

Good Evening Families,

Thank you for your flexibility and patience with the school closing due to weather from Hurricane Zeta. We lost power at both schools last Thursday. We know many staff and families experienced a loss of power and possible property damage as well. We are thankful that everyone made it through the storm safely.

Again, I would like to thank all of our staff and families as we continue to work together to mitigate the spread of coronavirus in our school successfully. Please remember as we prepare to enter the cold and flu season, we must be diligent and consistent with our mitigation efforts. Please keep your children home when they or anyone in your household show symptoms of illness. We all have gotten comfortable with the screening questions; however, please pay attention to the questions and provide accurate responses. Please adhere to the CDC's guidelines on social distancing and wearing masks. If your family does not adhere to these guidelines, please do not bring your children to school.

Masks and Classroom Environments

The CDC recommends that children age two years and older wear masks to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. As our 2-year-old students turn 2 ½, we will begin practicing and encouraging them to wear a mask while in the classroom setting. We will start with the children practicing wearing masks during circle time and will slowly progress to mask-wearing during center time. Please allow your child to practice wearing a mask while they are away from school. Please provide a mask for your child to use while they are at school. Please remember masks with valves are not permitted. We have extra masks for children who forget their masks. This practice will begin Monday, November 9. Please see the link below for more information on face masks.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

We have purchased humidifiers to use along with our air purifiers to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the classroom environment during the fall and winter months. According to research, the virus that causes COVID-19 thrives in dry air with low humidity. Please click on the link below for more information. <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/about-us/news-press/news-detail?articleid=27912&publicId=395>

COVID-19 Testing

The Clifton School has partnered with Emory Healthcare and Children's Hospital of Atlanta to connect school staff and children with COVID-19 testing needs. If your child is in need of testing, please contact a school administrator, Clifton

Road: cbritt@thecliftonschool.org; Clairmont: lfields@thecliftonschool.org or for either site: nfeagin@thecliftonschool.org We are excited about this partnership, and we hope that it will be a useful resource for families and reduce our wait-time for test results.

School Hours

TCS is currently operating with reduced hours due to the pandemic. These hours allow us to dedicate time to clean and disinfect and to support our staff who are balancing work while supporting their own virtual learners at home. As we move into the winter month, we will extend our closing hours to 5:30 pm. There will no longer be a 20-minute grace period. Virtual Learning

Camp will maintain their current schedule. The 5:30 pm closing time will begin Monday, November 9.

Yale Study on Child Care Programs and COVID-19

Yale researchers conducted the first-ever large-scale assessment of the risk of working in child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their findings show child care programs that remained open throughout the pandemic did not contribute to the spread of the virus to providers, lending valuable insight to parents, policymakers, and providers alike. To learn more about the study, click on the link below:

<https://news.yale.edu/2020/10/16/child-care-not-associated-spread-covid-19-yale-study-finds>

Tuesday, November 3 is Election Day

The Clifton School supports and advocates for early childhood education. We are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

NAEYC is leading the America for Early Ed “Our Votes. Their Futures.” campaign, a non-partisan electoral advocacy effort to elevate early childhood education and engage educators across the country. We encourage you to learn more about this campaign by visiting americaforearlyed.org or by searching @SupportEarlyEd on Facebook and Twitter!

As a non-profit organization, we’re not advocating for any particular candidate or party, but we know your voice counts, and we hope you will go out and vote during this important election!

Flu Shots: To prepare for flu season, we are asking all teachers, staff, and children to get a flu shot. The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone six months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting ourselves and each other against this serious disease. Getting the flu vaccine as soon as it becomes available each year is always a good idea, and the protection you get from vaccination will last throughout the flu season.- www.CDC.gov.

Inclement Weather Policy

During times of inclement weather, our goal is to remain in operation to serve families to the best of our ability. We will be staffed by as many employees as possible, depending on the number of employees who can safely travel. However, if BOTH Emory University and the CDC close or announce a delayed opening time or an early closing time, we will also do so. There are times when we may announce our closing prior to Emory University and the CDC. These instances may include a declared state of emergency and a shutdown of public transportation. If the weather should turn dangerous or icy during the day, we will request that families pick up their children as soon as possible so that everyone can travel home safely. This information will be relayed through our calling post, email listserv, posted on Brightwheel, our website and Facebook page, and when possible, broadcast on Channel 2 Action News.

COVID Closures and Tuition Payment Updated Policy

Classroom Closures

If during any 6-month period, a classroom has to be closed for quarantine (14 days or less) more than one time, then as of the second COVID-19 quarantine closing (within that same 6-month period) students assigned to that class will have **tuition prorated based on the number of days excluded from care**. The reduced tuition period will not be extended to allow additional time for

testing, awaiting test results, or quarantining beyond the 14-day period. As of the classroom's re-opening, tuition will be charged at 100% for all students assigned to that classroom.

Schoolwide Closures

If the schoolwide closing is the family's first COVID-19 (quarantine) school closing, then the family will pay full tuition. If it is the family's second COVID-19 (quarantine) school closing, then the family will pay prorated tuition based on the number of days excluded from care. The reduced tuition period will not include extended time for testing, awaiting test results, or quarantining beyond the 14-day period. When the school re-opens, then all enrolled students will be charged tuition at 100%.

Important Dates and School Closures

November 23-27, 2020 Thanksgiving Holiday

December 21-25, 2020 Winter Holiday

January 1, 2021 New Year's Day

January 18, 2021 MLK Jr Day

February 15, 2021 President's Day

May 31- June 4, 2021 Move-up Week

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