



**Your steadfast love, O Lord,  
extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Psalm 36:5**

Dear JOY School families,

We pray this letter finds you all healthy, happy and blessed! We are ready to kick this year off! Our theme this year is *Blast off!* We will be going on adventures through space as we learn about the wonderful love and faithfulness of our sweet Lord. He is so faithful and loves each one of us so much.

In life we all experience challenges and change, and 2020 has been one of those years for all of us. JOY school may look a little different this year but together we can work to make it a successful, safe, and fun learning experience for everyone. We will outline some of those changes for you in this letter and will have an updated JOY School Parent Handbook for you with updated policies and procedures specifically regarding COVID-19 in the current school year. Please be patient with us as this is new territory. We will adjust as needed throughout the year as new guidelines are released.

1<sup>st</sup> day of School /Meet the Teacher

**JOY School will start September 8<sup>th</sup>.** We possible, we plan to continue and to follow the SAISD school calendar. If this changes you will receive notification through Smartcare. Due to COVID restrictions our Meet the Teacher will be held in the parking lot. This will be a chance for you and your little one to meet your teacher, get a copy of the handbook, and purchase a school t-shirt. Please practice social distancing. All individuals ages 10 and older are asked to please wear a face mask. You will receive a phone call from your child's teacher by Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. The schedule is as follows:

**Meet the Teacher \*Come and go event\* JOY School PARKING LOT**

KDO: Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 @ the D- Town Children's Entrance of parking lot

Preschool 3's: Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 in the parking lot along the sidewalk of the playground

Preschool 4's & Kindergarten: Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 @ the main entrance of the school

### Daily Drop off/Sick Policy

Due to COVID-19 restrictions currently in place, we will have daily drop off and pick up of the children outside of the center. To help with traffic flow, the **KDO children should be dropped off and picked up at the KDO entrance**. This is located at the D-Town Children's Entrance. **Preschool 3's will be dropped off and picked up at the playground gate**, (we will have this gate entrance marked with a sign) and **preschool 4's and Kindergarten will be dropped off at the main entrance doors of the school**. (If you have multiple children enrolled with us, you may drop all your children off at the youngest child's entrance.) We will have hand sanitizer at each station for you to sanitize your child's hands each day along with a JOY school employee to walk your child to class/teacher each day. Each morning we will take the temperature and a health screening of each child before they enter the building. This will also be done for all JOY School staff. Anyone entering the building who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 will be sent home immediately:

- cough
- sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- loss of taste
- chills
- diarrhea
- muscle pains
- measured temp of 100 or greater
- headache
- known close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19

Please understand these new drop off/pick up procedures are to help keep everyone healthy and are guidelines given by the CDC. We understand this is not ideal and will be hard for some of our little ones until they are adjusted. We will do our best to make this an easy transition for everyone.

**(We plan to start the drop off procedure at 8:20 each morning to help traffic flow).**

### Sick Policy/Absence

If a JOY School student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, we will contact CDC and our licensing representative. Our families will receive a notification via Smartcare. We will at that time follow the instruction from the CDC.

If a student or staff has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does NOT get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, they may not return to JOY School until 72 hours have passed since recovery without fever and medication, they have improvement in respiratory symptoms, and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. If the student or staff has symptoms of COVID-19 and want to return to school or work before completing the self-isolation period, they must obtain medical clearance in writing from a medical professional before returning.

If student or staff are sent home sick and are not assumed to have symptoms of COVID-19 student or staff may return to JOY School after 48 hours symptom free without medication.

If a parent believes themselves or their child has had close contact to someone with COVID-19, but are not currently sick, they should monitor their health for possible COVID-19 symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in contact with the individual and not attend JOY School. The same applies to JOY School staff.

If a staff member or student is sent home because they have been in close contact with a person that has tested positive with COVID-19 we will contact our licensing rep for instruction.

If your child is going to be absent, please notify the JOY School office and let us know how many days your child will be out and the reason for the absence.

#### Cut Off Time for Drop Off/Pick-Up

The **cut off time to drop your child off at school is 9:00 AM** unless you have a doctor note.

