



Dover Bethany E.L.C. September 2018 Newsletter

2018—2019 Holidays, Events, and Closings

- September 3rd Labor Day, Center closed
- September 4th First day in our new classrooms
- September 6th DBELC Open House
- September 10th Grandparents' Breakfast
- September 12th Bible Storytime begins
- October 8th Columbus Day, INSERVICE
Center closed
- October 15th Picture Day
- October 26th Halloween Parade/Family Night
- November 16th Thankful Feast
- November 22nd & 23rd Thanksgiving, center closed
- December 16th Christmas Pageant
- December 21st Ugly Sweater Day
- December 24th Christmas Eve, close at noon
- December 25th Christmas, center closed
- December 31st New Year's Eve, close at noon
- January 1st New Year's Day, Center closed
- February 25th Dr. Seuss & Read Across
through March 1st America Week
- February 28th Literacy Night
- April 14th Children's Easter Sunday
- April 17th DBELC Easter Egg Hunt
- April 19th & April 22 Easter, Center closed
- April 26th Parent Appreciation Lunch
- May 13th Muffins with Mom
- May 19th Pre-K Graduation
- May 27th Memorial Day, Center closed
- June 17th Donuts with Dads
- June 17th—June 21st VBS week
- July 4th Independence Day
Center closed



Welcome back to the beginning of another school year at DBELC. Summer is wrapping up and activities—Mr. Frosty, water days, field trips—have ended. All children have transitioned to their new classrooms and spaces! We are happy to see the return of some old friends (hope you had a great summer) and welcome some new friends as well. Although we have all spent some time in our new classrooms, transitioning is an individual process that is different for each child. If your child is still uncomfortable with his or her new environment, time and consistency are important. You may notice that your child is finding it harder to separate from you or that old behaviors start to crop up (such as aggression or feelings of insecurity). Don't worry! This is normal and expected and will be resolved with time as teachers and children build bonds and routines together. Allow your child to share feelings in an appropriate manner; accept and acknowledge your child's feelings. When leaving, say goodbye, wish your child a good day, and allow your child to see you leave. Develop a routine to ease your child into saying goodbye (a hug, a phrase, or a secret signal that you practice each day). Don't be rushed or sneak out when your child isn't watching. This leaves children feeling more unsettled and agitated.

To the left is this year's activity schedule. All scheduled center closings are listed, but there will be other activities that have not been scheduled, such as parent/teacher conferences, class parties and events, and center gatherings. Please add these events to your calendar, and please take note that some of the DBELC events will take place on Sundays. Be sure to notice that in last month's newsletter, the date for Columbus Day was listed incorrectly. It is actually October 8th, not October 9th. If your child will be absent or late contact us as soon as possible. If you have a need to change your child's regular schedule, please contact me directly. If you cannot find me in my office, you can also call the center at 717-292-0147 or email me at childcare@dbumc.org. Teachers cannot make decisions about schedule or tuition changes. Please label all of your child's belongings with his or her initials or name, including blankets, jackets, and lunchboxes. These items can very easily get switched or mistaken.

Open House is scheduled for the evening of September 6th. During Open House, families will have to opportunity to tour their child's classroom, meet their child's teachers, meet other classroom parents, and learn about daily routines, expectations, activities, and yearly goals. **We encourage all families to attend**, but if you cannot attend alternative opportunities to meet and talk with teachers can be provided. Check with your child's teachers about their class's meet and greet time. Child care will be available during Open House.

Grandparents' Breakfast In honor of Grandparents Day, DBELC will be hosting a Grandparents Breakfast on Monday, September 10th from 7:00—8:30 am. Grandparents (if grandparents are not able to attend aunts, uncles, siblings, or parents may fill in) are invited to join their grandchildren for a DBELC breakfast in their honor. We will be serving scrambled egg and potato casserole with green peppers and onions, fresh fruit salad, milk, coffee, juice, and water.

