



# The Fisher Flyer

Official Newsletter of Fisher Island Day School

September 2, 2021

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, & Staff,

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

**New-Parent Reception/Back-to-School Open House.** On Tuesday evening, September 14, 2021, we will host our New-Parent Reception and Back-to-School Open House. **These events are for parents only!**



- **6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. New-Parent Reception.** Parents new to Fisher Island Day School are invited for refreshments and a "meet and mingle" in the Jana and Brian Neff Gymnasium, prior to the Open House.
- **6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Back-to-School Open House.** All parents are invited for opening remarks by our Board of Trustees' President, our Parent Association leadership, and the Head of School, followed by time in your child(ren)'s classroom(s). Teachers will provide an overview of the many exciting educational endeavors that will be taking place this coming year. Open House is not the time for individual parent-teacher conferences. Individual parent conferences will take place the week of September 27 – 30, 2021. Please see your child's teacher to schedule your conference.

A Middle School rotation schedule will allow middle-school parents to meet all of their child(ren)'s teachers and receive details on their respective subjects.

- **Parking for New-Parent Reception/Back-to-School Open House.**

**Golf Carts:** Island residents should arrive via golf cart and park on the grassy areas located in front of FIDS.

**Cars:** Preferred Valet will be on site to assist with car parking. Off-island parents are cleared for the ferry the evening of Open House

**Primary School Playground.** Today, FIDS's youngest students were thrilled to partake in the re-opening of our Primary School playground.

**Athletics, Active Hours, and Extracurricular Programs.** Online registration remains open for FIDS's after-school extracurricular programs, which commenced the week of Monday, August 30, 2021. Our line-up for Trimester 1 includes tried-and-true favorites as well as exciting new choices.



We invite you to peruse the schedule and begin the registration process to secure space for your child to participate. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Mr. Trevor Leafe, Athletic Director, at [tleaf@fids.org](mailto:tleaf@fids.org). Please click [here](#) to access the online registration system.

**Room Parents for 2021-2022.** Our Parent Association (PA) is pleased to announce Room Parents for the 2021-2022 school year. Thanks go to PA Co-Chairs Lauren Coleman (Miseresky), Morgan Shara, and the entire team of Room Parents! Our first PA Meeting will be on Friday, October 1, 2021. Room Parents will be contacting you soon.

Grade Level/Section	Room Parents
Early Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Romina Economos</li> <li>• Sarah Lewin</li> </ul>
Pre-Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ana Bustamante (Fuhrken)</li> <li>• Tracy Humphrey</li> </ul>
Jr. Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staci Hafner</li> <li>• Alejandra Calbimonte (Kemper)</li> </ul>
Kindergarten – Maruk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindsay Ferrington</li> <li>• Brie Sasson</li> </ul>
Kindergarten – Prosperi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karla Abaunza (Escasena)</li> <li>• Jennie Coba</li> </ul>
Grade 1 – Draifinger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claudia Bovino</li> <li>• James Carvalho</li> </ul>
Grade 1 – Hanford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria Bastos</li> <li>• Suzy Buckley (Woodward)</li> </ul>
Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lauren Coleman (Miseresky)</li> <li>• Ranee Bartolacci (Meir)</li> </ul>
Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vicki Freeman</li> <li>• Ellen Singh</li> </ul>
Grade 4 – Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anirays Camino</li> <li>• Racha Kotob</li> </ul>
Grade 4 – Moceri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily Chene</li> <li>• Monica Otero (Meruelo)</li> </ul>
Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachel Cohen (Harris)</li> <li>• Kris Puryear (Morse)</li> </ul>
Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karolina Kurkova</li> <li>• Morgan Shara</li> </ul>
Grades 7 – 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy Derick</li> <li>• Jasmine Rothbard</li> </ul>



**Faculty Profile—Dana Vignale, Assistant Head of School.** Dana Vignale has taught and worked in a leadership role in top-tier independent, magnet, charter, and traditional public schools for over 20 years, ultimately gleaned best practices in educational programming and school operations. Her experience, coupled with her Master of Education degree in Private School Leadership — from the prestigious Kingenstein program at Teacher College, Columbia University — has provided her with the in-depth knowledge to successfully lead, manage, and grow top-tier schools.

As a life-long educator who never veered from this path, Ms. Vignale earned both her Bachelor’s and Master of Science degrees in Secondary English Education from Florida International University. Her career began at South Miami Senior High as an Advanced Placement Literature and Language teacher; yet, her sense of adventure took her to an elite independent school in Puerto Rico – The Baldwin School. After three years of

teaching middle and high school language arts and writing, her headmaster encouraged her to pursue a second Master's degree in private-school leadership at Teachers College. After earning her degree, Ms. Vignale stayed in New York City to help found a math, science, and engineering secondary school on the Upper West Side – a selective, public school that partnered with Columbia University. After three years, Ms. Vignale returned to Miami, her home for most of her life and served as a charter school principal until she was brought back to Miami-Dade County Public Schools to help implement the Cambridge Programs and lead admissions at MAST Academy – Key Biscayne. Once these programs were up and running, Ms. Vignale became an Executive Director in the Office of School Choice, where she provided curricular and back-office support to a small network of district-managed charter schools. Prior to coming to Fisher Island Day School, Ms. Vignale was the Director of Finance and Human Resources for a large network of charter schools, serving over 8,300 students and 900 employees.

These unique and diverse roles provided her with a truly deep and robust understanding and intuition of every aspect of overseeing a successful school.. Ms. Vignale is fully dedicated to:

- fostering greatness in teaching and learning;
- creating a school climate that is a joyful and mindful place—a place where students, families, faculty, and staff are excited to come, work hard, and celebrate success;
- strategically focusing on continuous improvement;
- building and empowering talented and committed teams of great minds;
- ensuring efficient and fiscally sound school operations;
- striving to ensure the school has the resources it needs to achieve its mission.
- nurturing relationships with every stakeholder; and
- cultivating the full potential of every student through courage, perseverance, and a journey of shared learning experiences that build upon each other by prioritizing inquiry, creation, and reflection.

Ms. Vignale is thrilled to join Fisher Island Day School — a place that truly is the quintessential educational option for families — as the Assistant Head of School. Welcome Dana!

Best regards,



Michael Bell

Head of School

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