

July 17, 2020

Dear Preschool Families,

I am writing you today to inform you that the Preschool Board of Christ Memorial Christian Preschool have made a decision regarding the 2020/21 school year at CMCP. As I shared with you in my last message there are multiple factors that influence our ability to have a safe and productive school year at Christ Memorial.

1. First is the availability of our church building. As I shared Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church is operating with a building closure into September out of an abundance of caution for the church community. Given current trends in COVID-19 cases, this closure is likely to be extended.
2. A second factor for our preschool is the decisions made by HCPSS. As you are all aware the Howard County School Board voted last night to have all classes participate in fully online courses through the first semester of the 2020/21 school year. This decision by Howard County influences the availability of staff at Christ Memorial Christian Preschool, as all staff have children that attend HCPSS.
3. The third factor the Preschool Board weighed heavily is the overall safety of the children, families and staff of Christ Memorial Christian Preschool. Although there are safety measures that can be put in place to minimize risk, there are no guarantees as child care centers in our state that are currently in operation have experienced cases of COVID-19.

With all these factors considered, the Preschool Board of Christ Memorial Christian Preschool voted unanimously to delay the start of

the 2020/21 school year until January 2021. It is the sincere goal of the Preschool Board and staff of CMCP to offer an abbreviated preschool year at that time if current conditions make it conducive to do so. Please know that the staff of Christ Memorial and myself are saddened by this decision but also realize that it is the right decision in the current climate.

During this closure the staff of Christ Memorial Christian Preschool want to support you and your child at home to the best of our ability. We are working to create an optional at-home curriculum that we will send to you weekly which will mirror activities and lessons that would have occurred at preschool. These activities will help your child strengthen their small motor skills and base knowledge to be ready for the start of the abbreviated school year in January as well as focus on skills for kindergarten in the future. More information will be available regarding this plan by the end of August prior to the original start date of preschool.

Regarding registration fees and tuition payments during this delay to the school year at CMCP we have made the following decisions. We feel strongly that we can not charge our preschool families for a service that we can not fully render as promised. Therefore, we will not be charging tuition during this time. If you would like to make a charitable donation to help the preschool during this time that would be graciously accepted. Your registration fee was stated to be non-refundable at the time of payment, however given these unusual circumstances we will refund registration fees to those that request it. In order to guarantee a place at CMCP for your child upon the start of the January 2021 abbreviated school year however, your registration fee will not be refunded at this time. If conditions do not warrant a safe environment for opening in January than all registration fees will be refunded at that time upon request.

We realize that this decision is disappointing to many of you. We are also going to miss welcoming your children in to our classrooms as usual this September. We pray that we will have this opportunity in the future. Please contact me if there are any questions I can answer for you at this time.

Brightest Blessings,

Heather Gallagher

Director