



Welcome Back to School Blossom Families!

July/August 2016

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the last few weeks of summer...and gearing up for the exciting start of our 2016–2017 academic year.

In lieu of a traditional “Fall Open House” we will be holding individual Back-to-School Paperwork Meetings with each family. Ms. Bonano is available to meet with you Wednesday, July 20th – Friday, August 5th from 9:00am-3:00pm by appointment only – no walk-ins please (please note Blossom will be closed Friday, July 22nd). All paperwork **MUST** be filled out **PRIOR** to the first day of school – no exceptions. Please contact Ms. Bonano to schedule an appointment via e-mail tbonano@blossomschool.org or call (727) 539-7879. All paperwork needs to be completed BY 3:00pm on the appointment day; if you have multiple children or feel that it may take longer to fill out paper work, please consider setting up a morning meeting to allow enough time to finish. Appointments *must* be made prior to August 5th in order for your child to be able to attend school on Tuesday, August 9th. Ms. Bonano will NOT be available the morning of the first day of school, and completed paperwork is **REQUIRED** to start the school day. Please note some of the forms need to be notarized. Ms. Bonano is a Notary Public and she can notarize your forms free of charge; however, please be sure to bring proper identification such as your driver’s license. Please also bring your child’s updated Florida Health Physical Form DH3040 and Florida Immunization record DH680; as well as payment of annual \$75 Material Fee and Enrollment Fee (*if you have not yet paid your child’s enrollment fee*). The paperwork process is lengthy so please be sure to give yourself at least 45-60 minutes to fill out your child’s paperwork.

Blossom’s first day of school is **Tuesday, August 9th**. School will start promptly at 8:30am. Please note there is **NO Before Care** on this day; however, we will be open for **After Care** for students who are enrolled in the program. On the first day of school, Blossom students should bring in their classroom supplies and they may be stored in your child’s designated locker or cubby upon arrival. Students will be dismissed to parents promptly at 3:00pm when the academic day ends, unless they are enrolled in the After Care program.

Blossom’s first family event will be held **Thursday, August 25th at 5:30pm**. This will be our official **Back-to-School Open House**. The Back-to-School Open House gives you and your family the opportunity to learn about changes for the new year, meet your child’s teacher and other Blossom families. Please mark your calendars now and plan on attending this event with your child. Two sessions will be held for families with multiple children enrolled at Blossom.

Here’s what you’ll need to bring to your Back-to-School Paperwork Meeting (check off as you collect):

1. Parent’s Photo I.D. (needed to notarize paperwork)
2. Copy of student’s Birth Certificate (new students only)
3. Florida Immunization Record DH680 (up to date original form)
4. Florida Health Physical Form DH3040 (up to date original form)
5. Medical insurance/Medicaid information (name/policy number/group ID)
6. Name/telephone/complete address of your child’s Physician.
7. Name/telephone/complete address of your child’s Dentist.
8. Name/telephone/complete address of **2 emergency contacts** (family member or friend other than parents).
9. Name/telephone/complete address of anyone (other than parents) authorized to pick up your child from school.
10. Your hospital (name and location) of preference in the event of an emergency (closest or preferred of choice is fine, but name and location of hospital is required)
11. Scholarship Information/Correspondence (ELC School Readiness, Step Up for Students FTC Scholarship, Step Up for for Students Gardiner/PLSA Scholarship, or McKays Scholarship)
12. Annual Materials Fee: \$75/child (separate from school supplies)
13. 2016–2017 Enrollment Fee: \$125/child for new students / \$100/child for returning students (*if not paid already for this year*)
14. *New Students Only* – If available, 15/16 School Records & Assessment Results from other schools (i.e. FCAT/SAT, Report Cards, Progress Reports) -or- student records release forms will be available.
15. A copy of Judgment/Custodial Order of the Court (if applicable)
16. Recent Audiogram (if applicable)
17. IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or 504 Plan (required - if applicable)
18. Checking or Savings Account Information and Voided Check to set up ACH Direct Debit Payment
*ALL Academic Tuition and Before & After Care payments **MUST** be set up through the ACH Direct Debit Payment. Monthly payments will be drafted from your account on the 15th of each month (August-May).

