



July 1, 2020

Dear Pathways Parents,

Thank you for your grace and patience with me this spring and summer as we have lived through these extraordinary times. During our middle school years, my older brother, Michael, was a fan of the old, classic TV series, "The Twilight Zone", and I can't help but think of our current pandemic reality in that way! It's been very challenging, to say the least, to make plans for a moving target. However, the true reality is we still have lives to live and God's kingdom work to do so I wanted to send you a brief update regarding plans for the quickly approaching school year.

As of right now, I am moving forward with the assumption that school will begin as scheduled on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, depending on the class your child is enrolled in. Under normal circumstances, Pathways School closely follows the DSISD calendar. However, we are all still waiting on details from DSISD regarding their plans for the 2020-2021 school year. In the meantime, I will continue to closely monitor the public health status of our community and will delay the start date, if deemed necessary.

In addition, Pathways class sizes and ratios were already far below the legal limit for each age group, so our class sizes meet the newly suggested ratios offered by Texas Health and Human Services and the CDC for licensed programs operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am working on clear procedures for both students, staff, and families regarding how we will operate and logistically manage our school days to create as safe an environment as possible. I plan to have a COVID-19 Response Plan to share with you by July 15<sup>th</sup>. However, as I'm sure you already know, this situation is completely fluid and plans are subject to change. Any additions or changes will be emailed out to you and posted on our website along with the current Parent Handbook (<https://www.dsumc.org/forms-information/>). Please expect to see changes, for the time being, in the following areas that most directly involve you as the parent:

- Arrival & Pick-up procedures
- What to bring to school
- Special Events
- Onset illness while at school
- School visitors

Please trust that first and foremost, Pathways School will always try to do the right thing in any situation. Following Jesus's instructions to love the Lord and love others as yourself. Though our present days may seem like a weird "twilight zone", we cling to the truth that our God is with us in this season, and his presence and word will light a path for us through the darkness. We appreciate your faith and trust in us as we navigate these uncharted waters and cannot wait to get back to our work and ministry with your children and family!

Stay safe and healthy,  
*Mrs. Fernandez*

Mary Fernandez, MS ECE  
Pathways School Director