



August 25, 2021

Dear Steele Families,

As we prepare for another school year with Covid, we are doing such with the utmost care and consideration for the children, families, staff and general community's health and safety. We are providing you with key information below about updated policies and procedures in order to make the transition back to our center as smooth as possible.

All policies previously listed in the parent handbook are still intact unless there is an update below. We are grateful for the input of experts and stakeholders who are advising us on the best course of action. **With the ever-changing environment we are currently living in and the continued unknowns of Covid-19, all policies, procedures and schedules are subject to change.** We continue to monitor the rules and regulations set by the CDC and the CDPHE and work with the Office of Early Childhood for updated information.

Please know that we will do our best to continue to communicate with you regularly and appreciate your patience while we navigate this school year. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. We can't wait to see your children again!

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warmly,

Vanessa Sweeney  
Lorelei Schull  
Co Directors

Cat Gorzynski  
Parent Board Chair

## Parent Handbook Policy/Procedure Addendum: *What To Expect*

*\*All procedures are based on the latest guidelines, recommendations and policy from the state and city of Denver, Colorado.*

*\*\* We will communicate with you any updates, closures or real-time pertinent information via email and text.*

### **SCHEDULE (Section 5) and SCHOOL CLOSINGS (Section 6)**

### **DROP-OFF/PICK-UP PROCEDURES (Section 10)**

#### **New hours/Schedule**

We have adopted new hours for our morning classes to allow for more time between the morning and afternoon classes for cleaning and for class turnover. AM Polliwogs will now meet at 8:45AM-11:15AM on Mondays and Wednesdays. Tadpole Class hours are now 9:00 AM-11AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

#### **School Closure**

If the State of Colorado reverts back to a Stay at Home order during this COVID 19 pandemic, all classes will be canceled until the order is lifted. In addition, if Denver Public Schools and/or Jeffco Public Schools moves to only remote learning for the semester and/or school year, we will reevaluate whether classes will continue as we review their decision and how it affects our Steele teachers and community.

#### **Drop off and Pick Up Procedures**

We are setting up the following procedures in order to limit the risk of exposure to and minimize the spread of Covid-19. Families, including guardians, siblings, parents, and caretakers will not be allowed in the building to minimize contact and gathering. The building will only be open to teaching staff and aides for the day.

- **Drop Off:**

- We ask that families do a temperature and symptom screening ( [CDHPE At Home Screening](#) ) before coming to school.
- The sign in book will be located on the porch.
- Families can wait in line on the sidewalk, maintaining social distance, until their turn to sign in on the porch. **Signing your child into school is an acknowledgment that you did the health screening before coming to school.**

- After the child is signed in, parents will take their child to the playground where the teacher will be waiting. Parents will leave through the gate to the sidewalk.
- **Pick Up**
  - Parents will sign out the child and pick up any art work or clothing from their child's cubby on the porch. They will then proceed to the playground to pick up their child. Parent and child will leave through the gate to the sidewalk.
- If you need to pick up your child early or are bringing your child after the class may be inside, let your teacher know and she will meet you on the porch for both drop off and/or pick up.

### ILLNESS MEDICATION POLICY (Section 20)

- Please take a temperature check at home prior to bringing them to the center
- Keep your child home if they are showing any signs of symptoms or sickness
- Any child with a temperature of 100.4 or above will be sent home for a minimum of 24 hours.
- If your child shows symptoms while at school, you will need to pick up your child within 45 minutes.
- If you, your spouse or other members of your family have a temperature or are sick, we respectfully request that you keep your child home.
- **See COVID Guidance for Families at end of Addendum for complete protocol**

### CLASSROOM PROGRAM (Section 14) and PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES (Section 17)

#### Classroom Program

##### Mask Policy

- All staff, aides and visitors and students must wear masks inside the school regardless of vaccination status per City of Denver Public Health Order. [Public Health Orders - City and County of Denver](#)
- If you have a mask that you would like your child to wear, we will do our best for him/her to keep it on. We will also have disposable masks at the school if your child loses theirs or it becomes too dirty to wear.
- Any cloth mask will be acceptable (Here are [some ideas for making a simple](#) sew/no sew mask) or check out the [Colorado Mask Project](#).

### **Other Safety Measures**

- Physical distancing (6 feet) for children and adults within the classroom as best as possible
- Open windows
- More outside learning
- Handwashing (see below)
- We will continue to follow strict sanitizing procedures at the end of each class and take extra precaution with any materials that have come into contact with children's saliva, mucus or any other bodily fluid.

### **Hand Washing Policy**

- Our hand washing policies follow the strict guidelines and rules proposed by the Colorado Office of Early Childhood.
- We will continue to follow those guidelines with increased frequency of washing and pay special attention to situations and times that we may need to implement even more frequent handwashing.
- Hand sanitizer will be utilized outside and other times when hand washing is not immediately available

### **Parent Responsibilities**

#### **Parent Aiding Requirements**

- Per the City and County of Denver mandate, all aides must be fully vaccinated from Covid-19 by September 30, 2021. [Denver Public Health Order - August 2, 2021](#)  
(If there are concerns with vaccinations due to medical or personal beliefs, please speak to the director.)
- If possible, when aiding, sign up for consecutive days
- Find a sub if showing any signs of sickness or symptoms. Please do not come to school.
- Be aware of any traveling you or your family is doing when signing up for aide days.

## **TUITION (Section 7)**

### **Tuition**

In the event of an exposure, the class may close. If closures occur for more than 4 class periods for Tadpoles and Polliwog classes or more than 6 class periods for the Frogs class within the month, families will be given the option to prorate their tuition for the month.

In addition, if the school closes due to a Stay at Home Order or because safety measures necessary for health impede a high quality for preschool, families will be given the option to request a prorated tuition refund.

## COVID-19 School Protocol & When to Stay Home

Guidelines from our Parent Handbook continue to be relevant during this time and support COVID guidance from the state:

From our Parent Handbook: ***Please use good judgment; don't send your child to school if he or she is showing symptoms of illness.*** This is especially true during the Covid 19 pandemic. We ask that each day, parents complete the [CDHPE At Home Screening](#) before bringing their child to school. Parents should follow guidance according to Denver County transmission level . [Community Transmission](#)

If you or your child has any symptoms of COVID , please report them to your teacher and we encourage you to also reach out to your health care provider. A negative COVID PCR test or other doctor diagnosis that explains symptoms/illness is required before returning to school. Along with a negative COVID PCR test or an alternate diagnosis, students (staff/parent aide) will also need all symptoms resolved except residual sniffles to return to school **OR** to continue to home isolate for 5 more days from symptom onset and be fever free without fever reducing medications for 24 hours.

A class will be canceled in the event a student or staff/aide has tested positive for COVID **AND** has been in class the previous 48 hours before symptom onset.If a child or staff/aide tests positive and class is canceled, the class will be in quarantine. Quarantine times will be calculated from last known exposure time and will follow quarantine timelines recommended by CDHPE and the CDC. <https://covid19.colorado.gov/isolation-and-quarantine>

If your child (and you if you are supposed to aide) has had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID, please stay home and quarantine per CDC guidance. Class will not need to be canceled. If you are the scheduled aide for that day a replacement will be needed. Please communicate with your child's teacher regarding illness and aiding.