

Good Afternoon Families,

Please take note of the following updates:

Exhibit Night at The Clifton School

Are you interested in learning more about what your child is learning in the classroom? Would you like to experience how the teachers use your child's interests to plan their lessons? Are you intrigued by the "Emergent Curriculum" and wonder where it emerges from? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please come to Exhibit Night at The Clifton School.

Exhibit at Clairmont: Infant and Toddler I, Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 4:30-5:45 PM
Toddler II and Preschool, Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 4:30 -
5:45 PM

Exhibit at Clifton: Infant and Toddler I, Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 4:30-6:00 PM
Toddler II and Preschool, Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 4:30-6:00
PM

What is Emergent Curriculum?

The Clifton School utilizes the Emergent curriculum approach. Emergent curriculum describes the kind of curriculum that develops when exploring what is "socially relevant, intellectually engaging, and personally meaningful to children." The basic idea is that organic, whole learning evolves from the interaction of the classroom participants, both children and adults. "As caring adults, we make choices for children that reflect our values; at the same time we need to keep our plans open-ended and responsive to children" (Jones and Nimmo, 1994, p. 3). In emergent curriculum, both adults and children have initiative and make decisions. This power to impact curriculum decisions and directions means that sometimes curriculum is also negotiated between what interests children and what adults know is necessary for children's education and development. Ideas for curriculum emerge from responding to the interests, questions, and concerns generated within a particular environment, by a particular group of people, at a particular time. Emergent curriculum is never built on children's interests alone; teachers and families also have interests worth bringing into the curriculum. The values and concerns of all the adults involved help the classroom culture evolve. The curriculum is called emergent because it evolves, diverging along new paths as choices and connections are made, and it is always open to new possibilities that were not thought of during the initial planning process. In addition to Emergent Curriculum, The Clifton School utilizes the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) to track, support and scaffold children's developmental milestones. <http://gelds.decal.ga.gov/>

Extracurricular Activities

The Children at The Clifton School have been engaged in a variety of activities this summer. Our goal is to expose children to new and varying experiences as they are developing ideas about who they are and what type of things they enjoy doing. These activities have included: soccer, music, tumble bus, magic shows, bubbles, sensory, science activities, cooking and bike days. All groups including infants will participate in music this fall. Preschool will participate in Spanish activities with Lango Kids this fall.

Brightwheel

We hope you are enjoying learning about your child's day on the Brightwheel App. Please be sure to let us know if you have not received your invitation to join the app or are experiencing complications utilizing it.

The Clifton School is Celebrating Grandparents/Special Friend Week!

Clairmont Schedule:

Grandparents/Special Friend Day is Sunday, September 9th. Please join us September 4-7 for a week of activities to help us welcome grandparents/special friends to the Clifton School.

We would like to invite grandparents/special friends to join us for the following activities:

- Tuesday – (9/4) Story time (Read a favorite Children’s book)—Please check with your classrooms for times.
- Wednesday- (9/5) Lunch with Grandparents/Special Friend (Lunch will start at 11:30 for Infants/Toddler 1 and 12:00 for Preschool and Pre-K) Please arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled lunch time. Thank you in advance.
- Thursday-(9/6) Share Your Talent or Hobby—Please check with your classrooms for times.
- Friday- (9/7) Art Day (Help create a masterpiece in the classroom)-- Please check with your classrooms for times.

Clifton Schedule:

We would like to invite grandparents/special friends to join us for special activities in the classroom. We would love to have you come to:

- Read a favorite children’s story
- Share a talent or hobby (cooking, play an instrument, etc)
- Participate in an art experience
- Join the classroom for Music and Movement (Infants/T1) or KinderDance (T2/Preschool)

Please check with your classroom for best times to schedule these visits.

Out of town? We are able to FaceTime Grandparents so they can see that precious little face even if it is for just a few moments.

Friday- (9/7) Breakfast with your Grandchild/Special Friend – Join us for a special breakfast time with your grandchild/Special Friend. Breakfast available 8:00 – 9:30am.

Teacher/ Child Ratios at The Clifton School

In an effort to maintain quality, The Clifton School utilizes nationally (NAEYC) suggested ratios in the classroom. There are however a few times during the day that we utilize ratios at or below what is required by the state. Those times are: during morning drop-off and afternoon pick- up for about 1 hour and during the teacher’s lunch break period which typically takes place during nap-time.

We are committed to best practices and utilizing nationally (NAEYC) suggested ratios during of the instructional periods of the day. Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions regarding ratios.

Important Dates

September 3, 2018

September 25, 27 2018

September 26, 27 2018

September 7, 2018

September 17, 2018

October 08, 2018

School Closed for Labor Day

Clairmont Exhibit Nights

Clifton Road Exhibit Nights

First Friday Coffee

PTA Meeting

School Closed for Professional Development

October 27, 2018

Harvest Festival

Thank you for trusting us each day with your children. It is a privilege we do not take for granted.

Natalie Feagin
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