

Top 20 Elementary Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I pay tuition and when is it due?

Tuition is due on the first of every month. Some parents ask to make two payments each month. Feel free to email the director if you wish to make two payments and let her know the dates payment will be made. Payment may be made by personal check, cashier's check or money order. Cash is not accepted at this time. Credit Card payments may be made using the payment link found on the website. Parents whose bank offers online bill pay may choose to set the school up as a vendor and send an online bill pay to us each month. This way your bank sends us a check directly from your account. Use your child's name as the account number. Check with your banking institution if you have questions about this option.

2. What are school hours?

Regular school hours are Monday through Friday 8:15am – 3:15pm.
On minimum days, school hours are 8:15am – 1:15pm.

3. What if my child arrives after 8:15am?

Children are considered tardy if they arrive after all classes have left the lineup area. Families who are tardy two or more times during a one-month period shall have a parent Teacher conference to discuss the necessity of arriving to school on time. Families who consistently arrive tardy after the initial meeting with the Teacher shall conference with the School Administration. Five tardys will equal one absence. Tardys and absences are recorded daily and become part of a child's permanent school record. This record will follow students throughout elementary school.

Students who arrive after the before school teacher leaves her post at the drop off door (generally 8:25am) must be brought to the school office. School Office personnel will walk late students to class.

4. What if I need to bring my child earlier than 8:00am or they need to stay later than 3:15pm?

Destiny Christian Elementary offers before and after school care through our Extended Day Ministry. Our morning care runs from 7:00am – 8:15am and our after school care runs from 3:15pm – 6pm. A child must be enrolled in our school to qualify for Extended Day Ministry. After school care for scheduled minimum days is not included for those

who are enrolled in after school care. It is available for an additional fee of \$20 each time and requires pre- registration. Availability is limited.

2020-21 monthly rates for morning care are: \$75.00 per month. 2020-21 monthly rates for after school care are: \$200.00 per month. These rates are not pro-rated per hour, nor are they pro-rated based on the number of days used for before/after school care each week. Parents who utilize before and/or after school care pay the monthly rate regardless of the days/times used.

5. My child will be absent - how do I let the school know?

All student absences must be reported to the school. Parents must use the absence reporting form on the website or call the school at 916.788.2827 x 2 and let the office know by 9:00am if a child will be absent. Missed classroom work due to student absences may be requested by emailing the classroom Teacher.

If a child must leave school earlier than 3:15pm, please call the office or send a note for the classroom Teacher with your child in the morning. Do not rely on email, unless it gives 24 hour advance notice, as Teachers may not have a chance to check email throughout the day. The parent or legal guardian must come to the school office, sign for their child to leave, then wait as the office calls the classroom for the student.

If a student will miss 5 or more days of school, and parents/guardians wish to request work for the student, advance notice of at least two weeks must be given to the classroom teacher. An independent study form will be given to the student with work that must be completed upon return for credit.

6. Is there a lunch program?

Children may bring their own lunch from home. If parents choose, lunch may be purchased for \$3 per day or a flat rate of \$54 per month. If the flat rate is chosen, credit is not given for student absences. Monthly lunch menus are posted on the school website and in the classroom. Meals are well-balanced and contain the recommended daily allowance of grains, protein, fruits, vegetables, and dairy for children ages 4-10. Milk is included with lunch. Lunches **must** be paid in advance online at the school website. Any child who does not bring a lunch from home and has not paid for a lunch in advance will be given a school lunch and parents will be charged \$5 to ensure no child goes hungry while at school. A “just milk” option is available and may be purchased online in advance. Milk is 50¢ per day.

7. Where can I find the lunch menu?

Visit the website and choose the Menu option under the Forms link from the top menu. The lunch menu is also posted outside the office and inside each classroom.

8. What are minimum days?

On a minimum day students attend class from 8:15am - 1:15pm. The last Friday of every month is a minimum day with the time set aside for teachers to participate in professional learning communities and personal development during this time. During the Parent Teacher conference week in November the school allots 3 minimum days for the Teaching Team to hold Parent Teacher conferences.

As a courtesy to parents, DCP will offer after school care from 1:15pm to 6:00pm at a flat rate charge of \$20 on a minimum day. This amount will be collected in addition to monthly tuition. Even families who pay for after school care are charged the \$20 to use after school care on a minimum day. Availability for after school care on minimum days is limited. Students must be pre-registered.

9. How can I contact my child's teacher?

All classroom Teachers use the Class Dojo app. At Meet the Teacher Night, parents will receive a unique code to sign up with Class Dojo. This is a Teacher's preferred method of communication. Teachers also use email to send messages.

Classroom Teachers are given 24 work hours to respond to communication from a parent/guardian. Teachers respond during their work hours between 7:45am – 4:15pm Monday through Friday and are not obligated to respond outside of those times.

10. What do I do if my child takes medication or has food allergies that require medication?

Children who require medication at school, whether prescription or non-prescription, must complete a "Medication Release Form" packet and provide a letter from their doctor outlining the administration of the medication. All medication(s) must be in their original container(s). Medication is given to students only under strictly controlled conditions by Destiny Elementary staff.