Blossom Families – All 2016-2017 School Year Fees (i.e. Enrollment Fee / Re-Enrollment Fee / Materials Fee) must be paid *in full* prior to the first day of school. All monthly payments for Academic Tuition and Before & After Care must be set up via ACH Direct Debit Payments at your child’s Back-to School Paperwork meeting so your first monthly payment may be drafted on August 15th. No exceptions.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR:

- **School Hours!** - We are open from 7:30am-5:30pm. Our academic hours are 8:30am - 3:00pm. Students should arrive no later than 8:25am to get ready to sign the Pledge of Allegiance in the front lobby at 8:30am SHARP! Any student arriving after 8:35am *must* be escorted into the school by a **parent or guardian** and the student will be marked tardy. Please be sure your child quietly & respectfully walks down the hall & enters their classroom. To ensure there are *no interruptions* to the students & teachers already in class working, we ask that parents do NOT walk their child into the classroom. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, we do ask that you call or e-mail the school to notify your child's teacher AND send in an absence note upon your child's return to school. If your child is absent three (3) or more consecutive days due to illness, surgery or a procedure then a note from your child's doctor or dentist is required as well.
- **Tuition Schedule** - A new tuition/fee schedule for the 2016-2017 school will be provided to you in your child's Back-to-School Paperwork Packet. There have been no increases in tuition or fees for the 2016-2017 school year. Please note that all Blossom Families will be set on the same monthly payment plan for their child's Academic Tuition and/or Before & After Care Fees. All Academic Tuition & Before & After Care fees will be due in 10-monthly payments drafted on the 15th of each month (August-May) via **ACH Direct Debit Payment** (auto-draft payments through your checking or savings bank account). No exceptions will be made for this payment plan. The payee's checking or savings account information and a voided check is due at your Back-to-School Paperwork Meeting.
- **Materials Fee** - Your annual \$75.00 materials fee is a one time non-refundable payment which is applied to consumable workbooks, classroom supplies, hard covered books, and other school related supplies. *This fee is separate from the school supply list.* Your child's materials fee is due at your Back-to-School Paperwork Meeting.
- **School Supplies** - A school supply list was e-mailed to parents and will be included in your child's back to school packet. Please note supply lists are different for each classroom, so please be sure you purchase supplies for your child's designated 2016-2017 classroom. If you are unsure which classroom your child will be attending this year, please call the school to speak with Ms. Rutenberg or Ms. Bonano. You may bring in your child's school supplies on the first day of school. Supplies can be stored in your child's designated locker or cubby.
- **Uniforms** - All students attending Blossom are *required* to wear uniforms Monday through Thursday - no exceptions. The uniforms consist of a polo shirt (black, purple, light blue, navy blue, yellow, grey, or white) with the Blossom insignia. Students must wear khaki/tan or navy shorts, slacks, or skorts with their uniform shirt (no jeans or leggings) - shorts, skirts and skorts must be an appropriate length (no more than 2 inches above the knee). On Friday, students are allowed to wear appropriate clothing of their personal choice. Students **MUST** wear closed toe shoes or sneakers each day (i.e. NO open toe shoes, flip flops, sandals, crocs, etc.) Cosmetic makeup is prohibited; and finger nails should be kept clean and at a decent length for typing.

Uniform shirts may be ordered from (orders may take 2-3 weeks to process to be sure to place your order ASAP):

ALLEN SPORTS CENTER 6585 Seminole Blvd.
Seminole, Florida 33772
Tel: (727) 397-0421

Allen's Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday 9am- 6pm
Saturday 9am- 5pm

Pricing

Polo Youth - Short Sleeve \$14.99 / Long Sleeve \$22.99
Polo Adult - Short Sleeve \$17.99 / Long Sleeve \$24.99

- **Before Care/After Care** - We offer a Before Care from 7:30a.m.-8:30a.m. and After Care from 3:00p.m-5:30p.m. for students grades PreK4 - 8th. The cost for both of these programs are \$200/per month/per child -OR- \$100/per month/per child for the use of just ONE of these programs (i.e. just Before Care -OR- just After Care). This cost is *not* included in your McKay's Scholarship, Step Up for Students FTC Scholarship or Step Up for Students Gardiner/PLSA Scholarship. The cost for Before & After Care is already included in the tuition rate for students who are in the PreK2.5 and PreK3 (preschool ages 2.5yrs -3yrs old) full time program including B&A Care. Drop-in Before & After Care is NOT available - your child **MUST** be enrolled in the program to utilize this service. Part time rates and private scholarships are NOT available for this program.

