

# FRIENDSHIP DAY SCHOOL FOR THE SCIENCES AND THE ARTS

## APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER



Happy Spring, FDS Families!

It's been said, April showers, bring May flowers! Thank you for sending us your precious and beautiful flowers to educate. We are nearing the end of the school year. There is still much to do and lots more learning for our scholars to attain. Sometimes, there's a tendency to want to slack off for a short time left to do something. However, we should plan to end like we began – with the same dedication, hard work and perseverance that has propelled us to this point in the school year. In fact, buckling down and doubling down will help stay the course and get us to the finish line. Parents and Guardians, I truly appreciate all you've done and how you'll continue to work with our teachers to ensure that your scholar achieves the skills and knowledge they'll need to best be prepared for next year's grade.

**School Lunch Menu** – When the monthly menu comes home, **please review each day's offering with your scholar in advance of the day.** If the meal for any day is not to their or your liking, please send a lunch from home that day. Also, many of our scholars, especially the third and fourth graders, are growing and desire more food. Consider sending a sandwich or something extra they can eat in addition to the school lunch. Also, please know that food service always prepares alternate meals for those scholars having special dietary restrictions about which parents have informed the school office. However, any other daily alterations to the menu cannot be accommodated. (For example, sometimes a scholar will tell us they don't like a certain kind of cheese though they are not lactose intolerant, or they might say they wanted sliced turkey but the kitchen prepared chunks of turkey.) Some scholars won't eat much or anything if the food isn't to their liking. Scholars need to eat lunch every day, so please decide with them whether to send a lunch or eat the lunch on the menu. By now, you should have received the April menu sent home via an email from the office. Thank you.

**RETURN TO FIELD TRIPS and OTHER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES** - Yes, you heard it here first... FDS will begin having scholars take field trips and to have educational enrichment programs come to the school. Some of you have shared and suggested amazing opportunities you've heard about or wonderful local places that would be enriching for scholars to visit. **It is our goal that each class to take at least**

**one field trip or have at least one in-person enrichment program between now and the end of this school year. Stay tuned.**

**MASK WEARING REVISITED** – Even though Covid is still alive and well among us, and we don't know how many scholars have been fully vaccinated, in consultation with the church, **FDS will make mask wearing OPTIONAL for scholars.** Even so, the church strongly recommends masks. The FDS staff has decided to continue wearing masks and/or shields to protect scholars and their families as well as themselves and their loved ones from Covid infection and spread. All other Covid protocols will still be in effect – taking temperatures, handwashing/hand sanitizing and social distancing. We also will abide by the mask requirements of venues and transportation services when scholars take field trips and school-related outings. Thank you for your continued support of all safety protocols – in school and out - to help keep our entire FDS family healthy and safe from Covid.

**HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION** – FDS has **several ways to keep you informed** of what's happening at school and in your scholar's class:

- Weekly teacher's newsletters
- Class Dojo
- Notices and other information sent home in scholars' book bags (please check them nightly)
- Text messages or phone calls from the teacher
- Emails (from teacher, school office and Ms. Harrison's desk)
- Monthly newsletter from Ms. Harrison
- FDS website: [www.friendshipdayschoolcharlotte.org](http://www.friendshipdayschoolcharlotte.org)
- Phone Blasts from Ms. Harrison (The phone blast system begins by saying, "This is a message from Friendship Missionary Baptist Church." Then you'll hear me saying, "This is Ms. Harrison with a Phone Blast. If you miss the call, it records on your voicemail, so you can listen to it later.)
- FDS Parent Group (FDSPG) bi-monthly meetings
- Contact the office/Ms. Jones at 704.391.6680 or [fds@friendshipcharlotte.org](mailto:fds@friendshipcharlotte.org)
- Contact Ms. Harrison at 704.391.6672 or [rharrison@friendshipcharlotte.org](mailto:rharrison@friendshipcharlotte.org)

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED** – Please be sure that when you exit the carpool line that you **DO NOT make a left turn off McAllister Dr. onto Beatties Ford Rd.** There's a sign at that corner with an arrow indicating no left turn. One of you may not have been aware that a few weeks ago, you could have collided with an FDS staff members as they legally tried to turn left onto McAllister off BFR. Sometimes the police are stationed nearby to ticket drivers turning left illegally. So, please turn right, go a short way down to the next traffic light and make a left legal U-turn to head back up Beatties Ford. Thank you.

**TORNADO SEASON** – On Monday, March 28, FDS had a tornado drill. Scholars learned about the importance of being prepared in the event of a tornado, just as we do for fire drills. We rehearsed where to go and how to assume the recommended posture for best protecting our body and head from flying debris. The scholars and staff did an excellent job during this first tornado drill. Families should practice what to do at home in the event of a tornado. Ask your scholar to tell and teach you what they learned.

**CASH APP** – Please do not use Cash App for any payments until further notice. Thank you.

**TARDINESS AND EARLY PICK-UPS** – *Friendly reminders:* (1) School begins at 8:30 and scholars should be in the classroom – or at least inside the building – by then. We know that sometimes that isn't possible

by the time everyone's car makes it through the carpool line. The school will make sure to start arrival at 8:15... and no, we can't begin any earlier than that. We also know that sometimes traffic problems delay your arrival, so a 5-minute grace period is often given. **It would help the morning carpool line move more quickly if you do the following *as soon as your car turns into the FDS parking lot*:**

- turn off the heat in the car, roll down scholar's window, scholar takes off their hat or hood
- scholars start gathering their belongings (coat, bookbag, projects)
- scholars put on their mask
- scholars unbuckle their seat belt
- you and scholar say your goodbyes before they exit the car
- Dropping off treats? Scholar needs to finish eating breakfast? Need to talk with the teacher or office staff? Please don't hold up the line; pull into a handicapped parking space. Thank you.

(2) We appreciate your working with the school to maintain valuable instructional time by scheduling scholars' appointments for non-school hours: after daily dismissal time, weekends, holidays, and teacher workdays. We do understand that emergencies occur every now and then, but when you know your scholar needs to leave school early, please notify the school and classroom teacher well in advance so interruptions to class time can be minimized. Valuable instructional time is lost when scholars are frequently tardy in the morning or need to leave early.

## APRIL CALENDAR

Monday, April 11 – Monday, April 18 – **SPRING BREAK/NO SCHOOL**

Tuesday, April 19 – **School Resumes**

Thursday, April 21 – FDS Board Retreat for Invited Stakeholders (all parents will be kept informed of and asked to help with decisions for helping FDS continue to soar even more).

Friday, April 22 - **Earth Day** – All classes will celebrate collectively and via in-class activities.

April 25 – 29 – Student-led Parent Conferences (Teachers will provide a sign-up schedule.)

Friday, April 29 – International Fair – The Parent Group will provide the details. Please contact Mrs. Baker if you'd like to volunteer to help.

Friday, April 29 – Mid 4<sup>th</sup>-quarter Progress Reports go home.

**WISHING ALL FDS FAMILIES A BLESSED EASTER & ENJOYABLE SPRING BREAK!**

**Love,**