

July 23rd, 2020

Re: Fall Response, September Tuition Collection & Frequently Answered Questions

Dear ADS Families,

We hope you are all enjoying the summer with your families and staying cool. We want to keep you updated in response to our email which was sent on 7/2/2020. If you did not receive the Fall updates email, please let me know as soon as possible.

A few updates:

- 1) Thank you to the families who have updated me about their enrollment plans for the Fall. If I am still waiting for your decision, I need to know this answer as soon as possible as this number affects both staffing and our budget.
- 2) We had a drastic decrease in students returning for our extended day program. Since we are unable to combine classes for this program, some classes will not be able to offer extended day options at this time. If this applies to you, we will reach out to you if we have not already done so. As of now, it is projected that our extended day program will close promptly at 2:45 in most classes for the Fall. You can find extended day information on our website <https://www.ascensiondallas.org/current-families>
- 3) We are moving forward with opening a 1st-3rd grade class next year at Ascension. This class is full and will be held in a separate location from our day school.
- 4) As mentioned in our last update, we will be collecting tuition one month in advance this year. This means September tuition will be collected August 3rd-7th. Tuition is required to reserve your Fall enrollment for both preschool hours and extended day. Check is always the preferred option. There are two ways to pay: 1) mail a check to ADS 8787 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75243 or 2) drop off a check to the right of the main church entrance Our tuition rates can be found here:
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5988736246c3c4bd44608bc9/t/5f1a11afa358fa6b8637c32/1595543983334/2020-2021+TUITION+Rates_+-+Google+Docs.pdf
If this presents a hardship to any families, please let us know.
- 5) To address the unprecedented new restrictions and requirements associated with COVID-19, ADS has determined it must add a one-time, \$50 COVID fee per child to September tuition. This fee will be used to cover new costs for additional cleaning, cleaning supplies, installing new handwashing sinks, etc. for the Fall semester. We appreciate your support as we work to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

As we navigate and revise many policies in response to school reopening in the Fall with COVID-19, we thought we would provide you with a few frequently asked questions. Please remember guidelines and numbers are changing daily, so everything is pending and subject to change.

How are you keeping up with ever changing current guidelines?

I am very thankful to have some incredible staff that has been working very hard on navigating current guidelines and best practices for reopening. We are a member school of Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools and believe it or not, we had a virtual training back in February guiding us through what life may look like during a pandemic. I am very grateful for their support. We are also a member school of Dallas Early Childhood Christian Educators and we are all in this together navigating the new normal. Recently, we have been meeting weekly to discuss how to safely reopen as well as all of the new guidelines and policies. I am also in a global Facebook group with directors from all over the world. It is so cool to all come together to support each other. We are all in this together!!

Is ADS exempt from the current Dallas County Private & Public School Order issued on 7/16/2020.

Yes, ADS is a licensed day care. We are exempt from this order and are continuing to make every effort to open for the Fall on September 8th. However, we continue to review guidance issued by Dallas County, as well as state and federal authorities, to ensure ADS keeps abreast of the latest updates and recommended best practices.

My child loves chapel and specials' classes, what are your plans for next year?

We are so thankful at Ascension to have fabulous outdoor spaces that are safe to hold specials' classes. We are hopeful to be able to use shared outdoor space such as the courtyard when weather permits. And eventually move specials back into a shared classroom space.

Why is there a change in parents providing snacks?

State licensing does not allow family style snacks, like we have had in the past. For example, a parent would bring a tub of hummus and a bag of veggies straws to share with the class. Since we are unable to continue this, we thought it would be easier for each parent to provide their child an individual daily snack. Parents, don't worry, we are compiling a long easy list of ideas that can still be healthy for you to pack. Most days, classes will have snack time outside. Please stock up on Ziplock type bags. Snacks must be disposable.

What is your plan for learning if the state of Texas temporarily shuts us down?

Each classroom teacher will have a dedicated Facebook page or a Google classroom for their class this year. In the event, the entire school was to close temporarily, we hope to provide an online learning platform similar to the Spring. As always, our ability to operate remotely depends on the financial support of our ADS families.

What if I am an essential worker and I need childcare?

If you are an essential worker needing childcare during this temporary shutdown, we may be able to remain open for you if the state allows and if enough teachers and students are available to work/attend. A form must be filled out by you, your employer, and verified by the director.

