



The Fisher Flyer

Official Newsletter of Fisher Island Day School

July 7, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, & Staff,

Following are important back-to-school updates.

FIDS Fall Reopening. It is with great excitement and optimism that Fisher Island Day School (FIDS) announces its plans for reopening our facility for the 2020-2021 school year on Monday, August 24, 2020. Our [reopening plan](#) is consistent with the recent recommendation by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), who advised that students be “physically present in school” as much as possible and emphasize that there are major health, social, and educational risks to keeping children at home. In preparing for FIDS’s re-opening, we have followed the precepts of Florida’s [Re-Opening Florida’s Schools and the CARES Act](#), which supports school-level plans that “maintain in-person learning, the best mode of education delivery for high student achievement.”

Being a small school with low student-teacher ratios, we pride ourselves on being able to quickly adapt to changing situations while providing the best possible overall learning experience for our students. Unlike our larger school counterparts—who are wrestling with capacity constraints—we can safely accommodate our entire student body within our campus. In the best interest of our children, we look forward to having everyone back on campus in August.

The development of our re-opening plan considered the needs of faculty, staff members, and—most importantly—our students. When considering the typical school day, there are several high-risk occasions where students and faculty/staff gather in close proximity—including arrivals, departures, all-school assemblies, lunchtime, and group-based extracurricular activities. Within the context of pandemic recovery, it is essential to carefully manage these situations, including strictly controlling in-class activities and student movement and limiting assembly-type gatherings in order to reduce the likelihood of spreading an infectious disease.

All of our efforts and plans will follow federal, state, and local laws and regulations as a legal basis for resuming school operations and associated educational activities. Furthermore, we expect this to be an evolving plan as we learn more about COVID-19 and how to reduce its spread. This plan will involve helping educate our employees, students, and family members on how to safely operate in this environment. It will also include adopting personal protective equipment policies—in alignment with CDC guidelines—for protecting staff members, teachers, and students. Whereas we expect our policies and procedures to evolve, we remain convinced that strict adherence to a few simple basics will produce the best outcomes for everyone. These steps include:

1. Pay close attention to social distancing guidelines.
2. Wash hands and apply hand sanitizer frequently.
3. Minimize touching, hugging, or any close personal contact.
4. Wear a mask if unable to maintain proper social distancing indoors.
5. Stay/go home if you are ill or if your temperature exceeds normal ranges.
6. Refrain from gathering in large groups/assemblies.

The information contained in [FIDS’s 2020-2021 COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan](#) is current as of July 3, 2020, and is based on the best information available at this time. Updates and changes will be communicated throughout the summer.



2020-2021 School Uniforms. This past school year, we permitted dual use of our former and new logo-branded uniforms. Beginning in 2020-2021, all student uniforms must conform to the new logo standards. In addition, we are no longer accepting donations of gently used uniforms which bear the former logo. **Our uniform vendor, Lands' End has a sale underway through Friday, July 10, 2020. Use CODE: ROCKET – PIN; 1776 to receive free logo + 20% off purchases!**

2019 - 2020 FIDS Photo Yearbook. FIDS's 2019-2020 yearbook is now available for online ordering. Price of yearbooks will depend on the package ordered and type of shipping selected. The yearbook may be ordered through Shutterfly by clicking [here](#) or on the following link: <https://link.shutterfly.com/e/rw8fpyU806>.

Summer Reading List. *"So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away. And in its place you can install, a lovely bookshelf on the wall."* — Roald Dahl. Click [here](#) to access FIDS's faculty recommended summer reading lists for children entering Grades K - 8 in the fall.

Entering Kindergarten Summer-Reading Suggestions

(Students are not expected to read these on their own.)

