



Charles R. Drew Transition Center
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Greetings to all Parents/Guardians:

We want to welcome back our students and extend a warm welcome to the new students coming to Drew. The purpose of this communication is to provide you information about the 2021-2022 school year at the Charles R. Drew Transition Center in the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

COVID-19

I have been involved in education for 30 years. I am proud to say all my years have been with the Detroit Public Schools, serving the families and students of the great city of Detroit. COVID-19 has put us in uncharted waters, and we are working hard to address our students' needs. I pray that COVID-19 has not impacted you or your family.

As a community we have learned many valuable lessons in the last year. Research has shown that our students with exceptional needs learn best in a Face to Face setting, therefore our ESE programs will only be offered face to face this school year. Medical documentation will be required to be exempt from face to face instruction. If a student is exempt, we will assist with technology and virtual instruction will be discussed.

We have done everything humanly possible to make our school campus COVID-19 ready; including having temperature checkpoints, adhering to social distancing, and having sanitizer in the classrooms. Our custodians will be cleaning high touch areas every hour. We have masks for the students. All staff regardless of vaccination status are required to wear masks and /or face shields. All staff have been trained in COVID-19 strategies and all have been cleared to report because they did not test positive for COVID-19. Additionally, testing will occur weekly at Drew to ensure the wellbeing of everyone at Drew. With a consent form, students can be saliva tested every week.

Vaccinations are available for our students and we encourage families to consider this option. We are asking for your help. Please discuss the importance of your young adult wearing a mask. If possible, take their temperature before they leave in the morning. A temperature read of 100.4 or greater indicates you should not send your young adult to school. A process is in place to deal with a student that comes to school and has a temperature of 100.4. This includes placement in an isolation room and immediate communication to the family.

Again, Drew is working hard to ensure that the building is safe. Our ventilation systems have been checked and meet the CDC's guidelines for building readiness. Drew meets guidelines from the CDC, MI Safe Return, and DPSCD plans for reopening a school. We believe that all of us working together can achieve many things including dealing with this pandemic.

Tablets

Drew has a loaner laptop program to provide technology for our students. Loaner laptop deployment procedures will be communicated.

Visitors to the Building

This is a difficult area for administration at Drew. We are proud of the school and love to showcase it to our families. If a parent wants to come to Drew please call the main office first (313-873-6880) and make an appointment to come. Remember you must wear a mask and you will have your temperature checked at the main entrance.

Additional Information:

The first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 7, 2021. The school hours are 9:00 AM - 4:10 PM. The transportation department (313-945-8600) will be mailing information to you on bus route numbers.

Please provide your student with a note/card that includes his/her name, contact number, and bus route information.

Please note:

- Drew is an enclosed campus. This makes Drew a more secure facility. There is one main entrance, which is the parking lot off the West Chicago side. It is identified by a welcome guests/visitor's sign made by the Drew students. We have the ability to let people in and out of our parking lot; thus, you must ring the bell to enter the building. All parents and visitors must sign in and out at the security desk. All visitors are expected to act professionally and in a courteous manner.
- Drew will continue to be the "One Stop Support Shop". We will continue to provide information to families of persons with disabilities of all ages and provide onsite support from the Community Mental Health Agencies housed at Drew.

Emergency Contact Information

Please know that we need to maintain an emergency contact sheet for students that identifies individual emergency contacts and their phone numbers. I am a principal that wants to be proactive and not reactive. On several occasions last year, we had a need to contact a student's family because of a situation that had occurred in school. Some phone numbers we had were disconnected and/or family members identified were no longer viable contacts. **Emergency, medical, and special dietary forms will soon be sent home with your student by his/her teacher on the first day of class. Your student should return it to his/her membership teacher the following day. For students that are homebound, all forms will be made available. Always notify us as soon as possible of any changes to your contact information.**

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices/Headphones

Cell phones have been the root of many problems at Drew. **Therefore, the use of cell phones/electronic devices (e.g. radio headphones) during school hours is prohibited unless approved by the administration and teacher for educational purposes. It is a district policy that students must have their phones turned off and they must not be visible.** A parent/guardian can get a message to their son/daughter by contacting the main office (313-873-6880). **The first time a student is caught using a phone/electronic device during the day for other than educational purposes, they will receive a warning. If they are caught again, the phone/electronic device, will be confiscated until the end of the school day. Drew and DPSCD are not responsible for the loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to students' cell phones or electronic devices. We cannot expend time looking for lost cell phones or electronic devices.**

Student Dress

The reputation of the Charles R. Drew Transition Center is based to a great extent upon the behavior and appearance of its student body. Student dress should reflect the importance of the skills they receive and the education. All students are expected to dress and groom in a way that best reflects themselves, their families, and their school. Due to the number of different programs at Drew, it is difficult to be detailed to what a student is to wear. For example, a student who is in the horticulture program will be working with dirt. Thus, they should come to school dressed in a manner that is applicable to that type of work (i.e. no new clothes that they cannot get dirty). Items to avoid include the following:

- Ripped, torn, shredded, distressed, or otherwise modified clothing
- Clothing that is either revealing or provocative, showing abdomen region or cleavage, halter tops, or pants that sag below the waistline or that are excessively tight
- Bedtime attire such as pajamas, undershirts, or undergarments as outerwear
- Clothing that display statements or pictures that are related to the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, or sex, that promote hate and/or violence or signify gang affiliations
- Attire that may be considered weapons, including but not limited to chain belts or wallet chains
- Jewelry or similar artifacts that are obscene or may cause disruptions to the educational environment
- Hats, caps, bandanas, or do-rags, except headwear worn for legitimate religious or cultural purposes

All students should dress appropriately!

We want you to know that it is a privilege to continue to serve the parents and families of the Detroit Public Schools Community District. We hope everyone had a restful and joyful summer. We will continue to have high expectations for the students of the Transition Center. We will work hard to serve the families, students, and staff of the Charles R. Drew Transition Center. The Drew staff will continue to do everything within our power to ensure that students, families, staff, and community members have the best possible experience each time they call or visit Drew.

Educationally yours,

Robert Avedisian, Principal

Miriam Dzandu Phillips, Assistant Principal

