

## 2023-2024 PARENT / PROVIDER AGREEMENT

This agreement confirms that I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of parent/guardian filling out this agreement) have received and read pages 1-19 in its full entirety and understand the following sections from the attached "2023-2024 Parent / Provider Agreement". I acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to review the agreement with an Administrative Staff Member of Blossom, as well as ask questions and receive answers or clarification. To further confirm that I am in full agreement to comply with all payments, policies, procedures & commitments listed in this document, I have initialed below on page 1, filled out required spaces on pages 1-2, and signed & dated page 2:

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Tuition & Fees** (including tuition increase effective 07/01/2022, annual fees, add'l therapies, etc)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Fees** (including early drop off fee, late pick up fee, late payment fees, etc)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Financial Policy** (including ACH draft payments, description of fees, discounts, tuition deposit, withdrawal)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Daily Policies & Procedures** (including program hours, dress code, required lunch/snacks, illness policies)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Family Commitment** (including family commitment hours, Blossom school events)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Important Information** (including drug free, smoke free, alcohol free school zone / workplace)

\*\*A complete Parent-Student Handbook will be provided upon signature of the Parent / Provider Agreement.

**I am aware of Blossom's required tuition & fees as follows:**

- \$125 initial enrollment \*One Time New Student Registration Fee (Due upon initial enrollment)
- \$100 annually \*Annual Re-Enrollment Fee (Due annually every February-March)
- \$100 annually \*Annual Materials & Supplies Fee (Due annually each August prior to 1<sup>st</sup> day of school)
- \$11,700 annually / \$1,170 month \*Annual/Monthly Full Time Academic Tuition (Due in 10 monthly ACH payments)
- \$1,250 annually / \$125 month \*Annual/Monthly Before Care Tuition (Due in 10-mthly ACH payments)
- \$1,500 annually / \$150 month \*Annual/Monthly After Care Tuition (Due in 10-mthly ACH payments)
- \$2,750 annually / \$275 month \*Annual/Monthly Before & After Care Tuition (Due in 10-mthly ACH payments)

**Circle grade level & program(s) that apply below (if enrolling):**

PreK -or- School Age (Grades K-6)  
Before Care Only -or- After Care Only -or- Before & After Care (both)

I am aware that my child is eligible / is NOT eligible (circle one) for a Step Up for Students Scholarship (SUFS). If eligibility is 100% approved, my child's estimated award amount listed below & I have turned in their SUFS eligibility/award letter (and student ID card for FES-UA if applicable):

\$\_\_\_\_\_ annually / \$\_\_\_\_\_ quarterly **Circle grade level & scholarship name that apply below (if eligible):**  
Grade PreK (High Risk Only) -or- Grade K-3 -or- Grade 4-8  
SUFS FES-UA -or- SUFS FES-EO -or- SUFS FTC -or- SUFS HOPE

I am aware that my child is eligible / is NOT eligible (circle one) for an Early Learning Coalition School Readiness Scholarship (ELC SR). If eligibility is 100% approved, my child's required ELC SR parent fees is listed below & I have turned in their ELC SR Child Care Certification:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ daily ELC SR Parent Fee **Circle One:** Part Time ELC SR Fees -or- Full Time ELC SR Fees  
**Circle grade level & scholarship name that apply below (if eligible):**  
PreK3 -or- PreK4-5 -or- School Age (Grades K-6 through Age 12)  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ annually / \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly \*Individualized ELC Daily Rate x 5 Days x 42 Weeks / 10 months = ACH Payment



**I am aware that I am responsible for my child's required tuition & fees as follows:**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| +\$_____annually                | *New Student Registration Fee -or- Annual Re-Enrollment Fee                               |
| +\$_____annually                | *Annual Materials Fee   |
| +\$_____annually / \$_____month | *Tuition -or- Balance Tuition Remaining After SUFS Scholarship                            |
| +\$_____annually / \$_____month | *ELC SR Parent Fees: Part Time -or- Full Time   |
| +\$_____annually / \$_____month | *Before Care Fee -or- After Care Fee -or- Before & After Care Fees                        |
| +\$_____annually / \$_____month | *Additional Speech Therapy ( <i>beyond IEP or 504 Plan</i> )                              |
| +\$_____annually / \$_____month | *Additional Occupational Therapy ( <i>beyond IEP or 504 Plan</i> )                        |
| -\$_____annually / \$_____month | *Private Blossom Scholarship ( <i>if income eligibility is met &amp; Board approves</i> ) |
| =====                           |   |
| \$_____annually / \$_____month  | *Grand Total for 2023-2024 School Year which will be drafted via ACH monthly.             |

**I am aware that my child's Academic Tuition, ELC Parent Fees and/or Before & After Care fees are due monthly via ACH payments which will be drafted from my bank account on the 15th of each month. If tuition & fees are NOT paid, my child's services will be suspended until a payment has been made in full – no exceptions will be made.**

**My child will attend Blossom Monday - Friday from \_\_\_\_\_ am to \_\_\_\_\_ pm.** (This is only a guideline, children are welcome at Blossom from 7:30am to 5:30pm IF enrolled in before/after care, your answer above does not change that. If your child is NOT enrolled in before/after care our academic hours are 8:30am to 3:15pm (school age/full time preschool) - no exceptions. *Please note: Blossom closes at 5:30pm sharp - no staff are scheduled to work past that time. Please be sure to allot enough travel time to ensure your child is picked up on time.*

**As a Parent / Legal Guardian I will provide my child with a healthy AM snack & drink, PM snack & drink, and a well balanced lunch including a drink (no soda, caffeinated beverages, candy or junk food), as well as a clean refillable water bottle / cup with lid. I am aware that Blossom does NOT provide meals, snacks or drinks; and Staff may NOT heat, refrigerate, cut or handle my child's food due to Licensing regulations.** I will provide, prepare, pre-cut and package ready to eat food in easy to open containers with an ice pack prior to my child's arrival to school.

