

July 29, 2020

Dear Don Estridge High Tech Middle School Parent/Guardian:

It is my pleasure to welcome our new families to Don Estridge and our returning families back to The Don!

Since we will be starting the school year in distance learning, it is incredibly important that your email address and phone number are accurate in the Student Information System (SIS). The first day of school is Monday, August 31st. Prior to the first day of school, important information will be shared with families, as needed; also, once the school year begins, families will receive weekly emails from the school. This communication will be sent to the email address located in SIS. If you have made any changes to your contact information since last school year, please contact our front office at 561-989-7800.

Throughout the duration of distance learning, high quality instruction with a laser focus on the social and emotional needs of our students will continue to be a priority for our teachers & staff. As your family prepares to join us for the school year, there are some things I would like to share with you that pertain to distance learning. With administrative support, select teachers have been working on developing school-wide procedures for distance learning to ensure a seamless start to the school year for our students and families. These procedures are being created to address our lessons learned from distance learning last year. School personnel have also reviewed the District's Reopening Plan, and Don Estridge will adhere to the assurances set forth in this plan.

In an effort to support our families and clearly communicate school-wide procedures for distance learning, you will receive a link to view a video on How to Train Your Dragon for Distance Learning, prior to the start of school. We are also working on our deployment schedule for technology, textbooks, and the return of personal items, such as yearbooks, from last year. Families can expect to receive this schedule in the next two weeks.

Until then, please complete the parent questionnaire on the school district website as soon as possible. We are monitoring the data collected from this questionnaire to reserve chromebooks and help to address internet concerns. One questionnaire should be completed per student.

Here is a link to the questionnaire:

<https://sites.google.com/palmbeachschools.org/preference/home>.

In order to complete the questionnaire, you will need to know your student's identification number.

Here is a video on how to locate this number:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UVHOpic8Gw>.

Finally, parents of students entering Grade 7 should email their Physical Exam Form (DH3040) and Immunization Form (DH680) to Bonnie Benjamin at bonnie.benjamin@palmbeachschools.org. If your child has a religious or medical exemption the school must have a copy on file, which can also be emailed to Mrs. Benjamin.

Thank you in advance for your support this year. The entire Don Estridge High Tech Middle School faculty looks forward to sharing this school year with your family.

Warmly,

Rachel Capitano, Principal