

Welcome Back to Doherty!

Dear Doherty Families,

Welcome back and a first-time official welcome to our new families! With August upon us, the campus is getting busier and we are excited to welcome our students and their families back.

We faced a challenging year last year but are optimistic about our ability to allow many things to return to “normal” this year. We are thrilled to be able to have our parents back in our buildings again. This year we will still face continuous changes related to COVID but will remain diligent and thoughtful in our approach to managing everyone’s safety.

Each year we review our Seven Hills Values and select a value to be the focus of the year. Last year was challenging for all of us as a community, so it seems fitting that this year’s value of focus is “Commitment to Community”. Seven Hills has always been a beacon for what it means to be a school community and to say we embodied that last year is an understatement. Together, we truly exhibited strength and commitment, but most of all it was the collaborative, caring efforts of everyone that allowed us to remain in school for the year. It was not easy and the separation from one another was felt by everyone, so we look forward to putting a focus on building on the strength of our already amazing community!

The beginning of the year is certainly exciting, but it can also be a bit of a challenge to navigate. To make it a little easier I have included some key information below. Don’t forget that this information is also available on our webpage in Stinger Central. Simply go to www.7hills.org and click on “my seven hills” and then “Stinger Central”.

To say we are eager to see our students and families once again is an understatement. We have missed you all tremendously and are anxious to get this school year going. We will see you soon!

Tracy Murch
Head of Doherty

Class Assignment:

You will receive an email on Friday, Aug. 20 with your child's class assignment.

School Hours:

The school day begins at 8:30 a.m. Students are not admitted into the classrooms until 7:55 a.m. If students arrive earlier than 7:55, they will be sent to early care. **PLEASE NOTE:** Pick up times have changed. Pre-k and kindergarten will be dismissed at 3:00 and Gr 1 - 5 at 3:15. If you have more than one child, please *pick up at the dismissal time of your oldest child*. Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. so students must arrive on campus with enough time to gather materials and settle in by 8:30.

New Faces/New Places:

This year we welcome a few new faces, a few returning faces and few people in new positions! We are fortunate to have them all on board.

- Kristen Post will join us as our Spanish teacher.
- Tracy Hickenlooper makes her return to Doherty as a Unit III teacher.
- Moriah Phillips, who has been with us since her student teaching days, joins us as a Unit II teacher.
- Tori Jansing will be joining our Encore program.
- Racheal Quinn comes to Seven Hills as our Director of Diversity.

Programmatic Changes:

We have made a couple of changes to our program that you should be aware of.

- Our two-year-old program will run slightly differently this year. The three and five day students will be in the same classroom spaces with Mrs. Brackett, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Ravenscraft. This allows the students to have the opportunity to interact with more friends throughout the day.
- We have adopted a new math series in both Lower Schools. After a yearlong review of several of the top programs we have selected Bridges Mathematics. More information about the program can be found [here](#).
- In Units II and III we will provide Language Arts and Math instruction in grade level cohorts. This will allow the teachers to better differentiate for each child's needs.
- Seven Hills is pleased to announce a new partnership with Best Point Behavioral Health to offer on-site mental health services for our students on both campuses. Best Point will provide an independently-licensed therapist to work with students. These optional and confidential services will supplement those currently offered by our own school guidance counselors.

Important Beginning of the Year Dates:

Friday, August 20

Class placements emailed home

Sunday, August 22

12:30 – 1:00 Student Welcome: students may visit their classrooms and meet their teachers.

1:00 – 3:00 Parent Community Summer Social, Doherty Courtyard: Informal gathering for families to meet one another. Although this event is outdoors we do ask that you wear a mask.

Tuesday, August 24

First day of school for all students

8:30 Parent Coffee, Library: Informal morning coffee for parents provided by our Parent Community.

Thursday, August 26

6:30 Parent Night: Introduction to your child's classroom. More information will follow with specifics.

Tuesday, August 31

Student Picture Day: Students may come out of uniform.