**I will also ensure that my child wears** the required Blossom uniform Monday - Thursday, and follow the dress code each day, including free choice & spirit days.

**We often communicate with Parents / Legal Guardians via email on a frequent basis (daily-weekly).** We ask that parents / legal guardians check their email daily for any important information regarding your child or the school. Please provide an email address for the Parent(s) / Legal Guardian(s) that you would like included on our email list.

\*Parent / Legal Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent / Legal Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please advise if your email address can be shared with other Blossom parents (Check One):  YES  NO

\*Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Class: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent / Legal Guardian Name (Filling Out This Agreement) / Print: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent / Legal Guardian Name / Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Blossom Staff Name (Reviewing Agreement w/Parent) / Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Blossom Staff Name / Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





**TUITION & FEES 2023-2024**  
***ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE***

**Hours of Operation:** 7:30am – 5:30pm

**School Age (K thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade) Hours:**

**Academic Day** 8:30am - 3:15pm  
**Before Care** 7:30am - 8:30am  
**After Care** 3:15pm – 5:30pm

**PreK4 & PreK5 (Ages 4yrs-5yrs) Hours:**

**PreK4-5 – Full Academic Day** 8:30am – 3:15pm  
**PreK4-5 – Full Academic Day including just Before Care** 7:30am – 3:15pm  
**PreK4-5 – Full Academic Day including just After Care** 8:30am – 5:30pm  
**PreK4-5 – Full Academic Day including Before & After Care** 7:30am – 5:30pm

**PreK3 (Age 3yrs) Hours:**

**PreK3 – Full Academic Day** 8:30am – 3:15pm  
**PreK3 – Full Academic Day including just Before Care** 7:30am – 3:15pm  
**PreK3 – Full Academic Day including just After Care** 8:30am – 5:30pm  
**PreK3 – Full Academic Day including Before & After Care** 7:30am – 5:30pm

**TUITION (ACADEMIC DAY):**

Tuition and/or Before Care and/or After Care payments are due in ten (10) monthly payments the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of each month (August 15<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>) via ACH Direct Debit Payment.

ELC SR parent fees will be drafted monthly on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of each month (via ACH Direct Debit payment as well; however, parents fees will be based on your weekly parent fees set by ELC).

**2023-2024 ACH Direct Debit Payment Schedule:**

- \*August 15, 2023
- \*September 15, 2023
- \*October 15, 2023
- \*November 15, 2023
- \*December 15, 2023
- \*January 15, 2024
- \*February 15, 2024
- \*March 15, 2024
- \*April 15, 2024
- \*May 15, 2024 (final)

*Please note: If the 15th of the month falls on a weekend or bank holiday, your ACH payment will most likely be drafted by the bank on the very next business day. Please be sure funds are available in your account prior to the scheduled draft date to avoid being charged a non sufficient funds fee.*



14088 Icot Boulevard • Clearwater, Florida 33760  
Tel. (727) 539-7879 • VP (727) 223-6238 • Fax (727) 539-7627  
DOE #4158 / License #C050902  
[www.blossomschool.org](http://www.blossomschool.org)

**TUITION: ACADEMIC DAY (CONT.):**

Blossom’s tuition for all age groups does reflect an increase effective July 1, 2022 as listed below. Tuition and ELC SR parent fees do *NOT* include new student registration, annual re-enrollment fee, annual materials & supplies fee, School Age before and/or after care fees (*K thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade*), field trips, books, enrichment programs, additional therapy services (*beyond required IEP / 504 Plan*), uniforms, incidental charges or any other additional fees. Tuition and ELC SR parent fees are due in (10) monthly payments on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of each month (August 15<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>) via ACH Direct Debit payment.

**School Age Elementary K-5<sup>th</sup> / Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> (5 to 12+years old) -**

- \$1,170.00 per month – *Full Day Academics: 8:30am-3:15pm*
- \$1,295.00 per month – *Full Day Academics with Before Care: 7:30am-3:15pm*
- \$1,320.00 per month – *Full Day Academics with After Care: 8:30am-5:30pm*
- \$1,445.00 per month – *Full Day including BOTH Before Care & After Care: 7:30am-5:30pm*

**Pre-Primary / PreK 4-5yrs old (4 to 5+ years old) -**

- \$1,170.00 per month – *Full Day Academics: 8:30am-3:15pm*
- \$1,295.00 per month – *Full Day Academics with Before Care: 7:30am-3:15pm*
- \$1,320.00 per month – *Full Day Academics with After Care: 8:30am-5:30pm*
- \$1,445.00 per month – *Full Day including BOTH Before Care & After Care: 7:30am-5:30pm*

**PreK 3yrs old (36– 47 months: *must be fully potty trained prior to enrollment*) -**

- \$1,170.00 per month – *Full Day Academics: 8:30am-3:15pm*
- \$1,295.00 per month – *Full Day Academics with Before Care: 7:30am-3:15pm*
- \$1,320.00 per month – *Full Day Academics with After Care: 8:30am-5:30pm*
- \$1,445.00 per month – *Full Day including BOTH Before Care & After Care: 7:30am-5:30pm*

