



The Washington New Church School

August 13, 2021

Dear Parent,

Welcome parents and students to a new year at Washington New Church School! We're finishing up the summer cleaning, sorting and chaos and will soon be ready to welcome students back into the classroom.

Please read the following carefully. In several cases there are documents that we need you to sign and return.

Health and Emergency Contact Forms:

You should have already received the forms to fill out electronically. If you did not receive them or need a paper copy, please contact the office.

Tuition Invoices:

You should have received your invoice over email. If you would like to pay in installments through the year you will need to signal your acceptance of the payment plan over email or by returning a signed copy of the payment plan.

Parents Service Program:

All families are expected to be involved with community building and volunteer service. Periodically throughout the year we will highlight service opportunities in the news. However, it is your responsibility to participate and then communicate your completed hours to Bonnie Cowley. You will receive a refund of \$400 if you complete your 20 family hours.

Field Trip Permission:

We have made a change in our approach to field trips. We are asking you to sign field trip permission once during the summer and we are wrapping the charges into a single payment invoiced with tuition. You may withdraw permission for a specific trip in the future, but our hope is that we can save parents and our front office lots of time by removing the necessity of collecting money and permissions slips multiple times throughout the year.

Handbook Updates:

Attached with this mailing you will find our most recent handbook. Each year it remains similar to previous years. However, I encourage you to read it through thoroughly at least once and then pay attention to the any changes that I highlight over the summer. Key changes this year:

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- We are not offering a distance learning program (unless forced by circumstances to make a change)
- Aftercare prices have been increased slightly. This is because we have decided to offer a more complete snack as part of the program.
- We have removed our homework detention program. Consequences for failure to complete homework will be handled in each homeroom.
- Shift in approach to field trips (as mentioned above)
- Clarifications with regard to celebrations of birthdays and guest visits to classrooms. (See pg. 12 of handbook).
- Parent Service Program resumed (as mentioned above)

Dismissal Form: To ensure safe dismissal from school, we would like you to fill out the enclosed form letting us know what the usual procedure will be for your children after school. *Please return this form before the first day of school.*

Photo and work Release Form: From time to time the **Washington New Church School** may wish to publish photographs of students, examples of student projects, and other work on our website or in other publications such as flyers and promotions. Please read the enclosed permission, check the acceptable box, sign, and return to the school.

Pandemic Response:

I had heartily hoped that we wouldn't still be discussing the pandemic, and yet here we are. Most of you will be aware that case rates have once again been climbing all over the country. I am pleased to note that Maryland is currently the 9th most vaccinated state in the country, and we also are the 6th lowest in cases/day/100k.

In this mailing you will find our building and program safety protocols. Our approach is drawn from the guidance provided jointly by Maryland's departments of Health and Education, which in turn draws heavily on CDC's guidance for schools. Parents are asked to carefully read this document and then sign and return the included waiver document which communicates acceptance of the risks and intention to fully support the safety protocols.

Despite the gloom of the ongoing pandemic, I think we have reason to hope that it will diminish in the coming months. We can look forward to a largely "normal" year in which we learn, grow and build lasting friendships. On behalf of the whole WNCs team, welcome back to school!

Warmly,



Brian Smith

Principal

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