

DOHERTY FAQ'S

The learning curve to entering a new situation can seem steep and schools are no exception. While all the information below is available in other school publications, mailings, and/or calendars, we hope the following “***Frequently Asked Questions***” will help you plan your year at Doherty.

Watch the calendar for yearly events such as New Student Orientation, Parent Coffee, the Summer Social, Parents’ Night, and Homecoming.

Pick-Up Procedures – Please have a sign with your family’s name placed on the passenger side windshield of your vehicle when picking up from carline. Please make sure anyone (parents, nannies, grandparents, etc.) picking your child up in carline has this placed in the windshield. This will make the pick-up process move quickly and also ensure your child is leaving with the proper person.

Can I visit the school during the day? Visitors are more than welcome at Doherty! Whether visiting your student for lunch or volunteering in the classroom or library, ALL persons must first stop by the office to sign in and get a badge. We like to know who is on our campus to keep the students and faculty safe.

How can I become involved in the Parent Community? The Doherty Parent Community (PC) is a hard - working group of parents and we welcome your interest in activities and attendance at meetings. The purpose of the PC is to support our teachers and foster school community. It is a place to make friends and learn about the school events. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

Are athletics offered at the lower school level? We at Seven Hills are dedicated to providing a superior athletic program-one that will challenge and develop students’ skills to the fullest, with respect for other teams, officials, and teammates. We believe significant learning takes place in athletics and have developed our program with student interest and participation in mind. We feel a

student who is involved in student life other than in the classroom constitutes a well-rounded student and contributes to the spirit of the school.

- **Fall:** S.A.Y. Soccer - Boys and girls, grades 1-5/Kdg. boys and girls who will be six by July 31

Volleyball - Girls, grades 3-6

- **Winter:** Basketball - Boys and girls - grades 3-4 Instructional League; boys and girls - grade 5 Interscholastic; boys and girls - grades 1-2 basketball clinic

- **Spring:** Softball - Girls - grades 1-5/boys - grades 1-3/Kdg. boys and girls who will be six by June 30

- **Spring:** Baseball - Boys - grades 4-5

Track - Girls and boys grades 1-5

Lacrosse – Girls and boys grades 3-6

What does the counselor do? The lower school guidance program has four main components: classroom guidance, short-term individual counseling, group counseling, and parent education. The focus of those components emphasizes social, emotional, and developmental skills children need at this age. When therapy is indicated, children are referred to outside professionals.

Can I access Seven Hills on the Web? In our effort to be more environmentally responsible, we are increasingly incorporating the use of our website for communication with families. On the website (**my.7hills.org**) you will find most information under “Stinger Central,” simply click on “Doherty.” You will find “Schoology” under “Links.” Here you can access information from your child’s teacher, announcements of upcoming events, etc. The weekly blast (Doherty Bookbag), along with lots of other information, is emailed to parents, so please be sure the school has your current email address.

When will I find out who my child’s teacher is for the year? Determining a class make-up is one of the most complicated and important tasks of the school year. It is a collective effort of the faculty, counseling department, and administration. The needs of the students drive the process as we consider academic progress, social needs, gender, leadership, age, learning style,

siblings, students new to the school, etc. The lists can change and seem endless, and is a process that literally lasts from early May to the day before school starts. It is because of the careful consideration the faculty gives to every single placement that we wait until the Friday before school starts to email you who your child's homeroom teacher is for the year. We are sure you can understand that we cannot accommodate phone calls given the number of calls we would receive.

What is the Summer Social? The Summer Social is held in the courtyard by Faran Hall. It's a great time to meet the teachers and make new friends. We do cancel if it rains.

What is Parents' Night? This is a very important evening which sets the stage for a successful year. Check the calendar in "Stinger Central" for the date in late August.

What about parent conferences and report cards? You can schedule conferences and access report cards online in November and February. You will receive two separate emails with a password from the Technology Department, one when the conference sign-up is open, and one when report cards are available to view (usually a couple of days prior to conferences). Pre-kindergarten's November conference will consist of only a verbal exchange about the child's progress.

Why should I schedule a conference? It is our hope that every parent will come to conferences. It is an important time to share information, celebrate successes, and plan for the future. Conferences are held both in the evening and during the day to accommodate all family schedules.