*\*Important Please note: If your child receives a Step Up for Students scholarship, please be sure to check your child’s scholarship 2023-2024 award amount. Parents will be responsible to set up a payment plan to cover the remaining balance of your child’s Academic Tuition, as well as Before & After Care Fees (if enrolled). Before & After Care is NOT covered by a Step Up for Students scholarship as this program is optional, private pay by parent only.*

**ADDITIONAL FEES:**

**Registration & Annual Re-Enrollment Fees (Non-Refundable)**

- **New Student Registration (All Age Groups)** \$125.00  
*(Due upon initial application approval, enrollment or waitlist enrollment.)*
- **Re-Enrollment (All Age Groups)** \$100.00  
*(Annual Re-enrollment period begins February 1<sup>st</sup>, fees due in full no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>)*
- **Early Re-Enrollment (All Age Groups)** \$75.00  
*(Early Re-enrollment period begins January 1<sup>st</sup>, fees due in full no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> - Save \$25!!!)*

**Materials & Supplies Fee**

- **All Age Groups** \$100.00  
*(Due upon initial enrollment & annually each August prior to the 1st day of the new school year.)*



**ADDITIONAL FEES (CONT.):**

**PreK/School Age Before Care & After Care Fees (PreK thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Before and/or After Care payments are due in (10) monthly payments on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of each month (August 15<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>) via ACH Direct Debit payment. School Age ELC SR parent fees for Before & After Care will be drafted monthly on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of each month via ACH Direct Debit payment as well; however, parent fees will be based on your weekly parent fees set by ELC.

- **Before & After Care Program: PreK thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**                     \$275.00 per month
- **Before Care Program: PreK thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**                             \$125.00 per month
- **After Care Program: PreK thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**                             \$150.00 per month
- **Emergency Drop-In Care: PreK thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**                     \$20.00 per service

*\*\*Before & After Care is an optional program at Blossom for students PreK thru 6th Grade, so you may choose to enroll your child in the full time academic program only (8:30am-3:15pm), or full time academics with Before Care only (7:30am-3:15pm), or full time academics with After Care only (8:30am-5:30pm), or full time academics with both Before & After Care (7:30am-5:30pm). The total cost for the full time academic day including Before and/or After Care has been provided for the different age groups on the previous page to show the tuition cost for just the full time academic program, as well as the full time academic program including our three different options for our extended day care: Before Care only (7:30am-3:15pm), or After Care only (8:30am-5:30pm) or Before & After Care (7:30am-5:30pm).*

\*Blossom does *not* under any circumstances offer part time rates or weekly payment arrangements for the Before & After Care program.

\*Before & After Care fees do *not* include fees for after school clubs or extracurricular activities as these activities are optional and require separate enrollment.

\*Blossom does offer Emergency Drop-In Care for Before and/or After Care due to emergency circumstances; however, the parent must first call the school to make an Emergency Drop-In Care request with an Administrative Staff member so that they may set up the service for that day, and properly notify the Before and/or After Care Staff. Parents may NOT just drop off their child early or leave them in After Care without calling the school to set this up in advance first. If staff does not receive an official request, the parent will be charged an early drop off or late pick up fee of \$5.00 per minute. \*\*Please give the staff a courtesy call if you need to request Emergency Drop-In Care for any reason.

\*Students who are NOT enrolled in Before Care may NOT enter the building prior to 8:20am. Students may be escorted into the building by a Staff Member between 8:20am-8:30am so that they may put their belongings away in their cubby or locker and then may join their class for quiet morning work. Blossom encourages all students to arrive by 8:20am each day.





## ADDITIONAL FEES (CONT.):

### Therapy Services

In addition to therapy services required by a Student's IEP or 504 Plan, the following services may be purchased at the parent's discretion (*if not covered by scholarship funds*):

- **Speech Therapy** \$55.00 hourly rate / Two 30min Sessions Per Week
- **Occupational Therapy** \$55.00 hourly rate / Two 30min Sessions Per Week

### Late Pick Up Fees / Early Drop Off Fees

- A Late Pick Up Fee of \$5.00 per child for every minute (\$5.00 per child per minute) past the hour of 3:15p.m. (academic day) -or- 5:30p.m. (after care) will start accruing at 3:16pm for students NOT enrolled in the After Care program, and 5:31pm for students who are enrolled in the After Care program. A check or cash will be accepted as payment at the time the child is picked up. The staff member on duty will calculate the total charge due. *\*\*Please give the staff a courtesy call if you are late for any reason.*
- An Early Drop Off Fee of \$5.00 per child for every minute (\$5.00 per child per minute) prior to the hour of 8:20am will start accruing at the exact time a student is dropped off for students who are NOT enrolled in Before Care. A check or cash will be accepted as payment at the time the child is dropped off. The staff member on duty will calculate the total charge due. *\*\*Please give the staff a courtesy call if your child needs to arrive early due to an emergency situation.*
- *Students may NOT at any time participate in the Before & After Care program if they are NOT enrolled in the program. Our program is licensed and Blossom is required to follow strict rules & regulations. If a child is dropped off early or picked up late, the student will be asked to sit in the front office until school begins or their parent/guardian arrives. \*\*Please note ALL students may arrive each day between 8:20am-8:30am to start their day. Staff is required to close down the building at 5:30pm sharp, so we thank you in advance for picking up your child on time each day.*

### Late Payment Fees & Program Services Payment Policy

- Monthly Academic Tuition is due on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of each month. A late fee of \$20.00/mth will be added for accounts not paid by the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Monthly Before & After Care Fees are due on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of each month. A late fee of \$20.00/mth will be added for accounts not paid by the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Program services for both the Academic program and Before & After Care program will be suspended if a payment is not received by the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) of each month. Services will be suspended until a payment is made in full.

