



Frequently Asked Questions

(for distribution on Friday, June 5, 2020)

Enrollment and withdrawal considerations:

We put in a temporary withdrawal just for June. When do we need to confirm with the school that we are returning in July?

If you placed a temporary withdrawal for June only, we are planning and staffing for your July return! If you wish to extend it another month, we will need to know by Friday, June 12 since we are already making staffing decisions and class placement decisions given capacity constraints that may be in effect for July.

When do we have to make the decision about returning in August?

If you have submitted a temporary withdrawal for June and July with an August 3 return date, and reconsider and decide not to have your child return, we need to be informed in writing by July 6th. We understand that some families want more time to make a decision, however, we also have to be able to plan for staffing, class placement and enrollment of siblings, and therefore need a firm commitment.

Can we extend the temporary withdrawal beyond August (or two months)?

If you know you want to extend beyond August first, please let us know by Friday June 12 if you are seriously considering requesting an extension to the temporary withdrawal. We want to partner with families, and will do our best given the competing needs at this time. Please reach out to the Admissions Coordinator.

Are you enforcing the 60 day withdrawal policy?

We have understandably been very accommodating with parents requests to withdraw, and last minute decisions. We understand that these are very difficult times and very difficult decisions. However, we need to have adequate time to plan and adjust, and cannot do this when parents are making last minute decisions. Of course, as always, if a parent is furloughed, we work with them on this. You may recall that in a prior communication, we communicated that the 60 day notice period has been reinstated so that we can plan for the fall.

When will move ups occur? (*PCM and NS specific*)

This summer has been extremely difficult to plan moveups, and we still cannot plan them given the group size limitation mandates of BFTS. As these mandates ease - or we are informed that they will be eased by a specific date, we can then do more moveups. Until then, we can only do move ups as attrition occurs.

We realize that this can be frustrating, but rest assured our trained teachers are equipped to give the more advanced lessons.

When will you know availability for August? Especially for siblings in the wait pool.

Right now we are trying to figure out our available spaces given uncertain family plans and evolving group size limitations. We hope that in the next couple weeks we have a much firmer idea on available spaces and will let you know as soon as we know.

What happens if group size limitation mandates change up or down and how can it affect enrollment or class placement?

The group size limitations (which include both teachers and students) imposed by the governor (and Bright from the Start) and have gone from 10 in April to 20 during May, and as of June 1st are now at 25 person group size. We anticipate that at some point it will go to 30, or the limit will become licensed capacity however, if the COVID19 rates increase in Georgia this could be delayed.

We have been evaluating and adjusting our capacities for both group size limitations and what makes sense in this time. The practical reality is that unfortunately, if we bump up against group size limitations in July or August we have several options: families share one slot, use the movement room for graduating students, extend out temporary withdrawals, delay moveups, reassign students to different classrooms, or temporarily accept children back to other Campuses with capacity.

Please know that this situation is being closely monitored and will be carefully evaluated by both the faculty and the leadership team. We ask that you be flexible and understanding if this occurs because it is truly out of our control. We anticipate that this will not be a major issue, but we want you to be aware that this could happen.

If a classroom has to close due to COVID-19, will tuition be reimbursed?

It is our sincere hope that this does not occur and that is why we are asking everyone in our community to follow the protocols (social distancing, handwashing, staying away from sick people, and staying away from our community if exhibiting symptoms). In the event a classroom closes, we will need to assess the situation and its duration. It is our understanding that most of the time, these closures are days - not weeks, and in this case, there would not be an adjustment.

Hours and days of operation:

Is there any flexibility with the pickup times for families who commute to work or are essential workers?

Right now, we are working through the logistics of outdoor drop off and pick up, and also have staffing constraints due to Contact Tracing Requirements and not sharing teachers between classrooms. Because we need our faculty to both meet children at drop off location and we have to staff the classrooms, a staggered schedule is extremely difficult to accommodate and exposes a classroom to being out of ratio. That being said, we recognize that for some families these altered hours are a real hardship, and we are working one on one with them to find a solution that works.

Do you have an idea of when the school will operate at normal business hours (7a to 6p)?

Like you, we of course want our routines to go back to a new normal. The key driver to extending hours of operation will be distancing requirements. When these are lifted and we are comfortable with the protocols effectively minimizing risk of cross exposure to COVID19 is when we will extend the hours. The key variables are the restrictions that remain in place by the governor and the guidance by the CDC.

Is the school closing in celebration of the 4th of July holiday?

As of right now, we are planning to close for the three day break. The feedback we have gotten from many families is that they are continuing with holiday plans and will not be attending for these three days (July 1 through 3). The only factor that could change our plans is if there are closures during June, in which we would reconsider whether we will remain closed all three days.

Enrichment:

When will weekly music, movement and spanish restart?

Right now it is very challenging to offer music, movement and Spanish when the enrichment teachers cannot enter the classrooms because they cannot move between groups. We are meeting with them to devise new ways to deliver lessons - outside with social distancing or through virtual lessons. We will resume our regular enrichment classes when we get clear guidance that it is safe to do so.

Optional enrichment:

Optional enrichment will restart when it is safe to do so, first starting with our internal staff, and then with outside vendors. Outside vendors are viewed as higher risk since they visit other schools. Outside vendors include karate, tap/ballet and yoga (PCM and NS).

DLI program at public schools:

If you have a child who will be graduating this year and you are planning on applying your child to a DLI program at a public school when they graduate to Kindergarten, please make sure that your classroom teacher and director are informed in writing. If you are on the fence, please also let your director know. We had planned to have every Primary classroom staffed with a DLI instructor this year, but with COVID19 we have implemented a hiring freeze so we're not able to move around staff or fill vacant DLI positions.