Are there any parent education opportunities? Parent Education programs (Creating Conversations) are provided by Seven Hills and are outstanding! Watch the calendar for dates and topics. We encourage attendance.

Am I expected to attend the Halloween parade? Our parade is very low key. Many parents come and many don't. It is for the students and not meant to be a formal event. You are, however, welcome to join us in the courtyard or gym depending on the weather.

What is Grandparents' Day? Grandparents' Day is a time to celebrate special people, whether it be a grandparent, parent, aunt/uncle or friend. The day is casual and child centered. We recognize that we have many families with multiple children so we have staggered the schedule in the hope of allowing a guest to spend time with more than one child. The Unit III students invite their guests to a special lunch and are asked to pack a personal lunch for them. Some guests choose to be the packer, which is just fine with us. While the day may grow long for a few guests, please know that the children will talk about the day for years to come. It is, indeed, special.

What are the special programs? Our **Winter Program** is on the Friday before winter break and will be held in the Schiff Center on the Hillsdale campus. Students may leave after the program. The **June Program** is a celebration of the year and includes grades 1-5. It is held in the courtyard or the gym each June. The courtyard can get hot, so bring your sunglasses and water!

Do Doherty students participate in TSHS Homecoming? Homecoming is a terrific fall tradition for all grades at TSHS. Friday evening includes Middle School soccer and tennis games as well as sports clinics for grades 1-8, autograph sessions with Upper School athletes, and a pep rally with fireworks! Saturday features varsity soccer games and the Upper School dance. Check your calendar for the specific dates.

What is the Resale Shop? The Resale Shop is our most effective Seven Hills fundraiser and provides a great resource to the community. It is on the Hillsdale campus. We welcome shoppers, volunteers and donations.

How are Doherty fundraisers different from other TSHS fundraisers? Doherty fundraisers (book fair and carnival/silent auction) are on a divisional level and are an invitation to participate. We understand that families will choose based on their own needs. Funds are used to support the program/kids. Doherty fundraisers are not an expectation.

Where is the Spirit Shop? The Spirit Shop is located on the Hillsdale campus (hours are M-F 12:30-1:30) and carries a variety of school spirit items from sweatshirts to pencils and coffee mugs. We are excited to offer a mini Spirit Shop on the Doherty Campus as well!

Is parking and traffic a problem? There are about 20 minutes in the morning and in the afternoon that are crucial to safe and smooth arrival and dismissal. Please watch parking signs and traffic procedures. They are meant to keep our children safe.

What is the Uniform Closet? We have a closet full of gently used uniforms in Haile Hall. You are welcome to take, trade, and/or return uniforms. This is very informal and we don't have all sizes, but you are welcome to search through the closet.

How will I know if school is closed for snow? Parents are notified through our automated phone calling system and posted on the Homepage of the Seven Hills website when school is closed or there is a delay. Naturally, Encore Club is closed on those days as well.

Is it okay to call a teacher? We not only welcome, but encourage, phone calls from parents. Faculty, however, have very busy lives and families outside of school. While you are welcome to call in the evening with an emergency (occasionally homework can feel like an emergency), please try to call during the school day and leave a message. A message will allow the teacher to call you when he/she can focus on you and your child rather than cooking dinner or putting their children to bed. Your questions are important to us and we want to give them our best response.

Can I email messages to teachers? People who work in schools are with children rather than at their desk and it is very likely they will not read their email until the end of the day or the following day. Do NOT send an email and assume that it is read that day. For example, changes in transportation arrangements should never be sent by email. A child may be on the wrong bus by the time the teacher reads it. The faculty will respond to email as they do a note or letter, within a few days. Please call the office with any changes in transportation for that day. When it comes to children, we still enjoy the conversations that we have with parents. We cherish the relationships that we build.

What about absences due to illness and vacation? Schools fight against colds and flu constantly by encouraging our children to wash their hands often and through education, but we need your help. If your child is sick, please give

them enough time to recover at home, and be sure to call the office so we know that they are safe at home. Homework may be picked up during your child's illness. Vacations outside the school vacation schedule are discouraged. Repeated absences do make a difference in progress. Much of our curriculum is through active participation and discovery. We cannot duplicate the day, nor do we necessarily know the direction of each lesson. The best lesson plans change, based on the needs of the class.

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