



# Welcome to Discovery Trails

## Back to School!

Welcome back to another year at Discovery Trails! After a long hiatus due to COVID-19, it is so nice to begin a new chapter.

With Coronavirus still among us, we have some rules and regulations we must follow for safety. Please familiarize yourself with the new drop off and pick up procedures listed in this newsletter.

Due to social distancing rules, we will alter our Back to School Night for Parents that was scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> and the Back to School Social scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Back to School PowerPoint/ZOOM Night:

- We will send out the Back to School PowerPoint on August 17<sup>th</sup>. You will then be invited to a ZOOM Parent Meeting for Back to School Q and A on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. You don't have to Q and A...join and say "hi!"
- You will receive, via email, our 2020 Parent Handbook and our "COVID" Flyer. Please know COVID rules may change at any time. We will consider the COVID Flyer a working document.

### Back to School Social-Saturday August 22:

- 10:30am-11:30am
- Drive up to school and say "hi" to your teachers!
- Get a Back to School Goodie Bag!

## Dates to Remember

August 17-19: Home Visits  
for New Students

August 17: Back to School PowerPoint  
will be sent out

August 20: Back to School Parent  
Night ZOOM Meeting for Q and A  
6:30pm

August 22: Back to School Social  
Drive-Thru 10:30am-11:30am

August 24: First Day of School!

September 4: Picture Day!

September 7: Labor Day

No School

## Home Visits

HOME VISITS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR NEW STUDENTS THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17TH. HOME VISITS BEGIN THE BONDING PROCESS BETWEEN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS THAT INFLUENCES LEARNING! BECAUSE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES, THESE VISITS WILL TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE THIS YEAR.



# Looking Ahead to August

When school begins we will introduce our Back to School Unit that helps us discover ourselves and understand our new friends. Here is a list of some of the projects and activities planned for the month of August.

## Language Arts

- Listening to stories such as *The Kissing Hand*, *The Big Orange Splot!*, *The Crayon Box that Talked* and *Little Blue- Little Yellow*
- Writing: “In a box of crayons I would be the color \_\_\_\_\_” and “I am great because \_\_\_\_\_”
- Rhyming families -ill and -at with *Jack and Jill* and *Grandma’s Glasses*
- Preparing for writing with horizontal and vertical lines, push and pull circles
- Name writing practice

## Physical

- Fine motor activities to prepare for writing
- Playing Personal Space Dots
- Dancing to the Mood Song and Take a Feather
- Using a pool noodle to hit a balloon
- Racing Spoon Games
- Tracing and Cutting

## Math and Science

- Favorite Color Graph
- Favorite Cereal 3D Graph
- Predict: What will happen when colors are blended?
- Will it Sink or Float?
- Counting and Sorting
- Reading: How Did that Get to My Table? Cereal
- What do you see?
- Corn plant dissection

## Social Skills

- Social Stories like *We Are All Alike- We Are All Different*, *The Shape of Me and Chrysanthemum*
- Find someone similar, find someone different
- Self portraits
- Journaling: I live in a \_\_\_\_\_ house.
- Busy Bee Back to Back

## More News

### Specials 2020-2021

Our specials for this school year will be Art, Music, Physical Education, S.T.E.A.M., YOGA, and Sign Language. During the school year we will be adding news for each of these specials in our newsletters.

**Student Forms:** Each year we are required to update student forms. The forms will go out via email. If you need hard copies, please let us know.

Physical forms expire on the one-year anniversary of the last physical. Please be sure to update this as your child gets a new physical. Immunizations should be updated as new shots are received. Children opting out of immunizations or choosing to utilize a different schedule than recommended will need to fill out a form with the state. Please be sure to return a new Permission to Transport to the Hospital form as required yearly by the State of Colorado.



### Allergy Aware

We assess the food restrictions of the students depending on the school year. For the 2020-2021 school year, Discovery Trails ELA will **NOT BE Allergy Aware**. Students **may** bring any item to school containing **peanuts or tree-nuts**. For the health and safety of our students, this might change at any time.

A LOT OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING NEWSLETTERS, MONTHLY CALENDARS AND REMINDERS ARE DONE VIA EMAIL AND FACEBOOK. PLEASE BE SURE TO GIVE US ALL THE EMAILS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO USE FOR THIS AND UPDATE ANY EMAILS WE CURRENTLY HAVE FOR YOU. THANKS!