- *Take a Hike Miles and Spike* by Ethan Long
- *Nothing Rhymes with Orange* by Adam Rex
- *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold
- *Froodle* by Antoinette Portis
- *One Morning in Maine* by Robert McCloskey
- *If You Want to See a Whale* by Julie Fogliano
- *Bebe Goes to the Beach* by Susan Middleton Elya
- *Bee-Bim Bop!* by Linda Sue Park
- *There Might Be Lobsters* by Carolyn Crimi
- *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm* by Mark Buehner

Entering First Grade Summer-Reading Suggestions

- *Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel
- *Nate the Great Series* by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- *Cam Jansen Series* by David A. Adler
- *Arthur Series* By Mark Brown
- *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig
- *Leo the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus

Entering Second Grade Summer-Reading Suggestions

- *Mr. Wayne's Masterpiece* by Patricia Polacco
- *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes
- *A Fine, Fine School* by Sharon Creech
- *Dear Max* by Sally Grindley
- *Soupy Saturdays with the Pain and the Great One* by Judy Blume

Entering Third Grade Summer-Reading Suggestions

- *Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard Atwater
- *The BFG* by Roald Dahl
- *Lucky Enough* by Fred Bowen
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *I Was a Third Grade Science Project* by Mary Jane Auch
- *Third Grade Angels* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Jelly Belly* by Robert Kimme Smith

Entering Fourth Grade Summer-Reading Suggestions

- *The Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer Holm
- *The Third Mushroom* by Jennifer Holm
- *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer Holm
- *Full of Beans* by Jennifer Holm
- *The Magic Finger* by Roald Dahl

Entering Grades 5-8 Summer-Reading Suggestions

This list of books introduces the student to a wide variety of cultures and experiences, both in America and around the globe. These books will expose students to a variety of themes that will be discussed in their classes. Exploring literature throughout history will set the stage for an exciting year of discussions. Please take note of the summaries and age recommendations from Common Sense Media when making your selections.

- ***One Crazy Summer*** by Rita Williams-Garcia
Delphine and her sisters are thoughtful, delightful characters. Cecile (the mother) abandoned her three daughters when they were infants and makes no apology for it—she doesn't want them to visit her, and she barely cares for them. But there is more to Cecile's character than just being a deadbeat mom, as she represents changing times in America. The story is set in 1968 Oakland, California, and as such, civil action and unrest are part of the story.
Common Sense: Age 11+
- ***The Kite Fighters*** by Linda Sue Park
In a riveting narrative set in fifteenth-century Korea, two brothers discover a shared passion for kites. Kee-sup can craft a kite unequalled in strength and beauty, but his younger brother, Young-sup, can fly a kite as if he controlled the wind itself. Their combined skills attract the notice of Korea's young king, who chooses Young-sup to fly the royal kite in the New Year kite-flying competition — an honor that is also an awesome responsibility. Although tradition decrees, and the boys' father insists that the older brother represent the family, both brothers know that this time the family's honor is best left in Young-sup's hands.
This touching and suspenseful story, filled with the authentic detail and flavor of traditional Korean kite fighting, brings a remarkable setting vividly to life.
Grades 5-8
- ***Stella by Starlight*** by Sharon M. Draper
Things have been peaceful in eleven-year-old Stella's small North Carolina town for a while. Peaceful doesn't mean equal. In the Jim Crow South, Stella notices the nicer white school building and the fact that the white doctor doesn't treat African Americans. But the KKK hasn't been active in a long time. However, in 1932, with the Depression making finding work hard for everyone, the Klan resurrects itself. And when Stella's dad decides to vote with two other black men, Stella's family and her entire community are in danger.
Common Sense: Age 9+

