

Dear Parents,

I hope this email finds you, once again, healthy and well! As we wrap up the second week of the new school year, I want to thank each of you for your support, donations, and kind words. All of us here on campus feel so loved and supported by all of our families! From deliveries of fresh flowers to sweet treats and pastries, you have truly spoiled us the last two weeks. We are so grateful for our families.

As promised, this is your weekly campus update. Here are some community reminders as well as some policy updates for you.

OPERATING HOURS

Early Care: 7:00 AM

Classroom Lessons & Instruction Begin: 9:00 AM

Morning Curb Closes: 9:00 AM

School Closes: 4:00 PM

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT CURB

Thank you for following our new traffic pattern! The new traffic pattern flow for curb line is going extremely well and we truly appreciate your support and efforts in making this new procedure so successful.

- **Beginning August 31, 2020:**
 - You must use your assigned curb time(s). You can find your assigned times in Transparent Classroom. Utilizing assigned curb times allow for us to adequately prepare traffic adjustments and support staff for your arrival at curb.
 - **We will begin assessing late day charges on August 31, 2020 at 4:01 PM.** If you arrive at 4:01 PM or later on Monday, you will be charged per your arrival time.
- For pick-up, please text your classroom curb number when you're approximately five minutes from campus. You can find your classroom curb number in Transparent Classroom.
 - Sign into **Transparent Classroom** and select **Directory**. You will see your child's curb number at the top of the parent directory. If you have more than one child, you can select a different classroom from the dropdown menu at the top of the screen.
 - **Tip:** If you have children in more than one classroom, put both numbers in one group text, such as, "5 minutes away for Tom Q in CR11 & Jerry Q in CR12." Then just copy and paste the same text daily.
- Please stay in your vehicle at curb. If you would like to personally connect with your teacher, please utilize their calendar option on your classroom webpage.
 - At afternoon curb, if your child needs assistance with buckling, you may exit your vehicle to assist them. Legally, DGM staff are not permitted to buckle children into their car seats.
- Due to the additional ingress/egress gate usage this year, we have installed additional security monitoring systems around the entire campus to ensure the safety of your children and our on-site staff.

LUNCH

- Please remember our entire campus is a nut-free environment.
- We are installing two new, permanent shade pergolas in Beth's Garden to support an outdoor, enjoyable lunch time for our Upper Elementary, Middle Years, and High School classes.

ONLINE / IN-PERSON LEARNING

- If your child is staying home due to illness, please let them rest and recover during that time. They do not need to join online programming during time of illness.

INFANT/TODDLER UPDATES

- Please be sure to check Transparent Classroom for photos, classroom updates, and more. Your teachers are working very hard to add content to Transparent Classroom for you.
- Starting Monday, August 31, DGM will no longer launder soiled clothing. As with previous years, these clothing items will be sent home with the child.

PRIMARY UPDATES

- Please be sure to check Transparent Classroom for photos, classroom updates, and more. Your teachers are working very hard to add content to Transparent Classroom for you.
- Starting Monday, August 31, DGM will no longer launder soiled clothing. As with previous years, these clothing items will be sent home with the child.
- **Online Families** - Primary online parents, thank you so for your patience as we continue to grow your program! We will be sending you a survey within the next week. Please look for this in your e-mail inbox.

LOWER ELEMENTARY UPDATES

- Please be sure to check Transparent Classroom for photos, classroom updates, and more. Your teachers are working very hard to add content to Transparent Classroom for you.
- This week, information regarding our music program, Suzuki Violin, was emailed to all Lower Elementary parents. Due to COVID-19, we cannot support additional music options at this time, so please take advantage of the amazing strings program Dr. Ayisha is able to bring to DGM.

UPPER ELEMENTARY UPDATES

- Please be sure to check Transparent Classroom for photos, classroom updates, and more. Your teachers are working very hard to add content to Transparent Classroom for you.
- This week, information regarding our music program, Suzuki Violin, was emailed to all Upper Elementary parents. Due to COVID-19, we cannot support additional music options at this time, so please take advantage of the amazing strings program Dr. Ayisha is able to bring to DGM.
- After receiving parent feedback prior to school starting, we experimented with separating Upper Elementary into two separate classroom families. We successfully created two physical classroom environments with rotating student and staff schedules prior to the first day of school. During the first two weeks of school, we've quickly discovered the physical elements of the classroom separation (materials, restrooms, etc.) were somewhat manageable, but the negative social-emotional, practical, and educational impacts of creating two classroom families

within such a small group has been quite significant. Therefore, over the next few weeks, we will be transitioning UE back to being one classroom family with various safety protocols in place. Upper Elementary has four full-time staff members, two outdoor environments, two restrooms, and six classrooms designated to the program. Starting Monday, August 31, UE will also have access to Classroom 10 for yoga instruction with Ms. Lauren. As we consider these transition options, we will be discussing plans with Safety Task Force as well as discussing considerations with the UE teachers. If you have questions or concerns regarding this family transition, please contact support@desertgardenmontessori.org Also, please remember, you can submit a [Mode of Instruction change form here](#).

- **Starting Monday, August 31:**

- Students and staff in Upper Elementary will no longer be required to wear protective foot coverings (booties) within the classrooms.
- Students in Upper Elementary will be utilizing Classroom 10 as an additional facility to support Ms. Lauren's yoga class when temperatures and/or air quality are not ideal for outdoor PE
- Personal masks will be sent home with the students for laundering
- Personal water bottles will be sent home with the students for cleaning

MYHS UPDATES

- **Starting Monday, August 31:**

- Students and staff in MYHS will no longer be required to wear protective foot coverings (booties) within the classrooms
- Personal masks will be sent home with the students for laundering

ICE CREAM SOCIAL (ICE BREAKER EVENT)

Connect with the teachers, staff, and families of your student's classroom! This online, family-friendly event is a great opportunity to meet everyone in your classroom.

- **Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2020
- **Time:** 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM
- **Location:** ZOOM
- **Zoom Links:** Coming soon

As the benchmarks in Arizona continue to improve, I foresee that more and more students will desire to return to their in-person classrooms with their friends very soon. As this happens, it will be even more important that we continue with our mission of safety protocols as well as social-emotional wellness both on and off campus. Please continue supporting us, so we can continue supporting all of our families.

Once again, thank you for all of your love and support within our community.

In health,



Shetal Walters
Executive Director