Additionally, there are a number of documents that are attached here for your reference, please make sure to read them carefully and let us know if you have any questions:

- [Head of School Welcome Back Letter](#)
- [New Faces/New Places](#)
- [Doherty Parent Community Letter](#)
- [Seven Hills Parent Community Letter](#)
- [Pick Up and Dismissal Information](#)
- [Morning Care and After the Bell Information and Sign Up](#)
- [Food Service Information](#)
- Student Picture Day Information - packets will be sent home with students
- [Master Calendar for the 2021 – 2022 School Year](#)
- [Student Dress Code Gr 1 – 5](#)
- [Student Dress Code PK - K](#)
- [Doherty Map](#)
- Student Handbook - can be found on Stinger Central
- [PK Handbook](#)
- [Doherty Traffic Flow Map](#)

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- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Reopening Plans

We are currently faced with a landscape that continues to change due to COVID-19. We were hopeful that we would be able to return to our “normal” days but we find ourselves in a situation where we need to make decisions based on what is right for our students. Lower School students are the one age group that has not been given the option of being vaccinated and because of this Seven Hills has taken seriously the responsibility to keep our children, families, faculty and staff healthy. In order to make informed, responsible decisions, we continue to consult our COVID team who closely monitor information from local and state resources, National Association of Independent Schools, Ohio Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and several other governing and research bodies. Please keep in mind that the research about COVID-19 is continually changing and updating. As a school, we will monitor changes and update our protocols accordingly.

Community Expectations:

We are a community and as such have a shared responsibility to care for one another. To help keep students, staff, and faculty safe it is imperative that all members of our school community remain committed to the safety policies and procedures.

Arriving and Leaving Campus:

All those arriving on campus must be wearing a face mask. Parents and visitors will be allowed to enter the school this year, but will be required to wear a mask. We continuously monitor the recommendations for children under 12 as well as our own community experience and will make any updates or changes as needed.

Late students must go to the office prior to going to their classrooms.

WHEN YOU COME TO CAMPUS FOR DROP OFF AND PICK UP, PLEASE HAVE A SIGN IN YOUR WINDOW WITH YOUR LAST NAME CLEARLY VISIBLE. YOU CAN MAKE THIS ON AN 8 ½ X 11 SHEET OF PAPER. THIS WILL HELP US TO KEEP THE PICK-UP LINES MOVING.

Entry points to the school will return to normal with our main entrances being used.

Mask Requirements:

Masks may be a solid color, simple pattern, or Seven Hills themed. Please do not send in masks that might be distracting.

- ❖ Masks should be designed to stay on and cover the nose and the mouth.
- ❖ Masks should be clean.
- ❖ Masks should have ear loops or straps/ties around the head.
- ❖ Masks should not have valves.

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- ❖ Neck gaiters are not an acceptable alternative.
 - ❖ You may want to send in extra masks for your child to keep at school.

While At School:

Cleaning and Disinfection – We will continue to have the classrooms cleaned daily and in the event that a child tests positive, extra care will be given to the classroom.

Hand Washing - Teachers and students will continue to practice frequent handwashing throughout the day.

Face Covering – For now, all employees, visitors, and students in Pre-k - 5 must wear masks when inside school buildings (including classrooms, hallways, libraries, and common areas) and on school-provided transportation. Students will be allowed to remove their masks when outside. Although face coverings are not required for our 2-year-olds, we will continue to provide sun hats with shields and will encourage them to wear them.

Lunch- Our lunch service will return to full service this year rather than boxed lunches and K – 5 will resume using the lunch line. Because students will be unmasked, and in mixed grade level groups, plexiglass dividers will still be used.

Student Cohorts – This year our students will be allowed more freedom in their cohorts. Grade/Units will be allowed to mix amongst the grade/unit, and teachers will keep seating charts for the purpose of identifying close contacts if a child becomes ill.

Movement around the school will return to normal.

Field Trips/Social Events - Field trips and social events will resume though some may still require some adjustments depending on the situation. Overnight field trips will not yet resume for Lower School students.

Visitors and Guests - Visitors and guests will be allowed into the school again! We do require that you wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth.

Updated Protocols for Confirmed or Suspected Illness

Our protocols are based on new guidelines from Cincinnati Children's Hospital, the CDC, and local health authorities. Because our children are not yet vaccinated, we will resume the requirements for quarantine when necessary. Please keep your children home when they are not feeling well. Our nurses will advise you on what needs to be

done should your child become symptomatic. If you are ever unsure about what to do, please feel free to reach out to them.

There is a lot of information, but remember, if you are unsure or have questions you can always call!