



The Fisher Flyer

Official Newsletter of Fisher Island Day School

August 18, 2021

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, & Staff,

Following are important back-to-school updates.

Return to FIDS. Heartfelt greetings to our Fisher Island Day School (FIDS) community, wherever you may be enjoying the final days of summer!

We—at FIDS—have been busy making magic this summer by fulfilling the following:

- **Expansion Project:** The finishing touches of our expansion are nearly complete and we are looking forward to soon having a lot more elbow room. We are very excited about the benefits this expansion will provide to the entire FIDS community. We thank you in advance for your support.
- **General Maintenance.** Our beloved FIDS is being polished, shined, and sanitized as we bear down on the first day of school. FIDS's maintenance and housekeeping staff are working diligently to assure our schoolhouse is ready to greet our community on August 23rd.

Faculty and Staff Assignments. As FIDS has grown, so has our esteemed faculty and staff. Please join me in welcoming the newest additions to our esteemed family:

- Ms. Dana Vignale, Assistant Head of School
- Ms. Amanda Ross, School Counselor
- Ms. Brittney Barth, Junior Kindergarten Teacher
- Ms. Stephanie Draifinger, Grade 1 Teacher (2nd section of Grade 1)
- Ms. Kelsey Kerr, Grade 4 Teacher
- Ms. Marisa Mocerri, Grade 4 Teacher
- Ms. Hannah Whiteman, MS Language Arts Teacher
- Ms. Gia Hagan, Middle School Part-Time Mathematics Teacher
- Ms. Allison Tejera, Primary School Assistant Teacher
- Ms. Loren Mennes, Junior Kindergarten Assistant Teacher
- Ms. Cristina Gonzalez, Jr. Kindergarten Assistant Teacher
- Ms. Amalia Moscoso, Housekeeper

In a historic first for FIDS, this school year we will have two sections for each of the following grade levels: Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 4. All of FIDS's faculty—whether they are veteran to FIDS or new to the school—are highly experienced and credentialed. In addition, the dual student cohorts at each of the aforementioned grade levels will have ample time throughout the day to interact with each other, thereby maintaining a strong sense of grade-level community. We will not take requests to have your child assigned to a particular teacher. Whichever teacher your child is assigned to will be of the high caliber for which FIDS is known. We thank you for your support.

Active Hours and Athletics. Registration information for Active Hours will be sent to all parents later this afternoon. Information for Middle School Athletics will be sent to parents of students in Grades 5-8 under separate cover.

Need to Know. This year, rather than putting everyone on “information overload,” we have endeavored to reach out separately to each subgroup (e.g., new parents, bus riders, middle schoolers, etc.) to limit the information flow to only those things that each parent needs to know. If you have any questions that remain unanswered, please reach out to any or all of the following, depending on the nature of your inquiry:

Topic	Contact	Phone	Email
Athletics/Extracurricular Programs	Trevor Leafe	305-531-2350	tleaf@fids.org
Accounting/Payments	Cheryl Camp	305-531-2350	ccamp@fids.org
Bus Routes and Timetables	Mary Reiling	773-401-4901	mreiling@fids.org
Counseling Services	Amanda Ross	305-531-2350	aross@fids.org
Curriculum & Instruction	Dana Vignale	305-531-2350	dvignale@fids.org
New Families Liaison	Mary Reiling	773-401-4901	mreiling@fids.org
Student Records/Immunizations, etc.	Miljana Pesic*	305-531-2350	mpesic@fids.org

* Ms. Pesic, FIDS’s pool substitute, is filling in for Ms. Van Stone through Friday, September 24, 2021. Ms. Van Stone is currently on leave.

Ducks-In-A-Row. I know that many of you like to use the summer to get your “ducks in a row” for the new school year. We applaud you for that! To assist your efforts, please refer to the [Forms/Resources](#) section of FIDS’s website, which contains useful information to help get you situated for the new school year. We have already personally reached out to each new family who will be joining FIDS in 2021-2022.

