

Welcome To Denver Options 2016-2017

The year of What Works Well...

We are excited to spend time with you and your family.

The basic information below will help you get started and avoid surprises.

PLEASE READ and SAVE THIS DOCUMENT

- Our website is: <http://denveroptions.aurorak12.org/>
- Email is homeschooldenver@gmail.com.
- Lanae's contact phone number is: 303-349-5947 - text is fine too.
- The address where we meet is: **1091 S Parker Rd Denver, CO 80231**. Park and enter through the blue doors, around the back by the playground – lower level. In the winter the lot can be slick, in warm weather we often see bees.
- **Our day is 8:40 – 3:15 – Lunch duty is from 12-1.**
- Our funding is based on student attendance during the count period. This year that is **September 22 until October 19**. If you know you will be unable to attend during this time, we need to know in writing. If an unexpected absence occurs, contact us in writing ASAP (email is fine) so we can complete the necessary paperwork. There are several student work sheets and adult signatures from teachers that have to be turned in if your child is not here.
- Our number one form of communication after Orientation will be on an app/ website **called Bloomz**. You choose how many notifications you get, what device to use, and what groups you are a part of. Teachers' communication and all-site communication will be sent via Bloomz. You will be invited to join an Options group, a group for your day, and several classes. We piloted this in the 15-16 year and learned a lot about streamlining the approval process. Bloomz is a wonderful way to find out what your kids are doing while at Options. It is easy for the staff, and will continue to replace group email lists at Options. Ask for tech help if you need it. Don't lose your password. It is a VERY secure app, so they won't hesitate to lock you out.)
- **The bookroom** email is: optionsbookroom@gmail.com
- **The book website** is: www.optionsbooks.info
- **The book pick up site** is 11351 E Montview Blvd. 80010. It is just west of Montview and Moline. Park behind the blond brick building and buzz to get in. The books are downstairs. Please make an appointment.
- After your child is fully enrolled in Denver Options, you can sign up for a time at the book room by going to: <http://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup>
 - then enter: optionsbookroom@gmail.com
 - Come with an idea of what you are looking for by going to [optionsbooks.info](http://www.optionsbooks.info) to see what we carry. Bring a checkbook if you plan to purchase consumables.
- **We have a Facebook page** – look for Denver Enrichment Options on Facebook and request to join. This is a great way to get plugged in to the community.
- **Your family will be asked to do 2 lunch duty times**, and help with one special event each semester. You may or may not be helping with your own child's group. This is not a time to 'come have lunch with munchkin.' We need your help to supervise all of the students. Bringing preschoolers is fine. Just keep them with you. Lunch space is limited. Please let us know if you are coming to lunch. If you do not volunteer, we will choose a day for you to help at lunch. . Lunch Duty is from 12-1. Prepare to be outdoors. Preschoolers and babies are welcome.
- **We do have an option to "pay out" your time instead**. Talk to Lanae for details. If you would like to be paid to do extra duty, tell us that as well. Dads and grandparents are welcome to do the family duty time if you so choose
- **We have some field trips during the year**. Watch your email, Bloomz and Facebook for opportunities, or use the directory to create your own group outings.
- Our rules apply to students and adults. We will agree to be:
 - Positive
 - Productive
 - Pleasant
 - Respectful
 - Kind
 - **We will strive not to cause a problem for someone else**. If a student is not supporting the learning environment in the classroom, he or she will spend the remainder of the hour with another adult, and either a note or a phone call will be sent to the child's parents. If this happens repeatedly, the child and parents will meet with Mr. Burton to brainstorm solutions in order to create a good learning environment for everyone. This is a "3 strikes and you're out" system.

