

## DEEP Virtual Parent Meeting & Information

Hello DEEP students and parents,

We are excited to begin this year's DEEP program. In years past, we held a mandatory parent meeting to provide information, list expectations, and to get required forms filled out. This is a very busy time of the year, especially for Eighth Grade families, so we are trying something different. This is a virtual parent meeting! We ask that you carefully, read the information, watch the short video together, and carefully fill out the forms according to directions. The topics in this virtual meeting are:

- ✓ Forms, risk awareness video
- ✓ Scuba diving information
- ✓ Schedule and logistics
- ✓ Equipment
- ✓ Academics
- ✓ Certification

### Forms

**Forms are due 3/22. Students will not be permitted to dive if forms are not in by the due date.**

The forms you need are on the DEEP website. Look for the link called, "Forms."

- **Medical Form**

You must write "YES" or "NO" by each and every condition. If student has a listed condition, a physician exam would be required before participation. If you do not answer YES on any of the conditions, then you do not need to have the physician section filled out. Please print the student's name at the top of the medical form.

- **Liability Release Form**
- **Discover Scuba Safety Review (This will be done by the students during DEEP Class)**
- **Optional Orientation and Risk Awareness Video for Students and Parents:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sejU3suVXpU>

## DEEP Virtual Parent Meeting & Information

### Scuba Diving Information

- All diving in DEEP is done in a pool. Due to the construction on our pool we will be using the pool at Palisades High School.
- As explained on the video, diving is very safe as long as you are knowledgeable and follow the rules.
- No student is expected to dive if they do not want to. Students must be willing to ask to stop if they feel uncomfortable. Diving is not required for successful completion of the program.
- Students should not dive with a cold or any sinus or ear problems.
- Students have the outside opportunity to become certified divers and dive in the ocean at Catalina. See the certification section below for more information.

### Schedule and Logistics:

- The schedule for DEEP is on the DEEP web site and will be in the student DEEP binders. Due dates will also be posted on Studyo.
- Please be aware of the DEEP schedule when making any appointments. It is not fair to your DEEP partner(s) to leave them with all the work. Diving time cannot be made up, and missing dive instruction may disqualify you from additional diving due to safety concerns.

### Equipment

Students need to provide the mask, snorkel, fins, and a mesh bag to hold the gear. A detailed **Guide to Gear** is on the DEEP web site and in DEEP binders. We have a limited supply of loaner gear at St. Matthew's. If you would like to see if any of it might work for you, come see Mr. Harlan. Gear will be loaned on a first-come-first-serve basis.

**Gear is due on 3/27** along with the forms. We will store your gear in bins at the pool, so you do not have to worry about bringing it back and forth to school.

- There are many places to buy gear, but we recommend **In 2 Deep** at 1834 Broadway, Santa Monica. (424) 744-8384. They are our new partners for DEEP and we need to do what we can to support their shop. Experienced divers know the importance of having a relationship with a good local dive shop. In 2 Deep has a section especially for DEEP students, but supplies are limited. You should obtain gear asap.
- The weights, scuba tanks, regulators, and buoyancy compensators will be provided by **In 2 Deep** and St. Matthew's.
- Students will be instructed on proper swimwear.

## DEEP Virtual Parent Meeting & Information

### Academics

DEEP is challenging. Expect to work hard the whole time. Be proud of your DEEP site. Personal responsibility and motivation are required. We need to trust you. In the past there have been rare instances when a student just was not mature enough to handle the responsibility of the program. In those cases, our practice is to remove the student from DEEP, and instead use a more traditional text book curriculum proctored in the library.

Make good use of your time. One day without materials can be a disaster. DEEP should not add to your homework load, but you will need to spend time making sure you are prepared for each DEEP class. Do not come into DEEP classes without having a very good idea about what is planned for that day. Know the schedule well and plan ahead. If your group falls behind, then you will be needing to use homework time to get caught up. Some DEEP topics, such as engineering projects, require more time. Engineering projects may also require a materials fee.

### Certification

Students have the option to get scuba certified through our instructors at **In 2 Deep**. Certification is not a St. Matthew's program, but DEEP students enjoy getting certified with some of their classmates and friends. Family and friends can also join in the certification class. The greatest challenge in past years has been in organizing a group of students to agree on a time to take the certification class together. If a parent volunteers to take the lead in communication with interested students and families, then the odds of a getting a group together are much better. It is a great weekend for the kids and families when they all travel to Catalina together. The kids dive all day and the adults enjoy the beach. The certification flier on the site is from a previous year, so dates and prices will change. We will notify you when we get the new flier from **In 2 Deep**.

### Enjoy

We are very proud of DEEP. We know of no other program like it. The students have the opportunity to do real research, have their work published, learn to dive, and leave a project they are proud of on the DEEP web site for years to come.

We hope you enjoy the experience.

-The DEEP Team