Student Supplies. Please be reminded that—as a convenience—basic student supplies for Grades Pre-Kindergarten through 8 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.

Middle School Athletics. Thanks to the addition of the *Jana and Brian Neff Gymnasium*, as well as the need to prepare our middle school students for high school, Fisher Island Day School is expanding its array of middle school athletic offerings, inclusive of team sports. Middle School (Grades 5-8) Athletics will commence on the first day of school, August 23, 2021, at 3:15 p.m. Realizing these are significant changes—especially for students in Grades 5-8—please know that we are available to help you navigate the process. **The following meeting has been scheduled for middle school (Grades 5-8) parents and students:**

- Date: Friday, August 20, 2021
- Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Place: Fisher Island Day School – Neff Family Library
- RSVP: Regrets only to mreiling@fids.org

FIDS “Shark” Tee-Shirts. Students and faculty will get to show their FIDS pride on *School Spirit Day, Friday, August 27, 2021*. On *School Spirit Day*, students and faculty may wear their FIDS Sharks red tee-shirts in lieu of their regular uniform tops. All other school uniform and faculty dress-code standards remain in effect on *School Spirit Day*. If students do not have or do not wish to wear a FIDS Sharks tee-shirt, they may wear their regular school uniforms.

First Day of School—Monday, August 23, 2021.

- 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.
- **2021 - 2022 school hours:**
 - 8:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – Early Learning
 - 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Pre-K through Grade 8 (and full-day Early Learning students)
 - 3:05 p.m. – TBD – Active Hours, Athletics, & Extracurricular Activities

Transportation. Off-island parents will be cleared—one car per family—for **ferry access for the first day of school only.** Bus service will be provided starting on the first day of school as follows:

Morning	Midday	Afternoon (3:00 p.m. only)
Palm/Star/Hibiscus	Early Learning Students	Palm/Star/Hibiscus
South of Fifth		South of Fifth
North Bay Road*		North Bay Road/Athletics

