



July 15, 2009

Dear Loyal Dynamo Swim School Customers:

During the past 6 months, Dynamo Swim School management has conducted an extensive evaluation of our current instructional curriculum. This evaluation included interviewing current customers, current management, current coaches and current instructors. We discovered that while we are doing many things well – there are some things we can improve upon.

In our continuing commitment to provide the best instructional swimming lesson and in response to our evaluation, **effective August 2009, Dynamo Swim School will begin a new partnership with Starfish Aquatic Institute (SAI). SAI curriculum is considered the leading edge in teaching swimming technique** and is a partner with United States Swimming, the governing body of our competitive swim team. We believe this transition will be an easy one for the students and parents for several reasons:

- First, we will continue to offer classes designated as DynaBabies, Preschool, and Gradeschool, therefore, the **registration process for parents remains the same;**
- Second, the curriculum remains **goal oriented** with well-defined lead up and benchmark skills that represent "graduation points" to the next stage in the system;
- Third, we remain **committed to teaching proper stroke** mechanics from the very beginning. Correcting errors is a much more difficult process later in the developmental progression.
- Fourth, we remain **committed to offering small class sizes** where each child receives the individual attention she or he deserves;
- Fifth, the curriculum **allows each student to progress at his/her own rate**, independent from other students' development. Each child's strengths are developed and every child is supported in areas where extra help is noted and needed. With this tailored approach, each child feels success in some instructional area at the conclusion of every swim lesson, regardless of the swimming level currently attained. We believe this helps build personal confidence in their ability to learn.

The SAI **curriculum is simplified and streamlined into three "schools"** – Starbabies, Swim School and Stroke School. The three "schools" are as follows:

- **STARBABIES** –The purpose of this course is to **develop in very young children a high comfort level in the water** while at the same time **training parents in water safety and drowning prevention.** This course does not teach a child to survive in the water or to be an accomplished swimmer. This course provides an experience that builds confidence through a fun and loving experience. One parent or caregiver must be in the water with each swimmer.
- **SWIM SCHOOL** - Consists of 5 different color-coded stages (1-5), **progressing the student from breath holding and floating to swimming a basic form of freestyle and backstroke.** Teaching is done through creative, fun activities in the water. Students work toward developing the five core competencies and receive a color stage patch for completing the benchmark safety and swim skills at each stage.
- **STROKE SCHOOL** - Consists of 5 different stages (6-10), **introducing and refining technique of all the strokes, freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke, then**

endurance of all 4 and more! By using easy to learn progressions, coupled with swimming fundamentals utilizing the most up-to-date techniques, we teach your child to swim like Olympians swim. Students continue to work toward developing five additional core competencies and receive a color stage patch for completing the benchmark safety and swim skills at each stage.

We will apply the SAI curriculum in a familiar manner to both students and parents. DynaBabies will remain a separate toddler class utilizing the Starbabies curriculum. The instructors will teach the Swim School and the Stroke School curriculum in both the Preschool and Gradeschool classes as children progress through the curriculum.

We selected the SAI curriculum because unlike traditional swimming instruction, which focuses on an individual's pulling and kicking strength to move through the water (creating struggle and draining energy), the **SAI curriculum is grounded in offering a new found sense of relaxation and comfort** by teaching students to swim from the "inside out." Using easy to learn progressions, coupled with swimming fundamentals utilizing the most up-to-date techniques, the **goal is to provide our swimmers with a new appreciation and enjoyment for the water.**

However, the most significant change to the curriculum that parents will notice immediately is that **our instructors will also focus on teaching essential water safety skills to all students.** Both students and parents will learn essential habits and skills that will allow them to stay safe and make water safe choices in all types of aquatic environments.

When your child arrives for swim class during the Fall/ Winter 2009 session of classes, you will receive additional materials outlining the specifics of both the Swim School and the Stroke School and what skills your child will learn. We encourage you to review these materials carefully. If you have additional questions, the Site Director at the facility is more than happy to answer them.

We thank you for your continued patronage of Dynamo Swim School and the opportunity to meet and teach your children. We look forward to seeing you at the pool this Fall.

Keep swimming safely!

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