## What your child needs to bring to school:

- One water bottle with a lid. Due to health regulations, water bottles must stay in the child's school issued backpack. Please be sure your child's first and last name is on the bottle.
- Please allow your child to bring favorite rest time items to school. We do ask that anything brought to school be small enough to fit in the cubby COMPLETELY. This is a health department regulation. Also, these items should be taken home at least weekly for cleaning.
- Apply sunscreen to your child every day before school. We ask that an extra bottle of sunscreen be left at school for any days we extend time outdoors. Please mark the sunscreen with first and last name.
- Please have your child bring a jacket, sweater or sweatshirt EVERY DAY.
- A helmet that can stay at school for scooters and bikes outside.
- A LUNCH BOX for students to bring a healthy snack for the morning snack time and their lunch. If you have a preference as to what your child eats for snack, please mark the items as "snack" or we will help your child choose something healthy. Lunches may be cold or hot and we can heat items in the microwave. These items must be in a microwave-safe container and/or send along a paper plate. **PLEASE TRY TO CHOOSE CONTAINERS YOUR CHILD CAN OPEN AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE AND PRACTICE AT HOME!** The less we touch, the safer we all are.  
  
\*\*Some children get hungry in the afternoon. During learning centers, your child may choose to have a snack. Please pack enough food so that your child will have a choice. \*\*
- Face Masks are not required but highly recommended. Please supply two so they can be changed when soiled.

## What your child DOES NOT need to bring to school:

Colorado State Licensing, the El Paso County Health Department and the school's nurse consultant has asked that certain items not come to school for health and safety at this time. **Because of this, Discovery Trails is providing:**

- One clear, vinyl backpack for each child. This backpack can go home and back to school and from school to home. It is easy to disinfect, and children can see inside for personal items.
- Eating utensils
- Change of clothes...sweatpants, undergarments, socks and tee shirts for those times a change of clothes is needed

## Drop Off Procedure

- Please bring your child's school issued backpack every day.
- Please allow 6ft distancing while waiting.
- Sign your child in outside (weather permitting). Answer the health evaluation questions. Please use a "clean" pen and place used ones in the "used" bin to be sanitized.
- Be sure to initial that you applied sunscreen to your child.
- Wait at the door for a teacher. Your child's temperature will be taken and you can enter and put your child's items away and wash your hands and your child's hands.
- **ALL ADULTS MUST WEAR A MASK IN THE BUILDING.**
- Siblings may not enter except infants.
- If you feel ill, please do not enter our building.
- If you answer "yes" to any health evaluation question, we ask that students do not attend school for at least 24 hours after symptoms subside. Please see COVID rules below.
- Since we allow only two families in the building at a time, we ask you to leave quickly. We promise to help your child settle in to school and provide something fun for redirection. We want your child to have a positive experience, too.

## Pick Up Procedure

- Please sign your child out outside using a "clean" pen and place used pen in the "used" bin.
- Please wait outside 6ft apart.
- We will gather your child's belongings and bring your child to you.
- If you feel ill, please call or email us and we can sign your child out and bring him or her to you in the parking lot.

## Morning Mission Boxes

One of our families' favorite activities has been the Morning Mission Boxes provided during morning drop off. This allowed for parents and students to enjoy time together before school. Unfortunately, until COVID safety rules change, these will not be available. Weather permitting, we will offer some outdoor activities during drop off. We will do our best to be creative!

# Discovery Trails COVID-19 Guidelines

COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. Coronavirus has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely dangerous and is believed to be spread from person-to-person contact. COVID-19 can look different in different people. For many people, being sick with COVID-19 would be a little bit like having the flu. People can get a fever, cough, or have a hard time taking deep breaths. Most people who have gotten COVID-19 have not gotten very sick. Only a small group of people who get it have had more serious problems (CDC, 2020).

## What DT will do...

- Implement new pick up and drop off procedures to avoid contact.
- Take temperatures and health evaluations daily
- Keep children in groups of 10 or less as often as possible.
- Allow 3-4 children in a learning center at a time.
- Execute disinfecting procedures that meet or exceed guidelines.
- Supervise handwashing
- Stagger mealtimes for distance.
- Encourage more outdoor activities.
- Keep nap cots more than 6ft apart.

