



COVID-19 UPDATE (8.3.21)

Now, more than ever, high quality childcare is extremely important. We know that many families are understandably concerned with the health and safety of their children, especially when they are away from home and in a school. As parents, not only do you require the highest level of safety protocols to be followed at your child's school, but you also want your child to continue to receive a high level of developmental experiences. We promise that at Daniel Island Academy, your child will have both.

During this complex time, our high-quality curriculum and exceptional levels of instruction have not been compromised. We continue to maintain NAEYC standards, and our curriculum is comprised of several different key components to ensure each child's development and learning needs are always being met. Though the COVID restrictions do require modifications, children will continue to receive the tools they need to succeed through all our learning components.

Creative Curriculum, Teaching Strategies, Conscious Discipline, Baby Doll Circle, Mighty Minutes, Get Set for School, Letterland, STEAM and more are offered as essential elements of our preschool program. Our in-house Related Arts programs will continue to include Physical Education, Music/Literacy & Spanish. We believe that these all play an important role in all areas of children's development and are vital pieces of our curriculum and will continue for all classes. Newly purchased equipment and technology will enable Miss Lina, Mr. Jonathan, and Miss Brianna to provide interactive instruction for your child's class. In addition, our teaching staff will continue to have planning periods and breaks. Our Curriculum Team will continue classroom observation utilizing sophisticated audio and video equipment to ensure that our high standards are maintained, and our teachers are supported.

Reference Point will continue to provide all classrooms with individual developmental and classroom activities that support the students' interests, strengths, and needs. Our Reference Point Coordinator, Jenni, will continue to work with teaching staff and will conduct in-person student readiness checks using Brigance and Denver Screening tools. This will begin in September and will be sequenced to allow for proper distancing to prevent the spread of the COVID virus.

We are fully committed to keeping Daniel Island Academy a safe and healthy place for our students, families and staff and want to let you know about some of the additional steps we are taking. **We exceed all standard COVID-19 protocols to keep our families safe.**

- We have a micro aerosol spray machine that disinfects the ENTIRE building twice a week.
- Masks are always worn by all adults outside the classroom.
- Hospital-grade disinfectant spray is utilized throughout the day for high touch areas. We have a large team of staff members who share these responsibilities to ensure this is done.

- All our classrooms are programed as “bubbles” to minimize the spread of COVID-19 so that in the event we have a positive case, we may not have to shut the entire school down.
- **REVISED** Starting August 9, 2021, school hours will be 7:00am - 5:30pm.
- We have eliminated ALL entry into classrooms, giving access only to the students and staff.
- Only one class is permitted on each playground (lower & upper wing) at a time.
- Playground equipment is disinfected after EACH use with a hospital-grade product using a pump sprayer.
- **REVISED** Temperature checks **MUST** be done by ALL individuals **prior to entering** the building **EACH DAY**. Temps must be entered into the Tadpoles app for the student as well as their designated drop-off and pick-up person **prior to being checked into the classroom by teacher**. This is our first line of defense and is mandatory. Entry is not allowed for temperatures above 100.4.
 - *(effective June 1, 2021)* Temperature checks will no longer be required of staff and families.
- **ONLY ONE** family member is permitted beyond the lobby area. We ask that families refrain from bringing siblings and relatives into the building.
- Strict social distancing protocols are used throughout the school. One example is how we have converted our multipurpose rooms into a large space that allows staff members to take breaks while maintaining at least a 6-foot separation.
- Provide paid COVID leave time for staff to encourage staff to stay home when symptomatic to help reduce transmission.
- Children returning to DIA after being ill with the following
 - Fever (100.4 or >)
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - New or worsening cough
 MUST have either tested negative for COVID-19 or a medical evaluation determines that their symptoms were more likely due to another cause (e.g., fever due to ear infection).
- Children with symptoms previously mentioned who do not get tested for COVID-19 should isolate until:
 - Ten (10) days have passed since symptoms started
 AND
 - Twenty-four (24) hours have passed since the last fever without taking medicine to reduce fever
 AND
 - Overall improvement in symptoms (does not hinder a child’s ability to participate in class activities)

Classes that are closed for specified quarantine reasons will begin virtual classes the next morning. The curriculum team and classroom teachers will ensure a quality and meaningful program will be available for those students during this time. Full tuition will continue during the quarantine period and staff will continue to get paid. We will reopen classrooms using the reopening criteria provided by SCDHEC. An individual's ability to return to school upon reopening of the classroom is defined in the SC DHEC interim guidelines. The high standards that Daniel Island Academy has always set for us has now been extended to accommodate the necessary protocols and changes due to COVID-19. Despite the changes that we have had to make, we are convinced that we will not just survive the adaptations, we will thrive. We are #DIAStrong.

**SCDHEC 05-07-21 Interim Guidance*