

Dear Families,

Welcome to 2023 at The Clifton School! We are looking forward to an engaging year with our Ranger friends. This year we will have more onsite activities for children, families, and teachers. We plan to host more Parent's Night Out events, parent workshops, face-to-face staff training, and in-house field trips for the children. We are excited about developing deeper connections this year.

Please take note of some of our accomplishments in 2022 and goals for 2023. In addition, please review a few program updates.

A few of our accomplishments from 2022

- Both sites underwent a rigorous national accreditation process with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Each site achieved national accreditation and will work to maintain it for the next five years. The Clifton School shares NAEYC's philosophy: "Every child deserves access to high-quality early learning experiences. NAEYC-accredited early learning programs are exceptionally well equipped and meticulously measured for indicators of quality in the classroom and beyond. From guidelines for teacher preparation through safety standards, NAEYC Accreditation ensures that programs are safe, well prepared, and intentional about ensuring children's success." www.naeyc.org
- We value outside play at TCS, and we know the opportunities for children to learn while playing outside are endless. Therefore, we continue to upgrade our outside play spaces. A beautiful new play structure was installed on the preschool playground at our Clairmont location. Clairmont's Infant playground received a new soft surface, and a new play structure was purchased for Clairmont's Toddler II playground. The installation date for the structure is January 2023. The Toddler I playground at the Clifton Road site had a new play structure installed.
- We developed a partnership with Children's Health Care of Atlanta to implement the Building Resilience in Early Care program. The program objectives are to increase early childhood educator's (ECE) knowledge and use of strategies to promote resilience in young children. Teachers and families will have opportunities to participate in training centered around this topic throughout the year.
- The third group of mentor teachers began the Mentor Teaching Program. The program is designed to provide coaching and support to novice teachers. It also provides leadership training and growth opportunities to experienced teachers. The mentor teachers and the mentees are provided with several hours of professional development and financial compensation for participating in the program.
- Both sites have had successful licensing reviews of our health and safety practices and remained in "**good standing**" by Bright from the Start, Georgia's childcare licensing agency.
- The children, staff, and families voted for our school's mascot. We are The Clifton School Rangers, and the owl ranger is our new mascot. School spirit days and activities will be incorporated into our curriculum.
- Each site will gain an additional curriculum coordinator. The role of the curriculum coordinator is to support teachers in creating developmentally appropriate classroom environments and activities. With each site having twenty classrooms, adding an additional curriculum coordinator has been one of our goals for several years. Fortunately, the board of directors approved the addition for this fiscal year. Faiza Andrew, a lead and mentor teacher was promoted to the position at the Clairmont site. We are in the process of interviewing for the Clifton Rd. site and hope to have the position filled soon.

- The early intervention team continues to support teachers, children, and families. They had the opportunity to travel to Chicago to participate in an early learning conference and gain strategies to add to their tool bag.
- Teachers and staff completed over 20 hours of professional development, and several teachers and staff attended local and national early childhood conferences for the first time since the start of the pandemic.
- The PTA successfully organized and facilitated the annual art auction in person, a fun-filled Harvest Festival, and a successful STAC campaign.

A few of our goals for 2023

- Participate in Georgia's Quality Rated program. Quality Rated is a systematic approach to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs.
- Continue upgrading our video surveillance system by adding new cameras.
- Continue to improve our facilities.
- Expanding early intervention program strategies.
- Improving implementation of the infant and toddler curriculum.
- Partner with CHOA on the Building Resilience in Early Care program.
- Reinstating programs to support families, such as workshops, parent's night out, and providing a variety of child development resources.
- We are committed to recruiting, supporting, and retaining quality teaching staff. We recognize that retaining excellent teachers creates an ideal learning environment for our students. One of our goals for this year is to enhance the onboarding process for new teachers. Our goal is to provide them with more support as they enter a new teaching environment. We currently offer the following benefits to aid in the retention of teachers:
 - Pay 90% of employee health insurance benefits
 - Offer supplemental insurance
 - 50% tuition discount for children of employees
 - Professional development opportunities locally and nationally
 - Contribution to 403b account
 - Paid annual leave
 - Bonuses
 - Emergency assistance
 - Ongoing teacher appreciation lunches, gifts, activities
 - Celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Active teacher council
 - Celebrate the Teacher Extraordinaire and Teacher of the Year

Summer Camp 2023

This summer's Discovery Camp will focus on discovering nature. Junior campers (ages 4,5) will slowly transition to participating in off-site field trips this year by going on one field trip to Circus Camp. However, we will bring other engaging field trips directly onsite to them. Senior campers (ages 6-9) will participate in field trips off-site. They will visit community parks, the Atlanta Zoo, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Botanical Gardens, and more exciting places.

Summer camp registration will begin on February 1 for in-house/actively enrolled families and on February 6 for all other eligible families.

Your child is eligible for summer camp if they are: age 4 through age 9. If they are transitioning to kindergarten (age 5 by September 1, 2023). Any age-eligible child whose parent is a benefits-eligible employee of Emory, CDC or CHOA or is a full-time Emory student is also able to enroll in summer camp, regardless of whether the family has ever had a child enrolled at either Clifton School location. More information regarding summer camp schedules and field trips will be sent prior to registration.

An Enrollment Intent Survey will be emailed to families on March 1, 2023. This survey provides families with an opportunity to make requests for the upcoming school year's classroom placements and inform us of any upcoming changes in their children's enrollment. The intent survey is to be completed by all infant-preschool families.

Subsidy: If you are receiving a subsidy, documents for renewal for the 2023/2024 school year are due by April 15, 2023. For more information on subsidy renewal and eligibility, contact visit our website: www.theclifftonschool.org. If you have additional questions, please contact Safa Sirajud-Deen (ssirajud@theclifftonschool.org) at the Clifton site or Daniel Gunn (dgunn@theclifftonschool.org) at the Clairmont site.

Georgia Lottery Pre-K

The Clifton School's registration for the 2023-24 Lottery Funded Georgia Pre-K program is February 1-28, 2023. The GA Pre-K Waiting List Information Form to enter your child in the lottery for enrollment will be posted on our website. Your child must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2023, to participate in the Georgia Pre-K program. A private lottery will take place on March 16, 2023. Families will be notified of acceptance on March 17, 2023.

Important Dates:

February 1, 2023	GA Pre-K and summer camp applications released.
February 11, 2023	Parent's Night Out at Clairmont 6-10 PM. A sign-up sheet is at the front desk. For more information email: drice@theclifftonschool.org
February 20, 2023	TCS is closed for professional development.
February 22, 2023	Virtual Open House for families interested in enrolling at TCS @ 12:00 PM.
March 25, 2023	Annual Art Auction hosted by TCS PTA.

Be well,

Natalie Feagin
Executive Director
www.theclifftonschool.org