- **Early Drop Off Fee** – An Early Drop Off Fee of \$5.00 per child for every five minutes (\$1.00 per minute) prior the hour of:
 - 7:30.m. will start accruing any time prior to 7:29a.m. for any student dropped off before opening time.
 - 8:20.m. will start accruing any time prior to 8:19a.m. for students NOT enrolled in Before Care.

A check, money order, cash or on-line payment for late pick up fees will be required to be made within 24 hours in order to continue usage of our Before & After Care program. No Exceptions.

- **Late Pick Up Fee** - A Late Pick Up Fee of \$5.00 per child for every five minutes (\$1.00 per minute) past the hour of:
 - 11:30p.m. will start accruing at 11:31p.m. for students NOT enrolled in the full time PreK/VPK program.
 - 3:00p.m. will start accruing at 3:01p.m. for students NOT enrolled in After Care.
 - 5:30p.m. will start accruing at 5:31p.m. for students enrolled in After Care.

A check, money order, cash or on-line payment for late pick up fees will be required to be made within 24 hours in order to continue usage of our Before & After Care program. No Exceptions.

****Please call and notify staff if you will be arriving late due to an unforeseen reason.**

- **Lunch/Snack Time** - Please be sure to pack your child **2 snacks and 2 drinks, along with their normal lunch, snack and drink.** We strongly encourage you to pack a HEALTHY lunch, snacks and drinks for your child each day. Junk food, candy, soda and caffeinated beverages are NOT allowed at school - these items will be sent back home with your child if packed for lunch/snack. Students will choose a snack and drink from their lunch boxes during snack time. Please provide them with only healthy snack choices (i.e. fruit, veggies, yogurt, apple sauce, graham crackers, cheese). Lunches must be ready to eat so please be sure foods are prepared before packaging and pre-cut if needed. Lunches must be easily assessable especially for our younger students who may need a little extra help. ☺ Please be aware that Blossom is NOT licensed to provide lunch, snacks or drinks to any students. We may NOT reheat or refrigerate food for any students. We do NOT keep additional food here in our facility for forgotten lunches or snacks. If your child forgets their lunch at home or in the car, it is the parent's responsibility to be sure your child has food by snack/lunchtime.
- **Please keep these items at home** - Toys, stuffed animals, candy, baseball or other trading cards, added accessories (necklaces, bracelets, things that can be easily removed and played with), video games, electronic devices & cell phones MUST be left at home. ****If your child needs to bring their cell phone to school, it must be left in their classroom's cell phone drop box on their teacher's desk upon arrival and left there until your child is picked up by a parent or guardian (including Before & After Care) - no exceptions.**

This summer we made a few minor renovations around the property, including the installation of a new "Blossom" sign to the front of the building! We are excited for you to see these wonderful changes and start a new school year! We hope you and your family enjoy the last few weeks of summer break and we are excitedly looking forward to the return of all of our Blossom students on Tuesday, August 9th. The staff is always amazed at how much the kids grow over the summer and the many stories they have to share about their summer "adventures". ☺

Please let us know if you have any questions about what you need to bring to your Back-to-School Paperwork Meeting and welcome back to another great year at Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf!

~The Staff of Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf

****If you have questions about the upcoming school year or your child's academic and/or medical needs, please feel free to contact:**

Ms. Julie Rutenberg, Director – jrutenberg@blossomschool.org

****If you would like to schedule your child's Back-to-School Paperwork Meeting, please contact:**

Ms. Tara Bonano, Business Manager – tbonano@blossomschool.org