*\*Please contact the Director & Business Manager to make a personal request for academic tuition payment arrangements if needed PRIOR to falling behind in payments.*

-Contact our Director, Julie Rutenberg - [jrutenberg@blossomschool.org](mailto:jrutenberg@blossomschool.org)

-Contact our Business Manager, Tara Bonano - [tbonano@blossomschool.org](mailto:tbonano@blossomschool.org)



**ADDITIONAL FEES (CONT.):**

*\*No payment arrangements can be made for ELC School Readiness (SR) Fees as payment of parent fees is part of your agreement with ELC SR for scholarship funding.*

*\*No payment arrangements can be made for Before & After Care Fees as this is an optional service – no exceptions will be made.*

**NSF (Non Sufficient Funds) Fee**

- \$25.00 per overdraft via ACH direct debit payment or returned check.

**ACH Direct Debit Payments (Draft Auto-Payments)**

All Academic Tuition, Before & After Care Fees, ELC SR Parent Fees will be collected via ACH Debit Direct Payments which are directly drafted out of the payee’s bank account on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) of each month and in 10 monthly payments (August 15<sup>th</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>). The payee will be required to fill out an ACH Debit Authorization at the beginning of each school year. A checking or savings account number may be used to set up direct payments, and a voided check will need to be provided along with the Authorization form. This will ensure payments are received in a timely manner and will avoid any suspension of program services due to lack of payment.

*\*Weekly payment plans are not available. Please plan your budget accordingly.*

*\*Please note all other payments of fees such as new student registration, annual re-enrollment fee, annual materials & supplies fee, field trips, books, enrichment programs, therapy services, uniforms, incidental charges or any other additional fees may be paid via check, money order, online credit card payment or cash payment.*

**2023-2024 ACH Direct Debit Payment Schedule:**

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| *August 15, 2023    | *January 15, 2024     |
| *September 15, 2023 | *February 15, 2024    |
| *October 15, 2023   | *March 15, 2024       |
| *November 15, 2023  | *April 15, 2024       |
| *December 15, 2023  | *May 15, 2024 (final) |

*\*Important - please note: If the 15th of the month falls on a weekend or bank holiday, your ACH payment will most likely be drafted by the bank on the very next business day. Please be sure funds are available in your account prior to the scheduled draft date to avoid being charged a non sufficient funds fee.*



## **FINANCIAL POLICY**

### **Academic Tuition / Before & After Care Fees / ELC Parent Fees**

Monthly Academic Tuition and Before & After Care Fee amounts are calculated based on a year's tuition and divided into monthly payments. Monthly tuition payments are due on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) of each month and are due in 10 monthly payments (August 15<sup>th</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>) via ACH Direct Debit Payment. ELC SR parent fees are daily fees that will be totaled by multiplying the daily fee by five (5) days per week over the number of weeks during the entire school year of forty-two (42) weeks and divided into monthly payments.

**\*\*Important:** Please note that holidays, breaks, and in-service days are factored into the tuition amount. There are no discounts or prorated rates available for vacations, holidays, sick days, quarantine days, Thanksgiving break, winter break, spring break, or in-service days. There are no discounts, prorated rates or tuition waivers available for emergency school closure days/weeks due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather, natural disasters and health & safety (i.e. hurricanes, tornados, virus outbreaks, etc.). Virtual Learning will be put in place for students during *extended emergency* school closures so learning may continue. Every month, the entire amount of monthly tuition is due regardless of the number of days attended. It is the parent's responsibility to make a timely payment to Blossom on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) of each month via ACH Direct Debit Payments.

### **Late Payment Fees**

Monthly tuition and Before & After Care payments are due the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) of each month. A \$20.00 late fee will be assessed for accounts not paid by the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) of the month. Any student with an account balance outstanding by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month will not be permitted to return to school or the Before & After Care program until the account balance is paid in full. After 60 days, outstanding balances will be sent to collections. Any fees related to collection of the debt will be the responsibility of the parent. Student's transcripts will be held until all account balances are paid in full.

### **Family Tuition Discount**

Families with more than one child attending Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf are entitled to a Family Tuition Discount. The Family Tuition Discount does not apply toward scholarship amounts.

- The oldest child attending will be expected to pay the normal tuition.
- The first sibling will receive a 7% discount.
- Any additional siblings will receive a 5% discount.

No other fees are subject to discount, including annual school year fees and Before & After Care fees.

### **Yearly Tuition Discount**

There is no yearly tuition discount available at Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf.

### **New Student Registration Fee**

\$125.00/application

A New Student Registration fee is due when you submit your child's New Student Application. Once your application is approved, this fee will reserve your child's seat. The New Student Registration fee is \$125 per child. This fee is non-refundable.





