

## Where to Turn for Support @Don Estridge

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## Frequently Asked Questions @Don Estridge

### Attendance Questions

**Q: Does my child need to attend every class every day?**

**A: Yes, teachers are required to take daily attendance. Each student must be accounted for during school hours.**

**Q: What if my child will be absent from a class?**

**A: Parents should report absences to our front office at 561-989-7800.**

**Q: What if my child experiences technical difficulties and cannot participate in class?**

**A: Email your child's teacher or contact the front office, so your child will not be counted as absent from the class.**

### Class Schedule Questions

**Q: What if my child doesn't know his/her code for a Google Classroom?**

**A: Please email the teacher or contact our front office to request the code.**

**Q: What if I have not picked up my textbooks?**

**A: Contact our main office at 561-989-7800.**

**Q: What is the bell schedule for distance learning?**

**A: The bell schedule is located in the How To Train Your Dragon presentation. Here is a link to the presentation: <https://www.smores.com/6edny>. The bell schedule will change for all students on Monday, September 21 due to the reopening of school campuses. Our new schedule will be shared with parents and students prior to this date.**

**Q: Are we still able to submit requests for schedule corrections?**

**A: At this time, all schedule corrections have been completed.**

**Q: Can we make elective changes?**

**A:** Every effort has been made to place your child in one of his or her elective preferences. The students will take a wide range of elective courses throughout middle school which will challenge the students and enhance self-growth.

**Q: What if my child is struggling in a class?**

**A:** If your child is struggling in a class, please reach out to the teacher via email.

## **Distance Learning Technology Questions**

**Q: My Google Meet keeps kicking me out. What should I do?**

**A:** Be patient and try to rejoin, including restarting your device. The district is working on a solution.

**Q: How do I get a Chromebook for my child?**

**A:** Call the front office at (561) 989-7800 and schedule a time to pick up a device.

**Q: My Chromebook is slow or laggy. How do I fix it?**

**A:** The district's servers are currently overloaded from the influx of portal origins and other associated websites. As the school year progresses, we will see that the performance of the devices will improve as the district improves our server capacity.

**Q: Is there a phone number I can call for technical support?**

**A:** Yes, the school district's help line is 561-242-4100.

**Q: How can I get my student's password reset?**

**A:** During distance learning, parents should contact the front office. Students who return to the school campus will be able to ask their teacher to reset it.

## **School Campus Reopening**

Students who are returning to campus will adhere to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines including social distancing and wearing face masks as outlined in the District's COVID-19 Guiding Document and Policy 5.326 - Student Protocols due to COVID-19.

For more information on the District's Reopening Plan, answers to frequently asked questions, and the protocols campuses will follow, visit [palmbeachschools.org/reopeningschools](http://palmbeachschools.org/reopeningschools). For specific questions related to the reopening of Don Estridge, please reference the frequently asked questions link below or contact our front office.

**Q: What is the school's plan for social distancing?**

A: Classrooms will be set up with student desks 6 feet apart. In order to accommodate the return of more students returning to school, desks will be moved to 3 feet apart. In the event we can no longer space student desks 3 feet apart to accommodate the number of students in the classroom, students will rotate through the instructional overflow room for that class period. Hallways are being divided into one way traffic patterns with health and safety signage. Upon arrival to school, students will be sent to their homeroom or the cafeteria for breakfast.

**Q: Where will my student eat and how will he/she sit at breakfast and lunch?**

A: Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria or in the cafeteria overflow room. There will be an open seat in between each student both across and on each side of the table. Once seated, students may remove their masks to eat breakfast or lunch.

**Q: Which bell schedule will we follow when students return to school?**

A: Because we have to move from one lunch to 3 or more lunches throughout the day, all students will be on a new bell schedule beginning Monday, September 21st. Our new schedule will be released, prior to that date.

**Q: How are teachers going to teach to the students in class and remote students learning at home?**

A: Teachers will be using multiple devices to teach to all students including their SmartBoard, chromebook, and desktop computer.

**Q: What are overflow rooms and will my student be sent to one?**

A: Overflow rooms are larger spaces at Don Estridge and Safe Schools that can accommodate more students to meet social distancing and classroom coverage requirements. Overflow rooms are a last resort; however, they will be used for specific class periods as needed.

**Q: How will students transition in the hallway?**

A: The hallway has been separated into two traffic flow patterns with signage. Students will walk with their right shoulder to the wall to meet the requirements of the traffic pattern. Students will also use covered walkways outside during transitions. Movement during class and lunch transitions will be staggered in order to limit the number of students moving at one time, however, it is not possible for students to move from class to class or to lunch 6 feet apart. There will be staff supervision to keep the traffic flow moving and students from congregating. Healthy and safety signage will be placed throughout the school.

**Q: Will students and teachers be required to wear masks?**

A: Both students and teachers must have a mask on with at least 3 layers of breathable material; fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and be secured with ties or ear loops allowing the students to remain hands-free. With the permission of a staff member, students may remove their mask to eat or drink while seated. Prior to sending their student to school, parents should read Policy 5.326 - Student Protocols due to COVID-19.

**Q: Will students who return to school be in front of a computer?**

A: As a technology school, we have worked hard to provide a 1:1 chromebook experience in the core classes for our students. Having the students learning in front of a computer is not different from how things have been in the past. The experience for elective courses, such as piano, art, drama, band, P.E., etc. will be more impacted than core classes.

