

Even if you have been a Dixie School parent for a number of years, please review the following information that is important for the opening of school:

1. **EMERGENCY CARDS** – TWO emergency cards are enclosed with this letter (one blue and one white). Please fill them out completely and return them to your child's teacher on the first day of school. It is important to keep the cards up-to-date during the school year.
2. **PARENTS' RIGHTS** – This notice will be sent out the first day of school. Please sign and return the blue card stating that you have read the notice.
3. **DISTRICT POLICIES BOOKLET**— Each school year, every school district is required to notify parents/guardians of certain legal rights as reflected in state and federal law. Please keep this booklet, sent home on the first day, to refer to throughout the year. Additional information on the District's 504 policy regarding students with disabilities (Policy 6164.6) and access at school sites is available at school offices.

We are in the second year of implementing our **Student Wellness Policy**. Foods brought to school for birthdays and celebrations are required to follow the district nutrition guidelines. Our website features a list of healthy party and holiday foods for parents as well as a list of non-food alternatives for celebrations. Celebrations should occur after the last lunch period when possible. Please join us in our nutrition mission to find alternatives to the sugary, fat-saturated foods normally associated with classroom celebrations—please provide healthy foods and beverages for any parties or events that take place during the school day.

We strongly recommend that families regularly check the Megan's Law website for information about registered sex offenders living in our community:

<http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/>

OTHER DISTRICT INFORMATION – Student insurance information, milk program letter, free/reduced meals packet, and a pesticide use notification letter and workshop flyer will also be sent home on the first day of school. **EACH YEAR students who need to take medication at school (INCLUDING OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS) will need to pick up an "Authorization to Administer Medication" form from the office and have it signed by a physician.**

4. **Food Allergies** – In order to provide a safe learning environment for all of our students, we are asking that all families and students are aware of the content of the food that they bring to school each day. We have several children at school with severe allergies to nuts. Each time you choose NOT to send in nut-containing products (peanuts as well as "tree nuts" such as almonds, walnuts, pecans, etc.), you are contributing to keeping the allergic children safe. For some children with a severe food allergy, strict avoidance is the only way to prevent a severe allergic reaction that for some people can be life threatening. To enable these students to participate in all class and school activities, we ask that you and your children are fully aware of the serious health implications and help us to adhere to our plan to address these concerns.
5. **ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL / DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL**— Because no teachers will be on duty, all students are required to arrive **after 8:05 A.M.** *We cannot have children arriving early and waiting in the office each morning.* If, for any reason, your child arrives late to school, or must leave early, please have him/her check in with the office. A note is necessary

for early dismissal. Children are expected to be picked up at their dismissal time for the same reasons.

6. **AUTO TRAFFIC RULES** – Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with our traffic guidelines. A top priority Dixie School goal is to **ensure the safety of all of our students** coming to and from school. Please be the kind of driver you want your child to encounter and **please drive with extreme caution**. A few important safety reminders:
 - Obey all traffic laws (no speeding, no parking in red zones or crosswalks, etc.)
 - No U-turns on Idylberry -- \$275 fine!
 - **“Drop and Don’t Stop!” if using the drop-off loop in the mornings. (See enclosed map). Do not leave your car at any time.**
 - Parking lot is reserved for bus and staff parking only.
 - Park on the street if you wish to walk students onto the campus.
 - Students must cross **only** at crosswalks.
 - Do not walk your child through the parking lot -- use the sidewalk at all times.
 - **Use the path on the east side of the Multipurpose Room and/or the pathway near the soccer field (best for upper grade students) to decrease congestion at the main entrance to the school.**
 - **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES UNLESS YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO SO.**

7. **VISITORS** – All visitors must sign in at the school office, including parent volunteers. Parent volunteers need to pick up a badge from the office and return it at the end of their volunteer time.

8. **ABSENCES** – If your child is absent from school for any reason, we would appreciate a call to the school office by 8:00 A.M. (492-3730) or you can leave a message on our answering machine at any time.

9. **IDENTIFICATION OF CLOTHING** – Please label all garments and personal belongings clearly. Periodically check our lost and found rack in front of the office. Lost and found items will be donated to a charity at the end of each trimester.

10. **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS** – Enclosed is your child’s teacher assignment. Your child has been placed with care using collaborative input from you, as parents, from your child’s previous teacher, from specialists and support staff. We have attempted to provide the best educational setting possible for all children. Classes have been balanced with regard to boy/girl ratio, learning styles and abilities, academic and social needs, and equitable class size. We have confidence in our staff and in your children and we make sure that every class has a mosaic of students with varying interests, needs, strengths, cultural backgrounds, and languages. For these reasons, please do not call or drop in to the office for an appointment regarding classroom assignments until after September 7th. No class changes are expected during the first weeks of school.

11. **LUNCH**

Grades 1–2	11:50 – 12:10 (eating)	12:10 – 12:25 (playing)
Grade 3	11:55 – 12:15 (eating)	12:15–12:40 (playing)
Grades 4–5	12:00 – 12:20 (eating)	12:20 – 12:45 (playing)

Please remember to include a healthy morning snack for your child even if your child buys lunch at the Dixie Diner.

12. INDEPENDENT STUDY CONTRACTS

School districts in California only get credit for Independent Study Contracts if they are written for five or more days. You can request a contract from your child's teacher when you know you will be out of town for at least 5 days and **MUST** be returned on your first day back. Teachers can give parents make-up work for three or four days of absence, but teachers will not be writing contracts. We do encourage you to take vacations during the scheduled vacation times noted on the District calendar. It is impossible to put in a make-up folder the work your child would miss at school during a single day of absence.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT/LIFESKILLS

Students will be following a Code of Conduct again this year. Our playground citation system will assist students who are having difficulty following the Code of Conduct. A citation is a warning and a reminder to follow the school rules. You will be receiving a more detailed outline of the School wide Behavior Management System. We will also continue the implementation of our LifeSkills program. All four Dixie schools emphasize the same LifeSkills each month. Our LifeSkill for the month of August/September is PERSONAL BEST. Our CODE OF CONDUCT is **Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible.**

Whether you are new to Dixie or a returning family, we encourage you to become an active participant in your child's education and to get involved in the life of this wonderful school. There are many jobs of all sizes that are essential to the success of our school. If you're not sure how to become involved, please ask—we'd love to have you! We have much to be proud of at Dixie School and working together we will continue to create an exciting and stimulating learning community. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Flynn
Principal