



Welcome Back to School Blossom Families!

July 30, 2014

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the last few weeks of summer... and gearing up for the exciting start of our 2014–2015 academic year.

**In lieu of our 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 Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-3:00pm (by appointment only – no walk-ins please). 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](mailto:tbonano@blossomschool.org) or call (727) 539-7879.** Appointments **must** be made prior to August 15<sup>th</sup> in order for your child to be able to attend school on August 18<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 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 August Tuition. If you have an outstanding tuition or fees from the prior school year, payment will be collected at this time as well. 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 18<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 3:00pm when the academic day ends, unless they are enrolled in the After Care program.

**Blossom’s first family event will be held Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-7:00pm. 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.

**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 blue card)
4.  Florida Health Physical Form DH3040 (up to date original yellow card)
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 is required)
11.  Scholarship Information/Correspondence (ELC School Readiness, VPK, VPK Wrap Care, Step Up for Students, or McKays Scholarship)
12.  Annual Materials Fee \$75 (separate from school supplies)
13.  2014–2015 Enrollment Fee \$125 for new students / \$100 for returning students (if not paid already for this year already)
14.  New Students Only – If available, 13/14 School Records & Assessment Results from other schools (i.e. FCAT/SAT, Report Cards, Progress Reports) release forms will be available.
15.  A copy of Judgment/Custodial Order of the Court (if applicable)
16.  Recent Audiogram (if applicable)
17.  IEP or 504 Plan (required - if applicable)

**Returning families** - any outstanding tuition & fees for the 2013–2014 academic year must be paid *in full* prior to the first day of school. The Board requires that we completely close and finalize our books/budget for financial auditing purposes. This is of great importance and your child will not / cannot be allowed to return to school if you have any outstanding tuition due from last year. 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**. 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 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 school year. Your child's 1<sup>st</sup> month of tuition is due at your Back-to-School Paperwork Meeting and the 1<sup>st</sup> school day of each month thereafter.
- **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 will be e-mailed to parents along with this letter. Please note supply lists are different for each classroom, so please be sure you purchase supplies for your child's designated 2014-2015 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) – 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

<u>Allen's Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Pricing</u>
Monday through Friday 9am- 6pm	Polo <u>Youth</u> - Short Sleeve \$15.99 / Long Sleeve \$23.99
Saturday 9am- 5pm	Polo <u>Adult</u> - Short Sleeve \$17.99 / Long Sleeve \$23.99

- **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 School Age students (grades Kindergarten – 8). 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 or Step Up for Students Scholarship. The cost for Before & After Care is already included tuition for students who are 2 or 3 yrs old, and our Pre-K program. Drop in Before & After Care is NOT available this year – your child **MUST** be enrolled in the program to utilize this service. Please note private scholarships are NOT available for this program.



- **Late Pick Up Fee** - A Late Pick Up Fee of \$7.00 per child for every five minutes past the hour of:
  - 11:30p.m. will start accruing at 11:31p.m. for students NOT enrolled in VPK Wrap Care.
  - 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 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 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, our teachers had a wonderful educational experience at Montessori Training and we made a few minor renovations to our building! 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 18<sup>th</sup>. The staff is always amazed at how tall the kids grow over the summer and the many stories they have to share about their "adventures" while gone. ☺

**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

Ms. Julie Rutenberg, Director – [jrutenberg@blossomschool.org](mailto:jrutenberg@blossomschool.org)

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

Ms. Lisa Wilson, Director of Development – [lwilson@blossomschool.org](mailto:lwilson@blossomschool.org)

Ms. Colette Derks, 3-6 Classroom Teacher – [cderks@blossomschool.org](mailto:cderks@blossomschool.org)

Mrs. Katelyn Vetter, 6-9 Classroom Teacher – [kvetter@blossomschool.org](mailto:kvetter@blossomschool.org)

Mrs. Jamie DeJesus, 6-9 Classroom Assistant – [jdejesus@blossomschool.org](mailto:jdejesus@blossomschool.org)

Mrs. Amanda Livesay, 9-12 Classroom Teacher – [alivesay@blossomschool.org](mailto:alivesay@blossomschool.org)

Mrs. Elaine Hampton, 9-12 Classroom Assistant – [ehampton@blossomschool.org](mailto:ehampton@blossomschool.org)

Mrs. Darlene Guzman, 12-15 Classroom Teacher – [dguzman@blossomschool.org](mailto:dguzman@blossomschool.org)