



July 2023

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 2023–2024 academic year.

We will be holding individual Back-to-School Paperwork Meetings with each family. Ms. Derks is available to meet with you by appointment only – no walk-ins please. Please see the schedule below of available times and call/email to reserve your time slot now! *New Families: Please be sure to allot yourself extra time to ensure all paperwork is filled out properly. All paperwork MUST be filled out and returned PRIOR to the first day of school – no exceptions. Please note that Blossom will be closed for staff training on Wednesday, August 2nd and final preparation of classrooms on Tuesday, August 8th. Please contact Ms. Derks to schedule an appointment via email cderks@blossomschool.org or call (727) 539-7879.*

Please see below for days Ms. Derks will be available for paperwork. Each meeting will take roughly 45 minutes long. Please show up on time so that the following meeting can start on time for the next family.

Days Available:	Times Available - Morning:	Afternoon:
Monday, 7/31		1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30
Tuesday, 8/1	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30	1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30
Wednesday, 8/2	Closed for Staff Training	
Thursday, 8/3	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30	1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30
Friday, 8/4 LAST DAY!!	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30	1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30

Appointments *must* be made no later than August 4th in order for your child to be able to attend school on Wednesday, August 9th. Ms. Derks 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. Derks 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 \$100 Material & School Supplies 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 Wednesday, August 9th. School will start promptly at 8:30am. Please note: Before Care and After Care will be available on this day for students who are enrolled in the program. 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 on Thursday, August 24th 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 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 & FES EO Scholarship or Step Up for for Students UA)
13. 2023-2024 Annual Materials & School Supplies Fee: \$100/child (separate from school supplies)
14. 2023–2024 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, 22/23 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 15th of each month (August-May).

Blossom Families – All 2023-2024 School Year Fees (i.e. Enrollment Fee / Re-Enrollment Fee / Materials & School Supplies 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 - 3:15pm.** Each student will have their temperature taken before entering. Masks will be optional unless otherwise advised. Any student arriving after 8:31am will be marked tardy. Please be sure your child quietly & respectfully walks down the hall & enters their classroom. To ensure the health & safety of all students and staff, parents will be unable to enter the building without having an appointment scheduled. 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 2023-2024 school will be provided to you in your child's Back-to-School Paperwork Packet. 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 & School Supplies Fee** - Your annual \$100.00 fee is a one time non-refundable payment which is applied to consumable workbooks, classroom supplies, hard covered books, and other school related supplies. Additionally, Blossom purchases all back-to-school supplies needed for the 2023-2024 school year. The bundles include carrying caddy to hold supplies, binders, folders, composition books, notebooks, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue, plastic cutlery, ect.
- **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, gray, or white) with the Blossom insignia. Students must wear khaki/tan, navy or black shorts or slacks with their uniform shirt (no jeans or leggings) – shorts 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. Fingernails 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):

AB Designs, Co. 12533 Ulmerton Road.
Largo, Florida 33774
Tel: (727) 488-5644

<u>Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Pricing</u>
Monday through Friday 9am- 3pm	Polo <u>Youth</u> - Short Sleeve \$14.00
Saturday by appointment only	Polo <u>Adult</u> - Short Sleeve \$14.00

- **Before Care/After Care** – We offer Before Care from 7:30am–8:30am and After Care from 3:15pm–5:30pm for working families with students grades PreK – 6th. The cost for both of these programs are \$275/per month/per child -OR- \$125/per month/per child for Before Care -OR- \$150/per month/per child for After Care). This cost is *not* included in your child's tuition -OR- McKay's Scholarship, Step Up for Students FTC or FES 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 available** –Blossom does offer Emergency Drop-In Care for Before and/or After Care due to emergency circumstances for **\$25 per service**; however, the parent must call the school to make an Emergency Drop-in Care request with an Administrative Staff member so 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. 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.
- **Early Drop Off Fee** – We do not offer Early Drop Off Care. An Early Drop Off Fee of \$5.00 per child for every minute (\$5.00 per minute) will be charged for any child arriving prior to the hour of:
 - 7:30am will start accruing any time prior to 7:29am for any student dropped off before opening time.
 - 8:20am will start accruing any time prior to 8:19am 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 minutes (\$5.00 per minute) past the hour of:
 - 11:30pm will start accruing at 11:31pm for students NOT enrolled in the full time PreK program.
 - 3:15pm will start accruing at 3:16pm for students NOT enrolled in After Care.
 - 5:30pm will start accruing at 5:31pm 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. Blossom must close promptly at 5:30pm, as it is not licensed as of 5:31pm and cannot have anyone in the building. Staff work hours are until 5:30pm.

****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, as well as a clean reusable water bottle with lid/cap to refill at the water fountain throughout the day.** 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 Wednesday, 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 Administrative Staff at the school during the hours of 8:15am-3:30pm. Tel: (727) 539-7879*

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

Ms. Colette Derks, Associate Director - cderks@blossomschool.org