

Welcome families, to an exciting new year at The Clifton School!

The hallways have been abuzz during the last two weeks with new babies, toddlers, preschoolers and summer campers. A new school year brings with it the excitement and anticipation of what's to come. Before you know it, baby's babbles will progress to small words. Toddlers will begin playing cooperatively with peers and climbing play structures, while preschoolers are developing enhanced social emotional literacy and math skills. We are proud that all of these developmental milestones will take place while your child is at The Clifton School.

June 15, 2021, marked one year since we reopened TCS after the start of the pandemic. It was a time filled with anxiety and uncertainty. Despite the unknowns, we were determined to resume our program and strictly adhere to health and safety guidelines, because we know that The Clifton School serves families who work on the front lines of combating the virus. A year later, we have learned a lot about operating a child care program during a global pandemic. While we have faced a few challenges, in the end we can be proud of the care we provided to our families and children and the employment and benefits that we maintained for staff.

In May, we celebrated our incredible teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. I would like to also recognize our amazing administrators. They have worked tirelessly on developing policies and implementing practices to keep the children and staff safe. They have been out in the cold and rain facilitating health screenings, making sure children and staff who are sick do not come to school, helping in classrooms, and dealing with the stressful task of quarantining a classroom. Our administrators truly work as a team from budgeting to managing the daily operations. The Clifton School would not have thrived during this critical time without them. Our fantastic administrative team is pictured below.



Pictured left to right: Kari Saxton, Anita Morris, Marquita Madison, Duana Revere, Natalie Feagin, Doris Rice, Lasheenia Fields, Janette Miles, Cindy Britt, Andrea Bourne, Donna Ford, Ori Ukuku. Not pictured: Daneill Gunn

Please read carefully and take note of the updates below. There is a lot of new information.
Updated Sick Child Policy

If a child has any of the following symptoms, they must be excluded from the child care setting after 48 hours of being fever and symptom-free and a negative COVID-19 test.

- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Muscle Aches
- Difficulty Breathing
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Fever at or above the threshold temperature of **100.4° F** (including temperatures that would meet this criteria, if not for the use of fever-reducers). *The threshold temperature is **100.4° F**, unless a LOWER threshold temperature is imposed in the local jurisdiction or by the specific center.*

If a child has one symptom alone such as: diarrhea, vomiting, pink eye, constant sneezing, or rash, students may return 24 hours after symptoms resolve with a doctor's note and after taking antibiotics, if prescribed. If antibiotics are not prescribed, the child may return 24 hours after symptoms resolve with a doctor's note.

If a child has two or more of the symptoms listed above, the child may return 48 hours after symptoms resolve with a doctor's note.

Temperature Checks

Beginning Tuesday, July 6 we will no longer conduct temperature checks during morning drop-off. We ask that families take the temperatures of all family members prior to arriving at school. If any member of the family has a temperature of 100.4 or above then the children should not come to school. Families will continue to use the symptom checklist on Brightwheel, and we will continue to conduct mid-day temperature checks.

Updated Guidance on Child Exclusion for a Runny Nose (*exclusion period reduced from 72 hours to 24 hours*):

If a child has the symptom of a **runny nose ALONE** (without a fever, another COVID-19 related symptom, or chest congestion), the child should be excluded for 24 hours and can return with a doctor's note stating the cause of the runny nose. If the cause is viral or bacterial; i.e., a cold or ear infection, the note will be good for two weeks (unless new symptoms develop.) If the cause is allergies, the note will be good for 60 days (unless new symptoms develop.)

TCS Staff Vaccination Incentive:

The Clifton School is providing a financial incentive for staff who are inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccine. Employees who are inoculated will be paid for up to two hours of time away from work to receive each dose of the vaccine and a \$100.00 incentive after receiving the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Currently 90% of Clairmont staff are fully vaccinated, and 70% of Clifton Road staff are fully vaccinated.

Our travel policy will remain the same. Please review it below.