## **FINANCIAL POLICY (CONT.):**

### **Early Re-Enrollment Fee**

\$75.00/annually IF paid prior to January 31st

An early re-enrollment period exists for currently enrolled students. Families who re-enroll during the *EARLY* re-enrollment period (January 1<sup>st</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup>) will reserve their child's seat for the upcoming school year AND be entitled to a discounted re-enrollment fee of \$75 per child (savings of \$25!!!). The early re-enrollment fee must be paid in full by no later than January 31st. This fee is non-refundable.

### **Re-Enrollment Fee**

\$100.00/annually due between February 1st-March 31st

A re-enrollment period exists for currently enrolled students. Families who re-enroll during the re-enrollment period (February 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>) will reserve their child's seat for the upcoming school year. The re-enrollment fee is \$100 per child during this time (no discount will apply). This fee is non-refundable.

### **Materials & Supplies Fee -**

\$100.00/annually due prior to 1st day of school

The materials & supplies fee is due annually in August at your child's Back-to-School paperwork meeting, prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the new school year -or- initial enrollment if starting at a different time during the school year. Materials & supplies fees are applied to consumable workbooks, use of hard covered books, and consumable supplies for each academic classroom and specials class.

Materials & supplies fee are also applied to individual student supplies required for their classroom level, such as binders, composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, looseleaf, construction paper, pencils, pens, crayons, colored pencils, markers, scissors, glue, glue sticks, etc., as well as a personal caddy to keep in each student's individual social distanced space. Individual student supplies for their classroom will NOT be shared with others - these are your child's personal supplies.

The materials & supplies fee is \$100 per child. This fee is non-refundable and will not be prorated if your child leaves school.

Parents may be asked to send in items for their child's class such as tissues, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, Expo dry erase markers, 3M post-it notes or other items for a special project or event throughout the year. If you see these items available and on sale while shopping, please feel free to donate to your child's classroom. Classroom donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

### **Tuition Deposit**

A tuition deposit is *not* required; however upon enrollment of each child at Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf, you will be required to set up an ACH Direct Debit Payment schedule for the first month's tuition and payments which will follow for the entire school year on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

It is our expectation that enrollment for each child is for an entire ten (10) month academic school year for all students and your payment arrangement is based on this period. In the event the student must



## **FINANCIAL POLICY (CONT.):**

leave before full-filling this yearly obligation, a six (6) weeks written notice of intent to leave school is required. Normal tuition rates will apply until the end of the six (6) week period.

Important please note: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Blossom may be required to close the facility for a short period of time (i.e. positive COVID case, deep clean & disinfectant fogging, mandatory state or local county executive orders, etc.). If the facility does have to close at any point, Blossom will continue to provide education to students through Virtual Learning. Blossom will provide laptops for the Virtual Learning period to all School Age students (Kindergarten-6th grade). If you decide to withdraw your child from Blossom during this time, a six (6) weeks written notice of intent to leave school is required. Normal tuition rates will apply until the end of the six (6) week period.

\*All tuition & fees are non-refundable.

### **Withdrawal**

A place is reserved for your child for the entire ten (10) month academic school year. Parents who withdraw their children from Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf during the year are required to give the school six (6) weeks advance notice of the date of withdrawal in writing. With proper written notice, the final tuition payment will be adjusted to close out the student's account for the last six (6) weeks of tuition. All financial obligations are expected to be met at the time of the child's withdrawal. The registration/enrollment fee, materials fee and classroom supplies fee are non-refundable and will not be prorated in the event the student withdraws early.

\*If a six (6) weeks notice is given, then the outstanding tuition amount due to close each student account will be for that final time period of six (6) weeks in which the student is still enrolled. The last payment(s) scheduled through ACH Direct Debit will be adjusted appropriately as needed.

\*If six (6) weeks notice is *not* given, then the outstanding tuition amount due to close each student account will be for the time period of six (6) weeks from the date of which written notice was received; *whether the student is still enrolled or not.* The last payment(s) scheduled through ACH Direct Debit will be adjusted appropriately as needed.

### **Questions about our Tuition & Fees or our Financial Policy?**

Contact our Business Manager, Tara Bonano - [tbonano@blossomschool.org](mailto:tbonano@blossomschool.org)

### **Questions about our Academic Program, Before & After Care Program, Speech Therapy (ST) or Occupational Therapy (OT)?**

Contact our Director, Julie Rutenberg - [jrutenberg@blossomschool.org](mailto:jrutenberg@blossomschool.org)

Contact our Associate Director, Colette Derks - [cderks@blossomschool.org](mailto:cderks@blossomschool.org)



## REQUIRED ENROLLMENT DOCUMENTATION

### Required Documents Due PRIOR to First Day of Enrollment & Annually as Needed

- Health Physical / School Entry Form - good for two years from date of exam.
- Immunization Record - only DH680 or DH681 will be accepted.
- Blossom Student Enrollment Paperwork - all forms must be completed in full.