If you need to pick your child up early from school, please let us know that morning when you are dropping your child off and what time you will be arriving to pick them up. There will be **NO EARLY PICK-UPS AFTER 11:30**. If you are experiencing a family emergency please call the school office. Early pickups will be done at the front entrance of the school. Please call the school when you have arrived. All entrances and exits will be closed during the day. If you have children in both KDO and Preschool and wish to pick both children up during the NOON Preschool pick-up time, please let us know when you are dropping your children off that morning.

Children will only be allowed to be picked up by individuals that are on their authorized pick-up list. Make sure to have your ID ready and available to be checked during pick up. We will have the sign out sheets in place for you and a staff member in place to get your child.

**(We plan to start the pick-up process at 11:50 for the Preschool 3 & 4 year old classes, and 1:05 for our Kindergarten and KDO classes to help with traffic flow).**

#### Communication

We understand that pickup is normally a great time for teachers to communicate with parents. Since parent pick will no longer be done in the classroom the parent teacher communication will be done through Smartcare and/or folders sent home.

If you feel a parent teacher conference needs to be scheduled, please call the school office.

JOY School administration will continue to communicate to families through class notes in the child's folder, Facebook, emails via Smartcare, & Remind app.

**\*\*\*We are looking at the possibility of utilizing an electronic drop off/pick-up system. If we are able to do so we will notify you before school starts\*\*\***

[joyschool@gmbc.org](mailto:joyschool@gmbc.org)

325-947-1638

Remind app text @joyschool to 81010

### Extended Care/Friday Fun Day/Special Events

Until current restrictions are lifted, JOY School will not be offering Extended Care classes to our Preschool 3 and 4-year-old classes as we have in years past. As soon as we can offer these classes again, we will notify you through Smartcare.

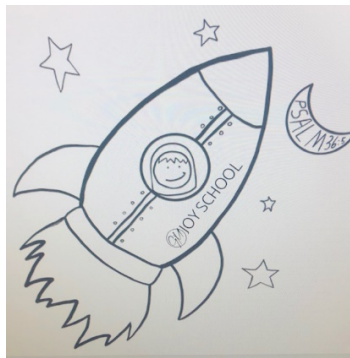
We will not be offering the KDO Friday Funday class this year. If this changes we will let you know via Smartcare.

Due to current restrictions, our JOY School calendar looks a bit different this year. We are looking at our annual events and working hard to find new ways to implement them. Any changes made to the calendar or school events that we make we will notify you as soon as possible via Smartcare.

### Cleaning Procedures

Our staff will be wearing a face masks when 6 feet distance is not possible. Children are not required to wear face masks. Hand sanitizer will be in the classrooms and in most common areas where hand washing is not available. The teachers will have a daily cleaning routine that they will follow each day in order to keep themselves and the little ones healthy. Our cleaning crew will be here each day before and after school to clean and sanitize the restrooms and classrooms. They will also be stopping in midday to sanitize each restroom. The school has purchased a fog machine that will be used at the end of the school day and each evening. The fog machine is an extra measure we are taking to ensure the school is clean and healthy. Dress up clothes, stuffed animals and cloth type items have been removed from the classrooms to help slow the spread of germs. Please do not send these types of items from home for your child, other than a backpack if needed.

Please send extra changes of clothes for child in a zip lock bag and label the bag with your child's name.



Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.  
Psalm 36:5

We are so excited about the upcoming school year. We would jump to the moon and back to make it happen! Our God is good, and loving and faithful. Two years ago, I saw a picture of an adorable little spaceship and I knew 2020 would be an "outer space" theme. I just wasn't sure what scripture went with this little spaceship. This spring I was having a devotional and praying over this school year. I kept thinking about how much He loves us and how faithful He his! Psalm 36:5 reads, your steadfast love, O

Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. He is so faithful through it all! All the ups and downs, all the struggles and tears, the laughter and all those sweet giggles. He loves us bigger than the sun and moon! I can't even begin to tell you how much we've missed you all and how ready the teachers and all the staff are to kick this year off! Let's not only have a safe and healthy school year, let's have a fantastic fun filled year and blast off into learning together!

In Christ,

Mrs. Liz