



Charles R. Drew Transition Center  
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**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”**

**Nelson Mandela**

July 14, 2022

Greetings to all Parents/Guardians:

I 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 2022-2023 school year at the Charles R. Drew Transition Center in the Detroit Public Schools Community District. Drew administration will consist of Assistant Principal Miriam Dzandu-Phillips and Assistant Principal Simone Gardner. I am sure you all know who Miriam Dzandu-Phillips is and we want to welcome Assistant Principal Simone Gardner to Drew.

### **Covid 19**

We have been dealing with Covid 19 since March 2020. I believe we have gained a lot of knowledge in dealing with Covid. I strongly recommend the vaccine for Drew students and families. We now see many venues opening up in the country. We have continued to serve our students and this Fall, there are many new initiatives that will make this new school year a greater experience for our students. If you know former Drew students that quit coming because of Covid, now is the time to return. Any family is welcome to come visit Drew to see how well prepared we are to educate the students.

**From Dr. Nikolai Vitti:** Please be advised that any employee or student may take a COVID/saliva test at no cost at the Renaissance and East English Village drive throughs Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon throughout the summer and next school year. In addition, each school will have a nurse with ample access to rapid tests. Any employee or student may use these tests if they are symptomatic or fear that they have been exposed to COVID. Required COVID weekly testing for employees and students is discontinued unless required by federal, state, and/or city health requirements.

### **Laptops**

All Drew students will be issued a new laptop in September. The students will be able to take the laptops home. Every laptop will require a signed agreement from the parent/guardian.

**Building Upgrades-** Our huge technology initiatives for our students includes, new wiring, new cameras, and IROVER TV's with interactive capabilities in every classroom. The Pandemic exposed the digital divide that existed for a large urban school district- we have addressed this! Every classroom will be teaching technology and we will shrink this digital divide!!

### **Visitors to the Building**

If a parent wants to come to Drew, please call the main office first (313-873-6880) and make an appointment to come. Visitors must sign in at the security desk and report to the main office. Drew does have a metal detector. A metal detector is considered a best practice to ensure the safety and security of students.

### **Additional Information:**

**The first day of school for students is Monday, August 29, 2022. 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/visitors 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. Families are welcome to visit our parent room where computer accessibility and beneficial information is available.

### **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. **A form 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. Please notify us as soon as possible of any changes to your contact information.**

### **Cell Phones/Electronic Devices/Head Phones**

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 loss 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!**

## **OPEN HOUSE**

There is an Open House scheduled for Saturday August 6, 2022 from 10:00-1:00 PM. Please enter the parking lot from the West Chicago side. I promise you will love what you see.

I want you to know that I truly feel it is a privilege to continue to serve the parents and families of the Detroit Public Schools Community District. I hope everyone had a restful and joyful summer. I will continue to have high expectations for the students of the Transition Center. I 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.

## **LET US EDUCATE YOUR YOUNG ADULT**

**Educationally yours,**

**Robert Avedisian, Principal**