

Good Afternoon Families,

We truly appreciate all of the donations to the STAC campaign. We acknowledge the time and effort the PTA board and room representatives dedicated to organizing the campaign. Your contributions will help make this season brighter for our teachers and staff. Please enjoy this season with family and friends. May your days be full of laughter and the making of great memories. Please remember TCS is closed December 24-31 for the winter holiday season.

Beginning January 3, 2022, we will extend our hours to 7:00 AM -6:00 PM. We appreciate families adjusting to our changing hours throughout the pandemic. Our hours were reduced primarily to keep children separated and reduce potential exposures to COVID-19. To accommodate extended hours, we will need to mix children during opening and closing times of the day. Child care licensing allows for mixed age groups to combine for the first and last hours of the day. We will only combine with other children in the village during these times.

We are continually monitoring the trajectory of the pandemic. We are closely paying attention to the omicron variant. We know it spreads quickly and may lead to breakthrough cases. If this variant or any new variants impact staffing and increase exposures within the school, we may return to reduced program hours.

It is important that families avoid prolonged drop-off and pick-up routines with their children. The parking lots at both schools can get backed up, become congested, and affect timely pick-up for other families. We will begin following our late pick-up policy as we move to the extended hours, and the 15 minute grace period will no longer be in place. Please see the policy below:

The Clifton School closes each night at a published time and on certain days earlier for meetings or events. We bring any single child remaining in a classroom to the lobby after the published time, and the classroom is closed at this time. After the published time, families will be charged additional fees for late pick-up. A late fee charge of \$1.00 per minute per family after the published time (or the closing time if earlier) will be added to the ledgers of families who arrive to pick up their child after this time. For those families who are chronically late (defined as more than two times in a one month period), the late pick up fee will increase to \$5.00 per minute for the remainder of the month. Payment of late pick-up fees will be made according to the family's usual payment method and will be due within 30 days of the charges. The number of late pick-ups that determine the late pick-up rate will start over each month on the 1st of the month. Families that are chronically late to pick up their child, especially when it extends into the evening hours, may be suspended or required to withdraw.

Please reference our sick child policy and travel policy as we prepare to spend time with family and friends.

Updated Sick Child Policy

If a child has any of the following symptoms, they must be excluded from the child care setting and can return after 24 hours of being symptom-free and with a doctor's note. If one of the symptoms is a fever, they must remain fever-free and symptom-free for 48 hours and can return with a negative COVID-19 test.

- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Muscle Aches
- Difficulty Breathing
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- 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: pink eye, sneezing, or unknown rash, the student 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.

Updated Guidance on Child Exclusion for a Runny Nose

We heard your concerns related to our runny nose policy. We will continue to implement this policy because congestion and a runny nose are symptoms of COVID-19, Influenza, RSV, and other illnesses. However, we have modified the policy to reduce the exclusion period.

We will not send children whose only symptom is a runny nose home, unless it's excessive, needing to be wiped several times for at least two days, and combined with chest congestion. The child should be excluded for 24 hours and can return with a doctor's note.

A COVID test is not needed for return unless a doctor recommends testing. If the cause is viral or bacterial, i.e., a cold or ear infection, the note will be good for four weeks (unless new symptoms develop.) If the cause is allergies, the note will be good for 60 days (unless new symptoms develop.)

Sibling Exclusion

We will no longer exclude a sibling while waiting for a diagnosis for a child who is experiencing non-COVID symptoms. However, siblings will be excluded if the child with initial symptoms is placed in quarantine or has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

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 domestically by car and maintain social distancing and do not mix households, there is no need for quarantine.

If you travel domestically by car 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 who are not fully vaccinated 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 who are not fully vaccinated, 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.

Be well,

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