### **Important - please note:**

- ★ *Health Physical & Immunization forms are due each August at your child's Back to School meeting and by no later than the first day of enrollment for each student (or prior to the expiration date of the current form on file).*
- ★ *If a Health Physical or Immunization form is not received prior to the date of enrollment, it is REQUIRED that the parent must provide an actual appointment card/letter from the child's doctor's office as proof the appointment is scheduled within a 30-day extension period.*
- ★ *If an appointment card can not be provided, the child's enrollment may NOT begin or continue enrollment until the appointment card -or- Health Physical and/or Immunization form is received.*
- ★ *No exceptions - this is a Pinellas County Licensing Requirement for our school.*

## DAILY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### **Academic Hours / Tardiness**

Our academic day begins at 8:30am. Your child will be marked tardy after 8:31am. Every three (3) unexcused tardies within a grading period count as one (1) unexcused absence. Please arrange to drop off your child by 8:20am so they can have a few moments to put away their belongings and meet the students & teachers in the front lobby for pledge. Important morning classroom announcements begin promptly at 8:35am. If a student arrives late for any reason, a call to the school must be made and include the arrival time so a staff member can be ready to go through the entry procedures before letting the student into the school. A tardy note must be provided by a parent, doctor or dentist when a child arrives late.

### **Covid-19 Illness Policy (\*\*Please read thoroughly)**

Staff & Students will be checked daily before entering the school. Staff & Students are required to have a temperature check that reads less than **99.8 degrees** before entering the building. We do ask that you prescreen your child(ren) at home prior to arrival including temperature check and observation for various COVID-19 symptoms.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include but are not limited to:

- |                     |             |                         |                             |             |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| *Fever or chills    | *Cough      | *Shortness of breath    | *Difficulty breathing       | *Congestion |
| *Headache           | *Fatigue    | *Muscle or body aches   | *New loss of taste or smell |             |
| *Sore throat        | *Runny nose | *Allergy-like symptoms  | *Bluish lips or face        |             |
| *Nausea or vomiting | *Diarrhea   | *Rash of unknown origin | *Confusion                  |             |



**Covid-19 Illness Policy Cont. (\*\*Please read thoroughly)**

**Seek medical advice if you, your child or family member develop symptoms.** Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room. Tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms. If your child or family member develops symptoms, do not send your child to school. Please seek medical advice and inform your child's school immediately.

**COVID-19 Resources:**

Florida Department of Health - Pinellas County (FDOH)

- <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov>

United States Center for Disease Control (CDC)

- <http://www.cdc.gov>

**Your child needs to stay home from school IF** he/she has a fever of 99.8 degrees or higher, has a contagious disease (please inform the school immediately), displays any of the following symptoms: severe coughing, diarrhea, vomiting, sore throat, a rash of unknown origin, heavy or discolored mucus discharge from the nose, or unexplained eye redness and/or drainage. Children should be symptom-free for 24-48 hours before returning to school and a doctor's note will be required prior to the student's return to confirm illness is either non COVID-19 related -or- the quarantine period has been completed if in fact COVID-19 related and student is no longer contagious. **These suggestions should aid you in the determination of whether your child should or should not be sent to school.** We rely on your good judgment. **When in doubt, keep your child home.**

**If a child does arrive at school sick, they will be immediately sent home with their parent/guardian.**

**If a child becomes ill during the school day, a parent/guardian will immediately be called and will need to arrive within 30-minutes to pick up your child.** While waiting for parents to arrive, your child will rest and self-isolate in a room with no other students.

**If a child or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 we will call Epidemiology at 727-834-6932 for further instruction.** We will also notify our families and staff. In this case, we would follow the health departments' guidelines for proper student/family/staff quarantining/return to school/work dates, as well as classroom/facility closing/reopening dates. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

**Important please note:** We also have included our General Illness Policy which you will also find in Blossom's 2023-2024 Parent-Student Handbook that will be given to you at the beginning of the school year. This policy contains additional information on Blossom's General Illness Policy & Procedures - not related to COVID-19. Although some of this information may be the same as our COVID-19 Illness Policy, please be sure to review this information for acceptable return dates after seeking medical attention and providing a doctor's note for the diagnosed illness NOT related to COVID-19.



**General Illness Policy (\*\*Please read thoroughly)**

**Please keep your child home if he/she shows ANY signs of illness. Any child that arrives at school sick, will be unable to enter the school and will be immediately sent home with their parent/guardian.**

It is essential that everyone cooperate in this manner to keep the spread of illness to a minimum. An ill child not only unnecessarily exposes his/her classmates to illness, but also is more susceptible to additional illness. We realize that parents sometimes have very pressing schedules that make it difficult to keep children home from school, but alternate arrangements should be planned for since unexpected illnesses are an inevitable part of growing up. The school is not permitted to keep sick children in our care. If your child becomes ill during a school day, you will be contacted so that you can pick him/her up as soon as possible and within 30-minutes. We have an isolation area set up in case a child needs a place to wait for parents to pick up.

If a student becomes ill or shows signs of not feeling well while they are at school, a Blossom staff member will take the child's temperature, identify by communicating with the child any specific symptoms such as upset stomach, headache, sore throat, cough, etc. The parent will be contacted if the child presents any symptoms of illness. Parents will be contacted and are *required* to pick up or arrange for an approved person to **pick up their child from school within 30 minutes of being contacted**. The student will not be permitted to return to class until they are free from symptoms for a 24 hour period - meaning one full school day at *minimum* or 24 full hours after the last symptom of vomiting, diarrhea, fever, cough, sore throat (etc.) ends completely. *Example: If your child is sent home from school with a fever on Monday at 12:30pm, they must stay home from school for a full day on Tuesday to rest. IF their fever does not break until 9:30pm Tuesday night, then your child must stay home for another full school day on Wednesday. If your child has no fever all day Wednesday, then your child may be permitted back to school on Thursday. This ensures your child is symptom free for a full 24-hour period and is not contagious to other students.*

If your child is ill or begins to show symptoms of not feeling well at home such as vomiting, diarrhea, fever or rash, sore throat, cough; please do NOT send your child to school. Parents are *required* to keep their child at home until they are free from symptoms for a 24 hour period - meaning one full school day at *minimum* or 24 full hours after the last symptom of vomiting, diarrhea, fever, cough, sore throat, or rash (etc.) ends completely (see example in above paragraph).