**Q: How will students be seated on the school bus?**

A: For bus riders, students are encouraged to social distance at the bus stop. Masks are mandatory for the bus driver and students on the school bus. Drivers will have extra masks for students who need one. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized between routes. Please read and familiarize yourself with Board Policy 5.326 Student & Family Responsibilities for returning to school.

**Q: How do I register my student on the school bus?**

A: When you complete the Make Your Choice survey, you will be prompted to register your student for the bus.

**Q: We are a new student family to Don Estridge. Will there be a new student tour, prior to the reopening of school on September 21st?**

A: In the interest of health and safety, we will not be able to offer a school tour to our new families at this time. However, our families will receive a school map to study their class locations, prior to school reopening. There will also be staff present to guide students to their classes accordingly.

**Q: Will visitors be allowed to come on campus?**

A: Upon entering the school, all visitors must be in compliance with Policy 2.065 Visitation Protocols on District Property Due to COVID-19. In the interest of health and safety, parents who need to drop off personal items for their student will leave them at the security gate to be transported to the student by a staff member.

**Q: If I select return to school for my child and it does not work out, will he/she be able to return to distance learning?**

A: Yes.

**Q: If I select for my student to remain in distance learning, will he/she be able to return to the school?**

**A:** Yes, parents must contact the front office; students will be able to return in one week.

**Q: If my student is returning to school and does not have a school chromebook or personal laptop to bring to school, can they check one out at school?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Will there be sanitizing stations at school?**

**A:** Sanitizer will be available for students to use in their classrooms. Students are encouraged to bring their own sanitizer. Sanitizer will be provided by the school as needed.

**Q: Will students be given masks from the school?**

**A:** Yes, the District sent each school 5 washable masks per student.

**Q: Will student desks be cleaned during each class period?**

**A:** Yes, the school is supplying each teacher cleaning supplies to clean student desks in between class periods.

**Q: If a student is quarantined, will he/she be able to continue in distance learning?**

**A:** Yes, he/she will be able to participate by distance learning and marked as present.

**Q: Will students still be able to visit the nurse?**

**A:** The school clinic will be used as a COVID screening room. There will be an isolation room set up by the front office. Routine health concerns and student medication will be handled outside of the school clinic.

**Q: If I do not want my student to attend Don Estridge in person, can he/she still be enrolled at Don Estridge?**

**A:** Yes, as long as they are completing distance learning at Don Estridge.

**Q: How will students be dismissed at the end of the school day?**

**A:** Students will be dismissed by zone according to the location of their period 6 class.

## **School Staff Leadership Team**

### **Guidance Counselors**

**Q: Who are the Guidance Counselors?**

**A:** 6th Grade - Jenny Duesler [jenny.duesler@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:jenny.duesler@palmbeachschools.org)

7th Grade - Rosa Menendez [rosa.menendez@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:rosa.menendez@palmbeachschools.org)

8th Grade - Kristin Saffici [kristin.saffici@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:kristin.saffici@palmbeachschools.org)

**Q: How will meetings be conducted, virtually or face to face?**

**A:** Parents will be contacted by the school to schedule 504 meetings. To address specific concerns, please email the teachers directly. Team meetings are arranged through guidance when the concerns are related to all classes. All school meetings are being held via Google Meet at this time.

## **Assistant Principals**

**Q: Who are the Assistant Principals?**

**A:** 6th Grade - Justine Young [justine.young@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:justine.young@palmbeachschools.org)  
7th Grade - Brian Fitzpatrick [brian.fitzpatrick@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:brian.fitzpatrick@palmbeachschools.org)  
8th Grade - Richard Poorman [richard.poorman@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:richard.poorman@palmbeachschools.org)

**Q: How should I contact an Assistant Principal?**

**A:** Assistant Principals can be reached via email or by calling the school. All school meetings are being held via Google Meet at this time.

## **School Supplies**

**Q: What school supplies do I need for my child?**

**A:** Teachers will provide a list of the supplies needed for their class. If your student is returning to the school building they will need the following supplies daily: school chromebook/personal laptop (a device will be provided if your student does not have one), hand sanitizer (recommended), water bottle (recommended), headphones to use with the computer in the event that he/she is in an overflow room for the class period (will be provided if your student does not have them), students must have a mask on with at least 3 layers of breathable material; fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and be secured with ties or ear loops allowing the students to remain hands-free.

## **SY21 Application Process for Don Estridge High Tech Middle School**

**Q: What is the prerequisite to get into Don Estridge?**

**A:** You need to live in Palm Beach County and submit a choice application before the deadline.

**Q: When will applications be available?**

**A:** November 2, 2020

**Q: When are applications due?**

**A:** January 29, 2021

**Q: Where do we go to access applications?**

**A:** The school district website or our website [deht@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:deht@palmbeachschools.org).

**Q: When do we find out if we get into Don Estridge?**

**A:** April 1, 2021

**Q: Can I enroll my child during the school year?**

**A:** No, we cannot take any students during the school year.

**Q: If my child doesn't get accepted in 6th grade can we reapply next year?**

**A:** Yes, you can apply for all three grade levels.

**Q: Can I use a McKay Scholarship or an IEP to get my child into Don Estridge?**

**A:** No. If you get chosen in the lottery and you have the McKay Scholarship, you will be forfeiting the McKay Scholarship.