- **We strive to avoid discussions about anything controversial at Options**, and instead focus on what we have in common. Statements and questions relating to religion, politics, online activity, evolution, or other 'hot' topics will be referred back to you at home to discuss your family's viewpoints with your own children.
- Options is not a good place for 'boyfriend /girlfriend, who likes whom discussions and games. **We value the innocence of childhood** and work each week to preserve that precious time. Even into young adulthood. Please help us in this goal in a world that wants kids to grow up too fast.
- Your family choices about online activity and texting are up to you. **We assume you monitor your own children's technology** and will send any related questions home for you to work out away from school. Phones, tablets, and other technology can be used with teacher permission in class. You send these items of value at your own risk. At lunch and class changes they should be off and put away.
- If your child needs to call you, they can do so from our phones. We will always let them contact you. **So please leave your phone on and with you!!** Getting voicemail when a kiddo needs mom is really sad.
- Please contact us if your child will be absent or tardy. Text 303-349-5947, or send a Bloomz message.
- **Consistently tardy families will give up their space at Options. Please be in the gym, ready for attendance by 8:40**. Tardy marks are new this year, but have been put in place by necessity to allow for kids who will be here on time and consistently to enjoy the classes. We only have your kids 1 day a week. Each class only gets 1 hour. We must maximize that time without disruptions.
- If you do not want your student to attend Options, please let us know so we can get you withdrawal form, return your books and stop attending. Our staffing is linked to student count, so we need to know if you will be here.
- **We are unable to walk your tardy student to class, or pick them up for you if you need to leave early.** Please get a name tag from the main entrance, and drop your child off in the hallway OUTSIDE of the classroom so you don't disturb class. Pick them up with as little disruption as possible. As a site we are committed to the buddy system, so they must be walked to class, not just sent on their own. Please do not go into the room with them. Class changes are a good time to pick up or drop off your children. Please sign them out if you leave early. Inconsistent attendance makes success and building relationships here difficult. In order to make Options a great place for your child, please attend consistently.
- **Some weeks we will have Parent Coffee time or Preschool in the Café'**. Parents and community are important to us, so sometimes we offer time for Moms to socialize as a bonus to your family's enrollment here. Watch Bloomz for dates.
- **Student activity fees are paid at orientation. \$20 per child** covers the yearbook and parties, rewards, recognition and special events. Please let us know if this causes a problem for your family. We certainly don't want you to pay if it is a hardship.
- We don't have snacks to offer here. **Students need a snack or 2 in their backpacks.** If you don't pack snack in your child's backpack in addition to food in a lunchbox, they won't have snack Please avoid peanuts or peanut products, as we do have students who are nut sensitive.
- We also have students who are sensitive to animals, and it is often unacceptable to leave them in the car. **Please leave pets at home.** We are not able to allow animals into the building, on the playground or in the courtyard or outdoor areas.
- **Changes to class schedules** will only be permitted until the third week of regular classes. It takes most students 6-8 weeks to adjust to the new situation at Options.
- **Security:** Our building is large. Doors we do not use are locked at all times. The main Church office and main Options entrance are watched by an adult while Options is in session. We will not release students to people other than parents unless their name is on the release form or we have a note from you releasing us to do so. We reserve the right to request picture Ids. Volunteers are asked to wear a badge. Employees are identified with Options ID badges. Students are asked to practice the 'buddy' system at all times.
- **Fire drills, tornado drills** and lock down drills are practiced yearly for the safety of our students.
- **Sales and Marketing:** Options is a wonderful place for kids to learn and enrich their home education. It is not a place to promote a business of any kind. Please do not use Options contacts, emails, coffee time or friendships to promote any sales, business or religious program. It is also unacceptable to sell fundraising items or tickets at Options. The cork board by the entrance can be used to inform parents of other homeschooling opportunities. Staff and family emails are to be used for school business, not for promotions.
- **Dress:** Students are required to wear professionally appropriate clothing. Bare midriffs, "sagging", shirts with inappropriate slogans, overly tight revealing clothing, pajamas or any other inappropriate clothing as deemed by the Options staff will not be allowed. After two warnings, Options has the right to dismiss the student, just as might happen in a job if one does not dress appropriately for work.
- **Pick up – Is a busy time.** Please sign your child out, leave us a note if you'd like, and check your family file. If you would like to visit, please do so outside or in the gym. The hallway is too narrow for those conversations. Let us know if someone different will be picking up your child. The playgrounds and building will be locked at 3:45.