

Dear DSA Families,

I pray this letter finds you all doing well and enjoying your summer vacations. In just five weeks we will be opening our doors for the 2017-2018 school year. There is a lot of activity taking place on campus this summer even though our students are away on summer break. There are a number of items that I would like to communicate to you regarding the upcoming school year. Please read this letter in its entirety in order to better understand all of the information.

OPENING INFORMATION

There will be four back to school orientations over the course of two different days. It is important to attend your child's orientation to receive important information on the upcoming school year.

- PreK-3 through 1st grade orientation will take place on August 13 at 3 pm in the elementary/middle school gym.
- The 2nd through 5th grade orientation will also be on August 13, but at 4 pm in the elementary/middle school gym.
- The orientation for middle school and high school will be the following night, August 14. The middle school orientation will be at 6 pm in the elementary/middle school gym, while the high school orientation will be at 7 pm in the high school gym.

Please note that attendance at the middle school orientation is mandatory because students will be receiving their iPads and parents will need to fill out the necessary forms for them. Attendance at orientation is also mandatory for all high school students and their parents as it fulfills part of the college planning requirement for all of our students.

At the orientation you will receive information on policies and procedures, some of which are changes from the previous year. After each orientation, parents and students will be invited to the classrooms where they will be introduced to the teacher and the class in which they are placed.

HOMEROOM ASSIGNMENTS

On July 31, homeroom teachers will be sending out an email welcoming their students to their class. Please look for this email so that you know who your child's homeroom teacher is.

ACT RESULTS

All students in Kindergarten through 8th grade who took the ACT test last school year will receive their results the second week of school.

START/END TIMES

There are a few changes to our school start and end times each day.

- The early childhood (PreK-3, PreK-4 and kindergarten) will begin each day at 8:30 am and end at 2:45 pm. Wednesday dismissal will be at 1:45 pm.
- Our elementary classes (1st - 5th grade) will begin at 8:05 am and end at 3:05 pm. The Wednesday dismissal time for the elementary will be 2:05 pm.
- Finally, our middle and high school classes start at 8:15 am with the dismissal time at 3:26 pm. Wednesday dismissal is at 2:30 pm.

The doors to all of our buildings will open at 7:45 am, and students in PreK-3 through 8th grade can be dropped off as early as 7:30 am in the auditorium for morning care. Additional information regarding these procedures will be communicated at the back to school orientations.

VACCINATIONS AND PHYSICALS

The State of Florida mandates that students in kindergarten through 12th grade, who are making their initial entry into a Florida school, present a record of a physical examination completed in the United States within the last twelve months. Additionally, it is against the law for Divine Savior to enroll your child if he/she is not up to date on the necessary vaccinations or if we do not have the child's immunization record on file. Therefore, please make sure that your child is up to date on his/her vaccinations and has received a physical if necessary.

Your child will not be allowed to attend classes if the necessary steps have not been taken to comply with the state law. If your child is entering kindergarten or 7th grade, please check with Christy Aguirre (305-597-4545 Ext. 1100) to confirm that your child's immunizations are updated for the 2017-2018 school year.

UNIFORMS

Please note that only uniforms from the company Risse Brothers are acceptable. They will no longer be selling uniforms on campus, as they are opening a store in Miami on July 26. The address of the store is: 1076 SW 67th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33144

Uniforms are also able to be ordered from the Risse Brothers website: www.rissebrothers.com.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORMS

The Shark Store will be open for the purchase of middle school and high school physical education uniforms only during the back to school orientations. If your child is in need of a physical education uniform, please ensure that it is purchased at that time. The cost for a full uniform (shorts and T-shirt) is \$25. Individual shorts and shirts are available for \$15 each.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **August 13:** PreK-3 through 1st Grade Orientation (3 pm)
2nd through 5th Grade Orientation (4 pm)
- **August 14:** Middle School Orientation (6 pm)
High School Orientation (7 pm)
- **August 15:** First Day of Classes (PreK-3 through 5th Grade)
- **August 16:** First Day of Classes (Middle and High School)

As we continue to prepare for the 2017-2018 school year, please keep Divine Savior in your prayers. Our students, families and staff are constantly in our prayers as well. We are eagerly preparing for the year and are looking forward to seeing how God continues to bless our DSA family.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer, and we look forward to seeing you on our campus very soon. May God continue to bless you and your family!

In Christ,

Mr. Tim Biesterfeld, MSIIE

Head of Schools & Elementary/Middle School Principal