyone’s flexibility during this situation. Whether our buses are running on-time or late, please be assured that your child will be riding in air-conditioned comfort and will be supervised by one of FIDS’s staff members at all time. **Following is a related message from Miami Beach Mayor, Dan Gelber:**

Back to school also means more traffic during rush hour. Our City deploys significant police resources to various drop off locations to help make sure children and families can safely get their kids to school. This challenge is greatest in South Beach where the State of Florida construction project taking place on the MacArthur Causeway has caused severe disruptions to traffic. In late July the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) initiated 24-hour closure of 2 westbound lanes on the causeway as part of critical repairs to the top and bottom of the bridge.

So you know, at our request the State has been working 6 days a week, 22 hours each day in order to complete as soon as possible the two-lane closures that are so disruptive. Our hope is that this portion of the work will be completed by September 9th, after which the closures will be switched to 10:00 pm to 6:00 am until the westbound work is done. After that the work will switch to the Eastbound lanes, which we expect will not require such extensive repairs.

I understand this disruption is a real hardship especially as school resumes and traffic increases. **At my request the State provided funding for 11 additional officers to help manage the traffic.** Although this is a State construction project, our City is doing all we can to minimize its impact.



While we have conducted extensive outreach before and during the construction, **if you have not opted into our Traffic Text Alert system ,please do so by texting MBtraffic to 888777.**

I appreciate your ongoing input on how we can continue to improve our approach and your patience as we work through this situation together.

Are Your Ducks in a Row? The 2018-2019 school year will commence for students on Monday, August 27, 2018. The following information is intended to guide your final countdown preparations to ensure a smooth opening of school for your child:

Pre-Enrollment Forms/Tasks Available by clicking the links below or visiting www.FIDS.org	Audience	Action Required <i>All Documents/Payments may be sent or hand-delivered to Mrs. Latour, Office Manager: llatour@fids.org or 305.531.2349 FAX</i>
Faculty & Staff	All Parents.	FYI. Provides biographical information, email addresses, and teaching assignments of our esteemed faculty & staff.
DCF Enrollment Form	EL – Jr. Kindergarten Parents who are <u>new</u> to FIDS in 2018-2019.	Targeted parents must complete and return a DCF Enrollment Form for each child.
Emergency Contact Form	All Parents.	All parents must complete an updated form for each enrolled child.
Influenza Virus Brochure	All Parents.	FYI.
Know Your Child-Care Facility	EL – Jr. Kindergarten Parents.	FYI.
Parent-Student Handbook	All Parents.	FYI.
R Catering Parent Letter & Contract	All Parents.	All parents must complete the contract and remit payment in order for their children to be enrolled in FIDS's foodservice program.
Room Parent Responsibilities & Guidelines	All Parents.	FYI. Details the responsibilities associated with being a volunteer Room Parent at FIDS.
Sample Immunization Form (Original form is available only from your child's doctor or the Florida Department of Health.)	All Parents.	All parents new to FIDS must have their child's pediatrician complete and sign the form. Returning parents must do the same prior to the expiration of the form we have on file. Contact Mrs. Latour to determine status.
Schedule of Fees	All Parents.	FYI. Details the tuition and fees for 2018-2019.
School Entry Exam Form	Parents New to FIDS.	All parents new to FIDS must have their child's pediatrician complete and sign the form. Returning parents must do the same only if the form we have on file includes an expiration date. Contact Mrs. Latour to determine status.
Tuition Insurance	All Parents.	FYI.
Uniform Information/Guidelines	All Parents.	Details FIDS's regular and formal uniform guidelines and vendor, including long-sleeve uniform options.

Active Hours. Active Hours (after-school) offerings for the first quarter commence on Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Tried-and-true favorites are offered this quarter, as well as new classes—such as *Baseball*, *Glee Club* and expanded *Golf* and *Tennis*. There is a rich offering of both indoor and outdoor options. Course information and a schedule are available by clicking [here](#).

Study Hall. As a service to FIDS families, we will be launching our after-school Study Hall beginning Tuesday, September 4, 2018. FIDS's Study Hall provides the opportunity for students to do their homework, study independently, or read silently. The goal of FIDS's Study Hall is to provide an environment that encourages learning and focuses on study skills after school hours. Important details:

- **Who:** FIDS students in Grades K-7
- **What:** Study Hall
- **When:** Monday through Friday afternoons
- **Where:** Neff Family Library
- **How:**
 - There will be a teacher supervising students from 3:00 p.m. to 4:05 p.m.
 - The teacher will be available to assist students with any questions; however, this is not a tutoring class. Students should be able to work independently and quietly.
 - This is a free service provided to all students at FIDS. Study Hall ends promptly at 4:05 p.m. Students who are picked up later will be charged a late fee to be paid to the FIDS Study Hall teacher.
 - Off-Island students may ride the 4:05 bus back to the mainland.
 - Students should use their time wisely in Study Hall. We feel rules and guidelines help students make the best use of their time.

Study Hall Rules and Guidelines:

- Students should enter the library quietly and be respectful to the teacher and other students.
- Students should choose one place to sit and work independently.
- Students should be respectful of all library books and materials.

Debut of FIDS's New Art-Patio by Palazzo Della Luna. We are grateful to the extraordinary generosity of Palazzo Della Luna for underwriting the construction costs of FIDS's new Art Patio. Thanks also go to Heinrich and Magda Von Hanau for their commitment to enhance the quality of the educational facilities and FIDS. The partnership of Palazzo Dell Luna and Fisher Island Day School extends the resources of our school to enrich our children. FIDS's art teacher—Ms. Jacqueline Roch—is set up and ready to take our children on a creative journey in this lovely space.

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,



Michael Bell
Head of School

Follow me on Twitter @FIDSHOS