Will the teachers and children be required to wear masks or face shields at school?

This answer is dependent on local, state, and federal directives. Currently, teachers are wearing masks and/or face shields in the classroom during summer camp but are not wearing them outside. It is optional for children to wear masks in and outside of the classroom. The students honestly transitioned very easy to the concept of masks. It is just part of everyday life now.

Can I support ADS as a substitute this school year?

This is a great question because many of our substitutes rely on ISDs for childcare, so they can work at ADS. We are currently hiring for substitute teachers. If you or someone you know is interested in subbing, please contact me.

Will ADS collect tuition if school is closed for an extended time?

As everything is constantly changing, this answer also changes. If ADS is required to close for a short period (for cleaning, inclement weather, etc), ADS will still collect tuition. We are not anticipating any extended closures, but will continue to monitor any local, state, or federal restrictions as they are announced. If an extended closure is ordered, we will update Parents on our plans for virtual learning and tuition collection/donations. As in the Spring, ADS is committed to respecting the needs and challenges of parents, staff, and students during any closure.

Are you making improvements to the school for COVID?

Yes, we know that hand washing is key in containing the COVID virus and children are required to enter the facility and immediately wash hands. We are adding two sinks outside the school entrance for student and adult use. We are also adding a sink in a pre-k class, Room 108. We also know that we have to limit parent traffic in the main church entrance, therefore, late drop offs and early pickups will have a new procedure. We are currently gathering quotes to add a camera and door-bell buzzer to the main preschool doors to allow entrance if needed. Licensing states that parents can only enter the facility if absolutely necessary. We are also getting

creative with our outdoor spaces and adding more tables and an outdoor shed with gross motor toys for another outdoor play area.

How will drop offs look and what if we are running late?

Dropoff times will be staggered according to the class. Some classes will be open as early as 8:30 AM and will continue until approximately 9:20 AM. If you are running late, you must wait until a certain time to meet me at the front of the school entrance to let you in. There is a chance drop offs after 9:45 will not be permitted unless otherwise arranged with the director.

COVID-RELATED HEALTH QUESTIONS- For the FAQs below, please know we defer to Texas State Guidelines and CDC for all of these answers and they are constantly changing. You can find our COVID addendum here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5988736246c3c4bd44608bc9/t/5f1a52db2ad02a28c88ec4a6/1595560668512/Parent+Handbook+-+COVID+addendum+-+Google+Docs.pdf>

What if someone in my immediate family gets a COVID positive test result?

Guidelines asks everyone in their family who has had more than 15 minutes direct contact with the positive person to stay home for 14 days. We may ask you to get a test result before returning to school and/or a doctor's note. We are unable to prorate tuition for the time that your family has to quarantine but we are happy to send your child home with their learning materials for this time frame.

What if someone in my family or close contact tests positive, but my child tests negative.

The CDC asks that the family member and child who tests negative stay home for at least 5 days. Again, we are unable to prorate tuition for the time that your family has to quarantine but we are happy to send your child home with their learning materials for this time frame.

What if a child is sent home with COVID symptoms?

A child who is sent home with COVID symptoms is asked to immediately call their physician and get tested. If the test result is positive, the director must be immediately notified in writing. After notification, the director must call the Health Department of Texas and the schools licensing representative. They will give us specific details on how long the class or school has to be closed. All parents will be notified of a child receiving a positive COVID test within 48 hours of a parent's response.

How long is the anticipated closure if staff/children test positive for COVID?

The closure depends on the country and the number of cases in our schools area. Based on what we have observed this summer, most closures are 24-72 hours but in some recent cases

some schools have been asked to close for 5-14 days. It could be a classroom closure or a whole school closure depending on how many children have interacted with the child or staff member.

How will ADS encourage families and students to follow best practices for COVID-19 in the Fall?

There are still so many uncertainties about the long term effects of COVID on our health. We hope that if our families are following our protocols and answering the daily health screening accurately, we can work together to manage any exposure to COVID-19 in our school. We cannot control what families do outside of ADS, however, if we ever felt like a family was not following our daily health questionnaire, your family may be asked to leave our program.

Finally, we are busy preparing for virtual Parent Orientation and in-person Meet the Teacher. We will have these dates to you soon.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Kate