If a communicable illness / disease has been identified such as strep throat, chicken pox, flu, rash etc., a doctor's note will be required in order for the child to return to school. Please remember that illnesses spread quickly through the school and we do not want to put the students or staff at risk of being infected. However, to ensure that others remain healthy, Blossom has a strict **48 hour symptom free** policy before a student who has been diagnosed with a communicable illness may return to school, no matter if the doctor has written a return to school in 24 hours note.

Lice is considered a communicable illness. Blossom will do periodic Lice checks throughout the school year, as this can be easily shared and quickly spread. If your child is found to have Lice (nits,





### **General Illness Policy Cont.:**

live bugs or both) at school, you will have 30 minutes to pick up your child. If you have found that your child has Lice while at home, please keep them home and call the school to inform the staff so we may take appropriate precautions at school. Your child must be **COMPLETELY LICE FREE** to return to school. When your child enters school they will be checked to ensure there has been no missed nits or live bugs. If any nits or live bugs have been found, your child will be sent home immediately and must be symptom free for 48 hours before returning again. We understand that sometimes this process may take multiple times to fully eradicate the Lice. Please make appropriate plans to pick up your child's homework through your child's teacher. Remember, homework may not be picked up until after the school day has ended at 3:15pm.

Blossom knows that many children suffer from allergies and that the common cold is spread easily and may linger for many weeks. We also understand how important it is for children to be in school, but if a staff member notices that a child has had an ongoing or chronic illness such as allergies, cough, and/or runny nose and notice it is progressively becoming worse, we will request a doctor's note for your child to remain at school. Sometimes illnesses can start off as something simple such as a runny nose or cough, but can quickly become something more severe. When children are not feeling well it is hard for them to focus and work in the classroom, missing out on learning time.

Blossom understands that sometimes school and responsibilities can become overwhelming for students and that a child may show signs or symptoms of having an 'emotional breakdown'. Some signs are uncontrollable crying, refusing to speak or make eye contact, hyperventilating, yelling/screaming and anxious tendencies. If the student is unable to calm or control their symptoms a parent will be called to pick up their child from school. We feel it is in the best interest for the student to go home; we do not want to put any more stress upon the student and know that home is the best place for calming and regrouping. We understand that when these situations arise it is very hard for the student to continue on with the day and remain on task; our top priority is the health and wellbeing of all our students. This will not be considered a suspension for the student; it will just be marked as an early pickup.

If your child is absent please call the school or e-mail your child's teacher to notify us that your child will be out. A written note is *required* from a parent or guardian upon their return to school. If your child is absent *more than 3 consecutive days* a written note is *required* from your child's doctor.

Please remember when receiving medications such as antibiotics for your child, to request when possible, medications that can be given in the morning and evening or once a day when the child is not in school.

Blossom does not administer medications of any kind, unless it is a medical necessity due to a serious health condition. With pre-approval by the Director, parents are welcome to visit Blossom to administer any necessary medications at the appropriate time in an assigned room.



## Dress Code

**Uniforms are required Monday - Thursday.** Acceptable uniforms are Blossom insignia short sleeve or long sleeve polo shirt (black, purple, gray, yellow, light blue, navy blue, white), and khaki/tan or navy pants or shorts. Jeans, sweats, colorful pants/shorts/skirts are not acceptable. Regular clothes may be worn on Friday (NO tank tops, muscle tees or spaghetti straps; NO inappropriate, see through or tight fitted tops or shirts; no short or tight fitted shorts, pants or skirts). Shorts must be a modest length (no more than 2" above the knee). Comfortable sneakers **MUST** be worn daily Monday-Friday (NO flip flops, sandals, crocks, ballet slippers, boots, dress shoes, etc.) – no exceptions.

**Uniform shirts may be ordered from:** **AB Design Co.:** (727) 488-5644  
12533 Ulmerton Rd. Largo, FL 33774

## Lunch/Snack Time

It is the parent's responsibility to pack a healthy lunch (full meal), side snack, drink and a clean refillable water bottle/cup (with a lid that can seal) for your child each day, as well as 2 healthy snacks and 2 drinks for AM and PM snack time. Sandwiches and foods should be prepped & cut prior to arrival as staff is *not* allowed to cut or touch the student's food according to licensing regulations. Staff can of course help a student open a packaged product or drink. Please be sure to pack a napkin, spoon and/or fork for your child's lunch depending on what is needed. You must pack a cool-pack (ice-pack) in your child's lunch to ensure freshness. Do NOT send your child to school with food that needs to be reheated in a microwave or stored in a refrigerator. Junk food, candy, soda & caffeine beverages are NOT permitted during student lunch/snack time - if sent to school these items will be sent home unopened.

**\*Preschool Parents Please Note:** For students ages 3-4 or younger, foods/fruits must be pre-cut into small pieces (1/4 size) to avoid choking hazards. Foods labeled choking hazards, such as popcorn, are NOT allowed for students ages 3-4 or younger.

Pinellas County Licensing requires these rules to be followed at all times. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## Questions about our Daily Policies & Procedures?

