



July/August 2018

Welcome Back to School Blossom Families!

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the last few weeks of summer...and gearing up for the exciting start of our 2018-2019 academic year.

**We will be holding individual Back-to-School Paperwork Meetings with each family. Ms. Bonano is available to meet with you Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 8:15am-3:30pm by appointment only – no walk-ins please. All paperwork MUST be filled out PRIOR to the first day of school – no exceptions. Please note that Blossom will be closed for staff training on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> & Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Bonano will be out of the office Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> thru Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> and will be unavailable during that time.**

**Please be sure to schedule your Back-to-School Paperwork Meeting with Ms. Bonano prior to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Ms. Bonano to schedule an appointment via e-mail [tbonano@blossomschool.org](mailto:tbonano@blossomschool.org) or call (727) 539-7879. All paperwork needs to be completed BY 3:30pm on the appointment day; if you have multiple children or feel that it may take longer to fill out paperwork, please consider setting up a morning meeting to allow enough time to finish.**

Appointments **must** be made prior to July 31st in order for your child to be able to attend school on Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 may notarize your forms free of charge; however, please be sure to bring proper identification such as your driver's license or state photo identification card. Please also bring your child's updated Florida Health Physical Form DH3040 and Florida Immunization record DH680 as they are required to be on file by no later than the first day of school; as well as payment for your child's 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 Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 3:15pm sharp when the academic day ends, unless they are enrolled in the After Care program.**

**Blossom's first family event will be held Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> 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. A third session may be held 40-minutes prior to the start of the event for families who need to visit more than two classrooms.

**Here's a list of the REQUIRED items you'll need to bring to the Back-to-School Paperwork Meeting (check off as you collect):**

1.  Parent's Photo I.D. (required to notarize paperwork)
  2.  Copy of Photo I.D. for ALL persons authorized to pick up your child (i.e. parents, emergency contacts, etc)
  3.  Copy of student's Birth Certificate (new students only)
  4.  Florida Immunization Record DH680 (up to date original form) -OR- Religious Exemption for Immunization DH681
  5.  Florida Health Physical Form DH3040 (up to date original form)
  6.  Medical insurance/Medicaid information (name/policy number/group ID)
  7.  Name/telephone/complete address of your child's Physician.
  8.  Name/telephone/complete address of your child's Dentist.
  9.  Name/telephone/complete address of **two (2) emergency contacts** (family member or friend other than parents).
  10.  Name/telephone/complete address of anyone (other than parents) authorized to pick up your child from school.
  11.  Your hospital (name and location)of preference in the event of an emergency (closest or preferred choice is fine, but name and location of hospital is required)
  12.  Scholarship Information/Correspondence (ELC School Readiness, Step Up for Students FTC Scholarship, Step Up for for Students Gardiner Scholarship, or McKays Scholarship)
  13.  2018-2019 Annual Materials Fee: \$75/child (separate from school supplies)
  14.  2018-2019 Enrollment Fee: \$125/child for new students / \$100/child for returning students (*if not paid already for this year*)
  15.  *New Students Only* – If available, 17/18 School Records & Assessment Results from other schools (i.e. FCAT/SAT/Assessments, Report Cards, Progress Reports) -or- student records release forms will be available.
  16.  A copy of Judgment/Custodial Order of the Court (if applicable)
  17.  Recent Audiogram (required - if applicable)
  18.  IEP (Individualized Education Plan) -OR- 504 Plan (required - if applicable)
  19.  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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (August-May).

**Blossom Families** – All 2018-2019 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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 - 3:15pm** (returning families please note new dismissal time of 3:15pm). Students should arrive between 8:20-8:25am to get ready to sign the Pledge of Allegiance in the front lobby at 8:30am SHARP! Any student arriving after 8:31am *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, it is *required* that you call or e-mail the school to notify your child's teacher within one hour of the start of school AND send in a written 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 2018-2019 classroom. If you are unsure which classroom your child will be attending this year, please call the school to speak with 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 and colored hair is prohibited. Hair should be clean, tidy and brushed. 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 so 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 do offer Before Care from 7:30a.m.–8:30a.m. and After Care from 3:15p.m.–5:30p.m. for working families with students grades PreK – 6<sup>th</sup> & Life Skills. 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 child's tuition -OR- McKay's Scholarship, Step Up for Students FTC Scholarship or Step Up for Students Gardiner Scholarship. This program is optional and only students enrolled in Before Care and/or After Care may participate in the program(s).

**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** – We do not offer Early Drop Off Care. An Early Drop Off Fee of \$5.00 per child for every five minutes (\$1.00 per minute) will be charged for any child arriving prior to the hour of:
  - 7:30a.m. will start accruing any time prior to 7:29a.m. for any student dropped off before opening time.
  - 8:20a.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.
  - 3:15p.m. will start accruing at 3:16p.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 accessible especially for our younger students who may need a little extra help. ☺ Lunchboxes, thermos, water bottles and Tupperware containers must be labeled with your child's name. Please be aware that Blossom is NOT licensed to provide lunch, snacks or drinks to any students. We may NOT reheat, refrigerate or cut 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. If staff is notified a child forgot their lunch, parents will be required to provide a lunch for their child within thirty minutes of being called or by their child's designated lunch time.
- **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 have been busy preparing for the 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 Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 contact Administrative Staff at the school during the hours of 8:15am-3:30pm. Tel: (727) 539-7879 / VP: (727) 223-6238**

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

Ms. Tara Bonano, Business Manager – [tbonano@blossomschool.org](mailto:tbonano@blossomschool.org)