Travel Policy:

If you travel by plane, train, or bus domestically or internationally, we ask that you follow the CDC's recommendations for quarantine and testing below. **(This does not apply to an individual who is fully vaccinated, and it does not apply if the enrolled child does not travel.)**

You may have been exposed to COVID-19 on your travels. You may feel well and not have any symptoms, but you can still spread the virus to others. **You and your travel companions (including children) may pose a risk to your family, friends, and community after your travel.**

- [Get tested](#) with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel **AND** stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
 - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
 - If your test is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected.
 - If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
 - Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
 - If you travel by car domestically, maintain social distancing, and **do not** mix households, there is no need for quarantine.
 - If you travel by car domestically and mix households, we ask that you get a Rapid or PCR test on the third day after your travel. Your child may then return to school with a negative test. **(Testing and quarantine are not required if ALL of the individuals you visited were fully vaccinated. If they have children in their household, then it is not considered a fully vaccinated household.)**
 - **This also applies if individuals travel to visit your household, unless all of the individuals visiting you are fully vaccinated. If they have children, then they are not considered a fully vaccinated household.*
- *A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the final dose, giving the body time to build antibodies against the virus.*

For more information on CDC's Travel Guidelines

visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/>

New 2021-2022 Calendar

We have a new calendar for the 2021-22 school year. You will notice a major change on the new calendar: our 2022 school year will begin in August 2022, instead of June 2022. We will still offer summer camp June-July 2022; however, children who are enrolled in our infant-preschool classrooms will remain in their classrooms and will not move-up until the school year begins in August. We will also continue to offer senior camp for children ages 6-10.

We decided to move to a more traditional calendar for a few reasons:

- To help reduce instances of teacher burnout. Summer is considered a time for relaxation and fun. When we start our school year in June, we ask that teachers refrain from requesting time off for the first two weeks of the month, so they are available for families and to get acquainted with their new students. The new calendar will allow teachers and staff to have a more relaxing summer and take time off as needed.
- To better align our calendar with the needs of the community we serve. Many new families who do not need to utilize our services until late July or August, enroll in our program and begin paying tuition in June to reserve their child's space. We hope that the

new calendar will allow families to utilize the services they are paying for in a more timely manner.

- To be more in sync with the calendars of other public and private schools in the community.

The new calendar is below:

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • July 5, 2021 | Closed for Independence Day |
| • September 6, 2021 | Closed for Labor Day |
| • October 11, 2021 | Closed for Teacher Work Day |
| • November 24-26, 2021 | Closed for Fall Holiday |
| • December 24-31, 2021 | Closed for Winter Holiday |
| • January 17, 2022 | Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| • February 21, 2022 | Closed for Professional Development |
| • May 30-31, 2022 | Closed for Memorial Day |
| • June 1, 2022 | First day of summer sessions |
| • June 20, 2022 | Closed for Juneteenth |
| • July 4, 2022 | Closed for Independence Day |
| • July 28-Aug 1, 2022 | Closed for Move-up |
| • August 2, 2022 | First day of new school year |

Summer Safety

At The Clifton School, it is important that we practice safety at all times. We are especially focused on sun safety during the hot months. We are sure to keep children well hydrated prior to going outside and while they are outside. We are sure to protect children from outdoor elements by applying sunscreen and insect repellent as needed. We also have all playgrounds professionally treated for mosquitos monthly. In addition, we pay close attention to the smog alerts and receive messages daily from the Clean Air Campaign. We practice the following safety guidelines for outdoor activity during smog alerts:

Code Orange – outside in the morning, ½ outdoor time in the afternoon

Code Red – ½ outside time in the morning, no outside time in the afternoon

Please visit the following websites for more information on summer safety. <http://www.cdc.gov/family/kids/summer/>

www.cleanaircampaign.org

Please do not leave children in vehicles

When dropping off and picking up, do not leave children unattended in vehicles.

Heat stroke (hyperthermia) is the biggest danger. Heat stroke can damage the brain and other body organs. It can even lead to death. It doesn't take long for a child's body temperature to become too high very fast when left in a car because:

- The temperature inside a car can increase 20 degrees in just 10 minutes and 40 degrees in an hour. It doesn't have to feel hot outside to be dangerous inside a car. Deaths have happened when it's just above 70 degrees F (Fahrenheit) outside. Leaving the windows open slightly does not prevent the temperature from rising to a dangerous level.

- A child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's body. Children have a lot of body surface area that absorbs heat. Children's bodies have not yet developed the ability to cool down well.

Most of the children who have died from heat stroke after being left alone in a car were 3 and under, but it has happened to kids as old as 14.

Thank you for allowing us to take care of your children. It is a privilege we do not take for granted.

[Click here to like us on Facebook](#)

To see the results of our 2020-21 Family Satisfaction Survey click on the link below, and use the password below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-TTK3TSLJ/>

Password: Cliftonsurvey

Be well,

Natalie Feagin

Executive Director

www.thecliftonschool.org