Contact our Director, Julie Rutenberg - [jrutenberg@blossomschool.org](mailto:jrutenberg@blossomschool.org)

Contact our Associate Director, Colette Derks - [cderks@blossomschool.org](mailto:cderks@blossomschool.org)



Family Commitment and what it means at Blossom...

At Blossom, our goal is to teach children about life and learning through a positive supportive environment. A large part of the success of this school is the relationship we forge with the families of Blossom. In our busy lives we often need to stop and take stock of all that we have and to appreciate the value of 'everyday' life.

Part of the everyday life of Blossom is the interdependent relationship we have with the families of our students. We teach our children to get involved with their community on a regular basis and to embrace diversity and change. One avenue we have available to us is that of 'parent as teacher'. It is through the involvement of parents that we are better able to educate children. When the family supports the learning environment, the child understands fully the importance of education.

Blossom invites all families to assist in this learning journey through the following activities:

### **Family Commitment Hours**

All families will be required to commit 20 hours of volunteer services every year to Blossom by:

- Attending & Participating Monthly Family Events
- Volunteering to decorate or set up for Holiday Events
- Attending & Participating in Holiday Events
- Volunteering to organize a Booster (Parent-Student Led) Mini-Fundraiser
- Volunteering to help with administrative tasks for major Fundraising Events
- Collecting Silent Auction Items for major Fundraising Events
- Attending and/or Participating in major Fundraising Events
- Chaperoning Field Trips & School Events (if requested)

Families receiving private scholarships will be required to commit 30 – 40 hours of volunteer service (depending on the percentage of scholarship support), as well as sign up for weekly American Sign Language (ASL) classes at your local library or college if their child is deaf or hard of hearing.

By giving back to the school, families can show their child the importance of involvement within their own community.

### **Blossom School Events**

Staff and students work extremely hard to ensure that Blossom enjoys extracurricular programming. Families are expected to make all events at Blossom a priority and to keep the Blossom calendar in full focus during the academic year. All children derive a great deal of self pride and feelings of accomplishment when they can demonstrate a sense of independence and personal talent. Whether it is performing in a play, participating in a sporting event, raising or donating money for a student-led fundraiser such as a bake sale or walk-a-thon, or competing in an academic program after school,



## **FAMILY COMMITMENT (CONT.)**

your involvement – or lack thereof - speaks volumes to your child. Every event at Blossom is planned with families in mind. All families are expected to attend these important extracurricular events and to support the children of Blossom.

As a nonprofit educational program, Blossom depends heavily on fundraising efforts and community / corporate donations. Thanks to our small size, all funds raised for Blossom go directly to the students of Blossom and the operation of the school. Families on private scholarships are actually the direct recipients of these fundraising efforts. All families receiving scholarships from Blossom will be expected to attend and support Blossom's fundraising events. A detailed schedule of upcoming events will be posted by Blossom's Director and families will be asked to sign up and assist with the creation and implementation of these events.

We all have heard that 'It takes a village to raise a child'...and indeed in today's fast-paced world - this is true. At Blossom, we want our children to learn from us as teachers and from you as parents. We want them to learn from our *combined* efforts and to stand beside us as we teach them through our actions – and our interactions.

This simply means that through participation and caring we can all come together to create a 'village' of learning for the students of Blossom.

## **Questions about volunteering for Family or Holiday Events, or Booster (Parent-Student Led) Mini-Fundraisers?**

Contact our Associate Director, Colette Derks - [cderks@blossomschool.org](mailto:cderks@blossomschool.org)

Contact our Business Manager, Tara Bonano - [tbonano@blossomschool.org](mailto:tbonano@blossomschool.org)



\* \* \* \* \*

**Drug Free - Alcohol Free - Smoke Free - School Zone / Workplace**

**Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf is a DRUG FREE - ALCOHOL FREE - SMOKE FREE school zone / workplace!!** All Blossom staff members are subject to pre-employment Drug & Alcohol screening and may be re-screened at any time with or without reason. This is to ensure our school is Drug & Alcohol Free.

Drugs can be illegal, prescription or legal such as alcohol. They are not appropriate for consumption while caring for children. No exceptions! Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf has a ZERO TOLERANCE for drugs and immediately dismisses any staff found to be in violation.

**Smoking of tobacco products is NOT permitted within 100 feet of school grounds at all times.** No person including parents/guardians, staff, board members, volunteers and visitors may be in possession of a lighted cigarette, e-cigarette, vape pen, lighted pipe, lighted cigar, or any other lighted tobacco product or paraphernalia, in the school facility, including the outside grounds. The purpose of this policy is to comply with the "Florida Clean Indoor Air Act" in protecting the public health, comfort and environment by creating areas in all school facilities that are free from tobacco smoke.

\* \* \* \* \*

Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Blossom's mission includes the commitment to provide the absolute best academic, social and emotional environment for our students. We are working hard to develop our fundraising campaign in order to support the important work we are doing. We are also seeking out talented teaching professionals so that our students will have the best chance for success throughout their lives. This task is not easy nor is it inexpensive. We ask for a strong commitment from our families, as well. We strive to offer partial financial assistance wherever and whenever possible. Please contact our Director for a Partial Scholarship Application should you find the need for additional financial assistance.*

**Questions about Partial Scholarships to aid in financial assistance?**

Contact our Director, Julie Rutenberg - [jrutenberg@blossomschool.org](mailto:jrutenberg@blossomschool.org)