## When to Expect a Closure

1. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, we must quarantine for 14 days. This means, we will not have school for 2 weeks.
2. If the State of Colorado mandates a closure for childcare/preschool
3. If a child or staff member is suspected of having COVID-19, we will contact the El Paso County Health Department, our school nurse and Colorado State Licensing for instructions. This may mean a short cleaning closure or other recommendation.
4. If local school districts close, we will evaluate for health risks in the best interest of students, families and staff.

## When your child needs to stay home:

Children get sick from many things not related to COVID-19. However, because it is often hard to tell when your child has a simple cold, allergies, a stomach bug or COVID-19, we ask that children who have these symptoms to please stay home until the symptoms subside for at least 24 hours or your child has been evaluated by a health care professional and deemed safe to attend school:

- Cough
- Runny Nose or Congestion
- Sore Throat
- Fever Above 100.4 Degrees
- Difficulty Breathing
- Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Body Aches/Chills
- Excessive Sleepiness

## If Your Child Gets Sick at School...

Sometimes children who come to school feeling fine begin to show symptoms of an illness while at school. If your child has any symptoms of an illness that deem him or her not safe to be at school, your child will be isolated, and you will be called to come and pick him or her up. Because of the threat of COVID-19, licensing regulations require that you pick your child up within 30 minutes or arrange for someone else to pick up within that time frame.

## How You Can Help...

- Have your children wash hands often for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, use sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol. Teach your child not to pick his or her nose.
- Avoid people who are sick or who have been traveling
- Put distance between your children and other people outside of your home. Six feet from others is recommended.
- **Encourage your children to wear masks when in a public setting.**
- Stay safe and healthy so your children stay safe and healthy.
- Please do not make contact with staff or come into the building if you feel unwell.

## What to Expect During a Closure

If Discovery Trails is closed for less than 20 consecutive school days (one month), we will convert to e-learning. We know that for preschoolers, this is not optimum. We will use ZOOM to provide our morning teacher-guided group session for days your child would attend school. We will send activities via email to correspond to the lesson for the day. In addition, as each child at Discovery Trails has an individual curricular plan working one on one with a teacher, a teacher will provide an individual lesson for your child(ren) during the day on days your child(ren) are scheduled to attend. Depending on the student, this could be shorter or longer and will be based on your child's ability level, attention span and developmental expectations.

In order for us to maintain operating costs, full tuition will be expected during this time. If Discovery Trails is mandated to remain closed longer than one month, we will reassess and offer parents options on how to move forward with the academic school year.

# 2020-2021 School Calendar

A copy can be found on our website at [www.discoverytrailsacademy.com](http://www.discoverytrailsacademy.com) (2020-2021 tab)

## Discovery Trails Early Learning Academy

## 2020-2021 School Calendar

June				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

### June

### December

**12/18**: Last Day before Break  
**12/21-1/2**: Winter Break

December				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

July				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

### July

**7/4**: Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
**7/20-24**: Summer Camp  
**Break-Camp! 9AM-12PM**

### January

**1/18**: Students Return  
**1/18**: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – School Closed

January				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

August				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

### August

**8/20**: Back to School Night-No Kids 6:30  
**8/22**: 10:30AM-Noon Back to School Social (**Saturday**)  
**8/23**: First Day of School

### February

**2/12**: Grading Day – ½ day (noon dismissal)  
**2/15**: President's Day – School Closed  
**2/16**: P/T Conferences – No School  
**2/27**: Report Cards Go Home

February				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

September				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

### September

**9/7**: Labor Day – School Closed

### March

**3/22-25 Spring**: Break (no school)

March				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

October				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

### October

**10/19**: Teacher Training Day-School Closed  
**10/28**: Grading Day – ½ day (noon dismissal)  
**10/29-30**: P/T Conferences – No School

### April

April				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

### November

**11/20**: Thanksgiving Feast – ½ day (noon dismissal)  
**11/23-25**: Thanksgiving Break-No School

### May

**5/22**: Last Day of School, 12:00 Lunch Report Cards Go Home  
**5/23**: P/T Conferences – No School

May				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
30	31			

**Contact Days:**  
 5 days per week-172  
 3 days per week-102  
 2 days per week-70