

Hi Parents,

I hope everyone had a great summer. We are beyond excited to welcome your children back next week. I know that a lot of information has been coming your way, and that there have been many, many decisions to make. We have been working hard to make sure we can answer all questions, and create the best possible space for you and your children. In this email, I hope to answer a number of questions regarding after school this year. I am always available to answer any questions you may have but hope that this email provides some information for us to get started.

### **Staffing Updates/New Hires**

Staffing in after school this year is staying relatively calm, meaning almost our entire team is returning from last year. Due to our efforts to model the containment model of the morning we will be bringing in some new teachers but for now, our awesome lineup is as follows (some of these teachers are here until they start school and new teachers will be introduced with overlap to help acquaint parents and children).

Jalessa Mills left EDS at the end of the year to focus on her children and school. She left us in an awesome place and helped with the behind the scenes after school work until her very last day in July. We wish Jalessa all the best in her new endeavors and know she will stay in touch! Amy Kendrick (formerly the PK GB teacher) has taken over for Jalessa, and we are excited to welcome Amy into this new role.

Young 3s GB/LB - Shelby Ryder and Cheyianne Jones  
3s GB/LB - Sarah Spruill, Laura Sigwald, JahManeek (Georgie) George  
PK LB/GB - Laura Robertson, Lisa Roberts, Keekee Edwards  
K AS - Leila Woodhurst  
1st AS - Kelsey Arthur (is helping us out for the start of the year)  
2nd AS - Taylor Sullivan  
3rd AS - Carrin Barnes  
4th AS - Jay Theodocian  
MS AS - Ana Grace Owens

### **Schedule Changes and Drop Ins**

This year, we will not be able to accommodate drop ins for after school. I am hopeful that after we get the year underway, we will be able to accommodate drop ins, but at the moment, if you have signed up for after school drop in, we cannot make those accommodations. This is in an effort to keep the same containment model in the afternoon that we have in the morning. Students will stay within their pod for activities and programming. If you have signed up for 2 day, 3 day, or 5 day, and need to swap a day, that is something we can accommodate but need at least 24 hours notice. You can provide notice by emailing [efolk@edsaugusta.com](mailto:efolk@edsaugusta.com)

## **Lunch Bunch and Gingerbread Schedule and Dismissal (Young 3s, 3s, and PK)**

Our 3s and Young 3s will remain in their classes, within their pods from 12:30-3. They will eat lunch in their classroom, nap in their classroom, and then (weather permitting) have an extra recess period/activity time. If you are picking your child up at 3pm carpool, you should have received confirmation/information about our new dismissal/carpool procedures. 3s and Young 3s students going to 3pm carpool will wait with their teachers and be walked up and out of the school to a parent/caregiver at their assigned spot.

All 3s and Young 3s staying for Gingerbread and/or Lunch Bunch will get a rest period. We understand that some students do not nap, but they will be given the opportunity to try and offered a quiet activity instead. Please pack a travel pillow, small light blanket, and fitted crib sheet (regular size) for napping. These items should be labeled and come to school with each child on Monday and will be returned for washing on Friday.

PK students staying for Gingerbread and/or Lunch Bunch will not formally nap this year. After lunch, students will be given the opportunity to have a relaxed/quiet activity, but we will not be formally napping. Therefore you do not need to pack napping gear.

Napping mats will be stored in individual mat bags. We are asking parents to help us this year by washing these bags on Fridays when you wash your child's napping materials and brought back on Mondays.

Please pack a change of clothes for your child for after school as well as the day. Please put these in a plastic, labeled, zip lock baggie.

If you are picking up before or after 3pm. Please sign in at the front office, they will call back for your child and we will walk your child up. Parents will not be allowed back to the classrooms this year.

Since parents will not be going back to the classrooms this year, we are working on a more streamlined communication system to inform you of your child's day. This will most likely look like a check in sheet, however please know that myself or the after school teachers are available when you need to ask more detailed questions. Communicating about your child's day remains a top priority.

3s and Young 3s will remain in their pods throughout the afternoon. While pods from the other 3 year old class may be in the same classroom, we will keep the pod model as we move throughout the day. After school teachers will wear masks, and the students will wear masks as well. Extra handwashing and hand sanitizing will occur, along with sanitizing of equipment/supplies after use.

## **LUNCH**

Students will eat lunch in their classrooms. You can still order through Schoolhouse Fare and your lunch will be delivered to your child. If you pack a lunch please make sure it is COMPLETELY NUT FREE. We have a number of students and faculty with allergies and want to make sure we are making the environment safe for everyone. If you pack an alternative butter such as Soy, Cookie, Sun, etc. please label it as such. Anything with nuts will remain unopened in a child's lunch box and sent home.

## **ALL AFTERSCHOOL SNACK (PS, LS, MS)**

For the health and safety of our teachers and students, we are asking each child to bring in an afternoon snack daily to school. We ask that the snack be healthy and placed in an easy to open, labeled, Ziploc bag. We will be taking this opportunity to teach independence and strengthen small motor skills. Water will be provided. Remember, we are PEANUT FREE ZONE, please no peanuts or peanuts products.

## **K-4th After School**

K-4th graders will stay in their pod/unit groupings but will use 1 classroom per grade. For example, students in K1 will go to K2 for after school, but pods will be maintained. Snack will be eaten in the classroom, and then we will get outside as much as possible.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Middle Schoolers in after school will start their afternoon in the library where they will maintain proper social distancing. They will then get to go outside/participate in activities and games but stay socially distanced since they will have more than one grade in their group.

## **ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

While we are not starting the school year off with enrichments (with the exception of piano) I do plan on introducing enrichments once we get going. I am working on a plan to allow enrichments but keep our contained, safe model. More information will be coming about enrichments once the school year has started. If you are a current piano student Mr. Hesse should be reaching out to you about scheduling soon. If you are interested in beginning piano lessons please let me know.

## **EARLY BIRDS**

As with afterschool, we cannot accommodate drop ins to early birds. If you have registered for Early Birds you will enter through the front office. Parents, please walk in with your child (of all ages) to get a temperature check and answer the related health questions. Ms. Keekee will be

our early bird teacher and she will meet the first student to arrive in the front office, after that students who are older than Kindergarten will walk back to room 108. If your child needs to be walked back, a faculty member will walk them back to room 108.

## **GENERAL NOTES**

Students will be encouraged to wear their masks while in the classroom for health and safety reasons and when social distancing cannot be maintained. This year, we will be using the containment model. This means, each child will be assigned to a "family pod" on the first day of school. These pods will contain 3-5 children and will "travel" as a unit. They will play together in centers, work together at tables, sit during learning instruction on the carpet, and eat snack together. The "family pods" will change periodically but only over a weekend so we will have 72 hours of separation from each other. Students who attend after school care will stay in their assigned classrooms and "family pods" throughout the day so there will be no contact among other classes or students.

During times when they are inside the classroom, teachers and students will be expected to wear masks when unable to social distance.

When outdoors, students will be required to wear masks if social distancing cannot be maintained.

During after school we intend to spend a lot of time outside!

We are so excited to have your children with us!

If you have any questions, please let me know!

### ***Please Note The Following For Your Records:***

Pertaining to: Bright From the Start

The Episcopal Day School's after school program is exempt from Bright From the Start licensure due to the following criteria being met:

Section 591-1-1.46(b)(2) and Section 591-1-1.46(b)(3)

A copy of our exemption notification is posted in the front office, and in the Auxiliary Programs office. If you would like more information regarding the exemption please reach out to the Director of Auxiliary Programs.

Best,  
Elise