Giant A+ Rewards DBELC participates in the Giant A+ School Rewards program. This program allows schools/daycares to earn 1% of each dollar you spend at Giant. This is one of the easiest ways to help our center. Just use your bonus card! Throughout the years, we have earned thousands of dollars for DBELC. This program runs from October through March. To participate, please go to the Giant Stores website at www.giantfoodstores.com and click on the BONUSCARD tab or register in-store. Our school number is **#22386**. You do not re-register every year, so if you were registered last year, you will remain registered for this year. If you have grandparents or friends that do not have a school to designate, they are allowed to designate our center as well.



Help! As we prepare our classes for the fall, there are a few items we are in need of. Our supply of extra clothing has been completely depleted of **pants and underwear**. If your child has gone home wearing DBELC clothing, please wash and return them to the center. We are also looking for donations of used pants and underwear. Because we have no extra clothing, if your child has no supply of extra clothing and has an accident, you will be contacted and required to bring extra clothing here immediately. Also, we have quite a collection of clothing and other items in our lost and found (which is located right next to the computer at the parent board). Please take a few moments to peruse through the basket for any items that may belong to your child. Any items not claimed by next Friday will be added to our spare clothing supply or will be thrown away. We are also in need of **scrap paper** to refill our art center supplies. If you have unwanted paper or work for a company that disposes of unwanted paper (such as blank forms or anything lacking confidential or inappropriate information), we would very happily take that paper off your hands.



himama

As many of you may already realize, we are in the process of switching from using the BrightWheel program to the Himama program. Some of you may already have received invitations to join Himama or have already been using Himama. We hope you are enjoying the app, because we are very excited for this change. There are many benefits for parents and teachers offered by **Himama**. Like BrightWheel, **Himama** records daily occurrences and happenings, like meals and snacks, naps, diaper changes, and daily activities. But there are some major differences with Himama that benefit both teachers and families. To begin, I can, as the director, also use Himama to communicate with families. I can make center announcements, like reminders for special center activities, weather-related closings and delays, and post newsletters through Himama. And, now, the infants, preschool, and pre-kindergarten (and eventually school age) classes are able to participate with Himama.

In Himama, teachers are able to create weekly lesson plans that can be viewed by families from the Himama app. Each activity that teachers plan in their classrooms is meant to work within the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards. These standards outline skills and benchmarks along a continuum that spans from birth through 12th grade. These standards are the foundation for the curriculum and assessment within our program. Himama allows teachers to indicate what learning standard they are targeting when planning activities and lessons, so the intention and purpose in each activity will be viewable. The PA early learning standards are divided into the following age groups: Infants, young toddler, older toddler, and pre-kindergarten and this will be how they appear within the Himama program. If you are interested in reviewing the learning standards and how they relate to school and kindergarten readiness, copies of the appropriate learning standards are found in every classroom and in my office. You can also view the early learning standards online at www.pakeys.org. At the bottom on the site under the "PENNSYLVANIA EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVES," there is a link for the standards.

Himama also provides each child with an online portfolio where teachers can record observations and track progress as children move through the school year and the learning standards. Notes, photographs, and examples of work are kept as observations to determine a child's progress and added to the child's portfolio. Teachers can then refer to those observations when completing routine assessments.

For now, Himama will work like Brightwheel in that the teachers will log children in at arrival and start recording that day's happenings from that point forward. Parents can use the program in two ways, but **in order to use the app, an email address must be provided to your child's teachers.** After setting up the app, you do not have to use the email address if you choose to download the free app onto your phone. With downloading of the app, you will receive real time notifications of what your child is doing throughout the day OR you may open the app to view what has happened throughout the day. If you do not download the app, you will not receive real time notifications. But at the end of the day once your child has been logged out of the system, all families will receive a daily report that summarizes everything your child did that day.

If you have any questions about Himama or how to join Himama, please let me know or ask your child's teachers during Open House. We have received training on how to use the program, but it is still new to us and we are learning as we go. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we learn.

