

Hello Families,

We have successfully completed our first month of the school year at The Clifton School. Seeing new babies in the infant village and watching them eagerly explore their new environments is always exciting! We are in awe as we witness our previous infant students advance in their development in the toddler classrooms. They're sleeping on cots and participating in family-style dining. The toddler II students are manipulating more challenging classroom materials. The preschoolers and pre-k students are developing their problem-solving and socialization skills as they prepare for kindergarten. It is our absolute privilege to watch your children grow and contribute to their early childhood development. This will be a fantastic year of growth and discovery for us all. The Clifton School is committed to providing quality early childhood educational experiences and partnering with families in this stage of their children's development. Thank you for trusting us with your children. Please review the following updates:

As we begin the new school year, we want to inform new families and remind continuing families that The Clifton School provides early intervention services.

What is early intervention?

Early intervention is a system of services that *helps infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with developmental concerns, delays, or disabilities*. Early intervention focuses on helping eligible infants, toddlers, and preschoolers learn the basic and brand-new skills that typically develop during the first years of life, such as:

- *physical* (reaching, rolling, crawling, walking)
- *cognitive* (thinking, learning, solving problems)
- *communication* (talking, listening, understanding)
- *social/emotional* (playing, feeling secure and happy)
- *self-help* (eating, dressing)

Examples of strategies used in the classroom:

- Schedule adjustments
- Visual schedules
- Oral motor supports
- Sensory materials added to the environment
- Technology added to support communication
- Visual timers
- Materials added to support development
- Teacher training

Examples of third-party connections for early intervention services:

- Assistive technology (devices a child might need)
- Audiology or hearing services
- Speech and language services
- Public school system services
- Counseling and training for a family
- Medical services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy

- Psychological services

If you have a concern or specific question regarding your child's development or need early intervention services, please contact:

Kari Saxton: kford-saxton@thecliftonschool.org

Aleece Beattie: abeattie@thecliftonschool.org

Be sure to record the dates for the 2023-24 School Closings.

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| • August 1, 2023 | First Day of School |
| • September 4, | 2023 Labor Day |
| • October 9, 2023 | Professional Development Day |
| • November 22-24, 2023 | Thanksgiving |
| • December 25, 2023-
January 1, 2024 | Winter Holiday |
| • January 15, 2024 | MLK Jr. Holiday |
| • February 19, 2024 | Professional Development Day |
| • April 5, 2024 | Spring Holiday |
| • May 27-28, 2024 | Memorial Day |
| • June 19, 2024 | Juneteenth |
| • July 4-5, 2024 | Independence Day |
| • July 31-August 2, 2024 | Move-up/PD |
| • August 5, 2024 | First Day of School |

Quality Initiatives

Home visits

In October, we will begin implementing home visits with some families. Before the pandemic, teachers conducted home visits to create home-school connections with families and learn about their cultural practices.

Home visits can establish positive interactions and communication with families. They are not a replacement for parent-teacher conferences but are a process through which teachers demonstrate their support for children’s families by visiting the home environment or an alternative location where the family feels at home and comfortable. Home visits promote proactive interactions through which teachers provide authentic support while recognizing families' strengths.

Mentor Teacher Program

The program provides coaching and support to novice teachers. It also provides leadership training and growth opportunities to experienced teachers. The mentor teachers and the mentees receive several hours of professional development and financial compensation for participating in the program. The mentor teachers at our Clairmont site are Temeka Elder, Sahanta Favors, Lathea Wilder, and Audrea Jackson. The mentor teachers at our Clifton Road site are Dana Rogers, Angela Curtis, Tiffany Wilburn, and Bernita Love.

Check-in Calls

The administrative team is conducting check-in calls with families to learn about their experiences during the first month of the school year. We want to know what's going well for families and the areas where we can improve. We have randomly selected families to call. Not

all families will receive a call. Thank you in advance for helping us improve the quality of our program.

PTA Room Representatives

The PTA board is looking for room representatives to serve as liaisons between each class and the PTA. Also, the room representatives help encourage classroom families to recognize teachers' birthdays and other fun celebrations. The administrative team often utilizes the support of room representatives when addressing important classroom happenings or changes.

Being a Room Rep is a great way to get involved with The Clifton School and a great way to get to know other parents/guardians in your student's class. This role is a vital communication structure for all the amazing families in the Clifton community. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to be room representatives.

Upcoming Events

- Grandparents Luncheon Clifton Road Sept 8th
- Grandparents Luncheon Clairmont, September 6^h
- Hispanic Heritage Month Sept 15th - Oct 15th
- Book Fair, September 18-22nd
- Harvest Festival Sponsored by the PTA, Saturday, October 21st at our Clairmont site

Best,

Natalie Feagin

Executive Director

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