** except for first day of school*

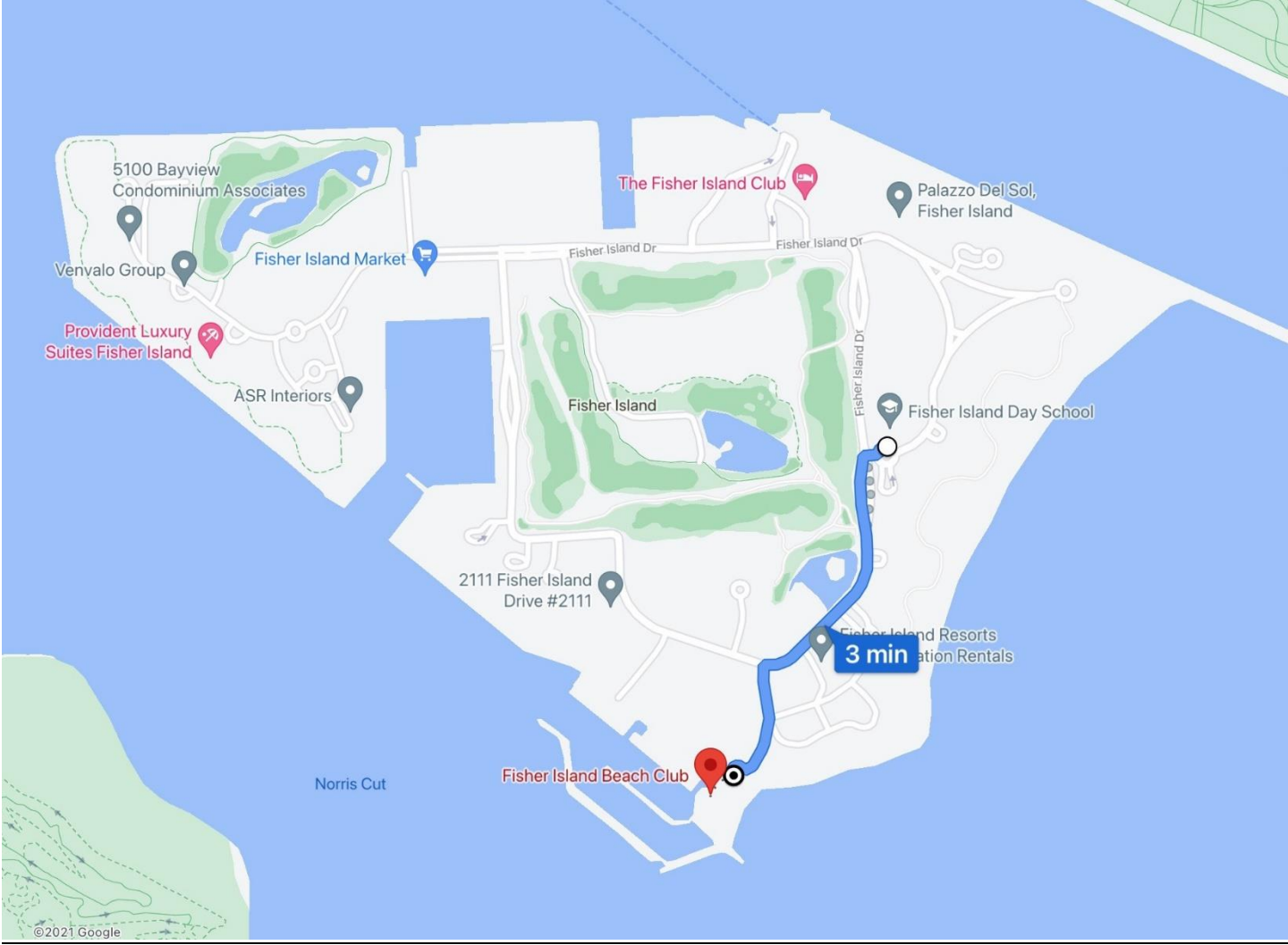
First Day of School Parking & Traffic.

1. We will have staff in the front of school to coordinate drop-off and parking.
2. Parents of Primary School children (Early Learning through Kindergarten) may escort their children to their respective classrooms. Students in Grades 1-8 may be dropped-off at FIDS; however, they may not be escorted by their parents. Staff will be on-hand to assist/escort.
3. FIDS faculty & staff will be parking off-site on the first day of school.
4. The FIDS parking lot will be limited to families who are new to FIDS this year and those families who have purchased ferry decals. Any remaining parking spaces will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.
5. **Once FIDS’s parking lot has reached capacity, parents wishing to escort their Primary School children to class on the first day of school will need to park at the lot located on the south side of Fisher Island, adjacent to the Vanderbilt Mansion. (See map below.)**
6. Island residents should arrive via golf cart and park on the grassy areas directly in front of FIDS.
7. Parents dropping off children may use the outer loop in front of the school. This is the loop that runs under the portico—also known as the “kiss-and-go” lane. Stopping, standing, or parking in this lane is prohibited.
8. FIDS will offer continuous shuttle service between the off-site parking lot and the school between 7:45 – 8:15 a.m.
9. Unless you have purchased Lane 2 Ferry Access, **all off-island students should commence riding the bus no later than dismissal on the first day of school.**

Back-to-School Coffee. Parents are invited to a back-to-school morning coffee, hosted by the Parent Association:

- Date: Monday, August 23, 2021
- Time: 8:20 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (commences immediately following drop-off)
- Place: Fisher Island Club Vanderbilt Mansion





Thank you for helping make the start of the 2021-2022 school year a smooth transition for your child. We look forward to your return.

Best regards,

Michael Bell
Head of School
Follow me on Twitter @FIDSHOS