

Kingswood Elementary School

Panther Pride

2020-2021

August 2020

Dear Kingswood Families:



We are pleased to welcome you back to a new school year! We hope that this letter finds everyone safe and healthy. Please keep in mind that information is changing daily and we must be open to changes to systems as they become necessary. We will do our best to keep you informed with the latest information. It is important that you please notify the school if you have changed your email or phone number. Check on our school website for up to date information. The school website is <https://www.mysdhc.org/kingswood> and the district website can be located at <https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/>. Additionally, we do have a school twitter account where you can follow us to see exciting things happening here at school or in the community: @HCPS_Kingswood.

As we return to school this year, we want to express the importance of health and safety. Our number one goal here at Kingswood is always to keep our children safe and healthy. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines regarding proper protocols as they pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic. The main changes to note are as follows:

*All children and staff will be required to wear a mask that covers both the mouth and nose. If your child does not have a mask, one will be provided for him/her that may be reused and washed at home.

*Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible

*Visitors will not be permitted on school campuses in Hillsborough County. This includes walking your child to/from class. We will have adults on staff to assist in this area and all good-byes must be done outside the school doors.

*Meetings will be held virtually. Contact your child's teacher if a meeting is needed for any reason.

*Sanitation Stations are set up in each classroom and good handwashing will be taught and encouraged.

*Water fountains will not be available so students should bring their own reusable filled water bottle with their name on it each day. We will have bottled water should a child need one.

*Supplies/manipulatives will not be shared among students.

*Movement between classes will be limited so that contact tracing can be implemented quickly in the event of a positive Covid case. If a positive covid case is discovered, letters will be sent home with students advising you of the next step depending on their interaction with the positive person. For privacy reasons, we will not disclose the name of the individual who tested positive but we will provide you with your next steps which could include quarantine.

*Students displaying symptoms related to Covid will be sent to the clinic to be assessed. Once a determination is made on the next step, the parent will be notified. Please keep children home if they have a fever or other symptoms related to Covid in an effort to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Despite the many challenges we are facing as a society, we still are very optimistic and expect great learning to occur this year! Our theme for this school year is **"Kingswood Kids are out of this World!"**.

As a school, we will do our best to keep you informed of what is happening here at Kingswood throughout the year. Keeping in mind, your best source of information is your child's teacher(s). **Although your child will be here at school, we do want you to continue to utilize the Canvas platform as you will continue to see more and more reasons to utilize Canvas as your child continues through his/her schooling in Hillsborough County. Here is a link to the Canvas Family Guide if you need assistance:** <https://sdhc.instructure.com/courses/3146>. All school personnel have a school email address that is their first.name.last.name@sdhc.k12.fl.us. So for example, administration can be reached at: Lisa.Amos@sdhc.k12.fl.us or Kyle.Ritchie@sdhc.k12.fl.us by email. The best way to get in touch with school personnel would be through email or another means they arrange directly with you as some personnel are working from home.

There are several important pieces of information in this packet. Please take the time to review each one carefully and return the first 2 documents in the envelope with your child tomorrow morning.

1. **The Emergency Information Card** is included in this packet, please update and return this card **immediately**. It is essential that we have at least **two** emergency contacts other than yourself. We ask that you **list** and **keep current** the daytime telephone numbers for all contacts on the emergency card. *Please be reminded: **No one** will be able to sign your child out from school unless they are **listed** on the emergency card. This year we are also stressing the importance of listing your **email address** for communication.
2. **A Permission to Participate form** is included. Please read each section, **choose an option, sign and date**. Once again, your **child's name** and the **name of the teacher** must be printed at the top. If you do not want your child's image on our website or twitter, please check the correct box.
3. **The Student Dismissal Arrangement** form(Gold) Please fill out the entire form and sign at the bottom. This will be the only way we send your child home unless you notify the teacher in writing that you need a change.

Please visit the Hillsborough County Public Schools website (www.sdhc.k12.fl.us) and select Student Nutrition to access the **Free/Reduced Lunch Form**. It is important that everyone apply for free/reduced lunch as we must qualify each year for Title I Federal Funds.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist at the school either in a classroom, in the media center, or a field trip/special event, please complete the Y.E.S volunteer application on our website, www.kingswood.mysdhc.org. **PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ALL VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT BEING PERMITTED AT THIS TIME FOR SAFETY REASONS PERTAINING TO COVID.** However, you may want to complete that task now so that in the event that we are able to allow such events and/or visitors, you will already have gone through the screening process(this can take 2 weeks or more)

Communication between school and parents is essential. We always look forward to working in conjunction with our families.

Sincerely,

Lisa Amos
Principal