- ***Esperanza Rising*** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
 Esperanza lived a privileged life in Mexico, with a protective father, servants, and a closet full of beautiful dresses. But when her father dies, she and her mother must leave everything behind. They settle in a Californian camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza must learn to adjust to a life of hard physical labor. The poor working conditions cause many Mexican workers to strike. Esperanza believes in their cause, but also wants to earn enough money to bring her abuelita to America.
 Common Sense: age 10+
- ***The Night Diary*** by Veera Hiranandani
 Nisha is twelve in 1947 when India becomes independent from Britain and splits into two countries—India and Pakistan. The divide is supposed to reduce tensions between Hindus and Muslims. But Nisha is both, half Muslim and half Hindu. She’s not sure where she belongs. She writes her accounts of civil unrest and danger in a diary full of letters to her dead mother—hoping that she can find a way to feel whole again.
 Common Sense: age 10+
- ***I Lived on Butterfly Hill*** by Marjorie Agosín, Translated by E.M. O’Connor
 Eleven-year-old Celeste Marconi has lived an idyllic existence filled with family and friends in Valparaiso, Chile. But in 1973, a new government takes over, declaring that anyone involved in art or political protest are dangerous dissidents. With an increased military presence and classmates “disappearing” without explanation every day, Celeste is scared. Her parents go into hiding and send Celeste to America to be safe. She adjusts to a new life in Maine, but never stops dreaming of Chile and missing her parents.
 Common Sense: Age 10+
- ***The Red Pencil*** by Andrea Davis Pinkney
 Amira Bright is a 12-year-old girl living with her loving family in the Darfur region of Sudan. In simple free-verse poetry, she recounts life’s everyday ups and downs—such as watching her disabled sister learn to play soccer, sleeping with her sheep for comfort after a dust storm, or trying to convince her traditional mother to let her go to school. When the Janjaweed—brutal armed militias—attack her village, her father is killed and her beloved sheep burned alive. She walks with her mother, her sister, and other survivors to a dismal refugee camp, so traumatized she can no longer speak. But then an aid worker’s special gift helps her unlock her pain—and a dream for herself.
 Common Sense: Age 11+
- ***Hattie Big Sky*** by Kirby Larson
Hattie Big Sky is about a teenage orphan who moves to Montana after inheriting her uncle’s homestead claim. The book gives readers a good sense of what life was like during World War I. In particular, Hattie watches neighbors of German descent face discrimination, including violence, though nothing worse than a barn-burning and a kick takes place here. Hattie is good-hearted and hardworking and soon learns to stand up for what she believes in and the people she cares about, even when she puts herself in danger. Readers who enjoy this book may want to read the sequel, *Hattie Ever After*, published in 2013.
 Common Sense: Age 10+

- ***Echo*** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Echo is a historical novel with a fantasy element. It includes information about the beginning of the Holocaust, the Great Depression, and what life was like in America after Pearl Harbor—including how Japanese people were sent to internment camps. Readers also will learn that in some California school districts in the 1940s, kids with Mexican ancestry were sent to separate and inferior schools. The three main protagonists—Friedrich, Mike, and Ivy—all face injustice: Nazi soldiers call Friedrich "the ugly son of a Jew-lover" after taking his father to a labor camp; Mike and Frank are at the mercy of a cruel and calculating orphanage director and later get thrown out of a store, suspected of being thieves; Ivy must go to a school for Mexican students. They learn about other injustices, too. (For example, the family who owns the farm Ivy lives on is sent to a Japanese internment camp.) There's some violence, from fistfights to war injuries, and one soldier dies. But the protagonists speak up in their own way for what's right and continue to think of ways to help others who are also suffering. They eventually learn "to hope for the best and that no matter how much sadness there is in life, there are equal amounts of, maybe, things'll-get-better-someday-soon."
Common Sense: Age 11+
- ***The Breadwinner Series*** by Deborah Ellis
Parvana is eleven when the Taliban comes to power in Afghanistan. Her father is arrested, and women are not allowed to leave the house without a male escort. Parvana must disguise herself and find work to save her family.
Common Sense: Age 11+
- ***Feed*** by M.T. Anderson
The Feed scrolls constantly through Titus's brain, providing him with entertainment, advertising, and social networking. On a spring break trip to the moon, he meets a girl who sees life differently.
Common Sense: Age 14+

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

Best regards,



Michael Bell
Head of School
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