Parents are asked to list chronic medical conditions on their child's registration form. Children with asthma are welcome to keep an inhaler at school. This inhaler will remain in the school office and be administered by school personnel after the medication release form and instructions from the child's physician are on file.

11. If my child is sick how do I know when to keep them home or send them to school? Also, if they become sick at school what happens?

Every child's health is critically important to us. Please do not bring a child to school if he/she has:

Temperature - must be fever free for at least 24 hours or doctor's note stating that treatment is being given or is not required (to return). A child with a fever of 100° or higher will be sent home.

Upper Respiratory Infection - must be seen by a doctor and return with a doctor's note stating that treatment is being given or is not required.

Diarrhea - no diarrhea for 24 hours or doctor's note stating that treatment is being given or is not required.

Vomiting – no vomiting for 24 hours or doctor's note stating that treatment is being given.

Inflamed, Weepy, Oozing Eye - must be seen by a doctor and return with a doctor's note stating that treatment is being given or is not required.

Skin Infection/Rash (of unknown origin) - must be seen by a doctor and return with a doctor's note stating that treatment is being given or is not required.

If a child becomes ill at school, we will contact the parents, or, if the parents are not available, the emergency contact person. Arrangements must be made immediately to have the child picked up. While a child is waiting to be picked up, they will be sent to the office.

12. What is the school's uniform policy?

Elementary students are required to wear long-sleeved or short-sleeved hunter (dark) green colored collared shirts free from designs and patterns along with black or khaki pants/skirts/shorts.

Girls may wear solid colored black or khaki uniform jumpers. Solid colored sweaters or sweatshirts (of any color) without design or print may be worn in colder months. Clothing must be modest for both boys and girls and must completely cover the stomach and midriff area when arms are raised.

Tennis shoes or rubber soled closed toed shoes and socks are required and are the most appropriate choice for shoes at all times. Sandals, flip-flops, and open-toed shoes are not permitted. Parents of children wearing improper shoes will be asked to return to school with an appropriate pair of shoes for their child to change into before the child is allowed to return to class.

13. When is chapel? Can I attend chapel?

Students participate collectively in Chapel Worship Time on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am. Chapel is held in the children's ministry worship area upstairs and parents are always welcome to attend.

14. How can I be involved?

Parents may volunteer in their child's classroom after the first six weeks of school. To minimize classroom interruptions, all volunteers should seek prior approval from the classroom Teacher before visiting or volunteering. All volunteers must have a fingerprint clearance on file with Destiny Christian Church. Fingerprint clearances do not transfer from one facility to another facility within the state of California, so a clearance at another school cannot be transferred to this school. See the school office for a form and instructions. Volunteers are required to pay their own cost of the fingerprinting.

Parent volunteers must also sign in on the visitor sheet in the office and wear a green visitor sticker while on campus. Parent volunteers may not be alone with children other than their own under any circumstances and must be supervised by Destiny Christian Elementary staff members.

15. Can I bring treats for my child's birthday?

Teachers decide how birthdays will be celebrated at school. Parents may ask their child's teacher if sending treats to celebrate a birthday is allowed. Any treats sent will be eaten after lunch or at the end of the day.

16. Are there other celebration/special occasion days that I should be aware of?

Each class may dedicate a portion of the class-time for special occasions (Fall Harvest, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter). The Teacher will post a sign-up sheet for parent help, special snacks or other supplies.

17. How will my child be evaluated during the school year?

Throughout the year Teachers will evaluate children in regard to their developmental progress in the areas of Literacy and Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies (including History and Geography), Visual and Performing Art, Music and Physical Education as they relate to the California State Kindergarten standards as set forth by the California State Board of Education and Common Core Standards. Children will also be assessed on Bible knowledge and age appropriate social skills.

18. What is the homework policy?

Classroom Teachers determine the content and scope of weekly or nightly homework. Any uncompleted class work will automatically become homework. No homework is given on Wednesday evenings, unless a child did not complete class work and that is sent home.

Time spent completing nightly homework should not exceed 15 minutes, not including reading. Nightly reading is additional work and all students are encouraged to read nightly for a minimum of 10 minutes.

19. What days are closed for holidays?

Destiny Christian Elementary shall observe the following holidays:

Labor Day

On or near Columbus Day- Teacher in-service day

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving Break (The entire week of Thanksgiving)

Christmas Break (The last two weeks of December)

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

President's Day

Easter Break (The week before Easter including the Monday after)

Memorial Day

Please see the published school calendar for exact school closure dates.

20. Can my child have a cell phone at school?

Students who bring a cell phone to school for any reason must keep it on silent in their backpack at all times during the school day and after school care hours. They may check their phone only with Teacher or administration approval. Teachers may confiscate a student's cell phone for the day if it becomes a distraction in the classroom. The school will not be held responsible for the loss or damage to a student's cell phone for any reason.