

HELC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020



Dear Harris ELC families,

We appreciate each of you and are honored to have your children with us at the Harris ELC. We wanted to check-in and update you on the status of the Center's hours of operation.

COVID-19 has created a public health situation that is constantly changing. At present, the state remains under a Safer at Home order while Jefferson County has fluctuated between positive cases rising, remaining stable or declining constantly over the last months. Public health experts tell us to expect the fall virus season to bring multiple spikes in the incidence of infection.

The safety of our children, families and staff are paramount. As a result, we will continue to follow expert guidance (e.g. Alabama Department of Public Health, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics) on best practices for the Center's operation, which recommend limiting:

- mixing of children in different classes and age groups; and
- the total number of adults who have contact with any given classroom and movement of adults between classrooms.

We will also continue to keep capacity lower than normal to allow for as much social distancing as possible within classrooms. Our goal is to be able to respond quickly and with limited disruptions to any positive cases that may arise, closing a single classroom rather than multiple classrooms because there has been mingling or combining of children and/or adults from different classrooms.

We appreciate your understanding and eagerly anticipate the time when we can completely return to normal operations. While it is impossible to pinpoint in advance the exact time that we can resume regular hours and procedures, we will continue to evaluate the situation as it evolves, paying careful attention to the direction and recommendations of our state and local health officials as well as the Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. When we can safely return to normal operations, we will do so.

Thank you for understanding and for supporting HELC in every way!

Parent Rep Information

You should have received a welcome email from the HELC Parent Rep Group Chair discussing our communication platform (Membership Toolkit), PRG donations and opportunities to volunteer as a classroom Parent Representative. There are still many rooms that do not have a Parent Rep yet. If you would like to volunteer, please go to: https://harriselc.membershiptoolkit.com/sign_ups.

Our first Parent Rep meeting of the school year will be held virtually via zoom on September 30th from 12-1PM . All parents are welcome!

Please contact Anne Michelle Barnett (helc.parentrep@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

SchoolCast Used As Parent Notification System

HELCC will continue to use SchoolCast as a form of communication with parents for two different purposes. Most importantly, we will use SchoolCast to alert parents of school closings, school delays, or emergency situations. This system can be used to email, call, or text all families as soon as we need to get in touch with you. We will use the numbers and emails you

provided on your emergency contact sheet. In addition to using this during emergency situations, this system is used to send the HELCC Newsletter, to notify you of upcoming events and to send reminders through email.

COVID Guidance Information

Please review the next few pages for information regarding COVID Close Contact Guidance as well as infographics. This information is great to keep on hand for quick reference in the event you or anyone in your family is exposed or begins to develop symptoms.