

Dear Early Childhood Families,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the summer with your children. Be it travel, camp, or family time that fills the coming days, I hope you are all able to take advantage of the more relaxed pace of the summer months.

Having finished out the year strong, we now turn our attention to the upcoming school year, which will be here before we know it! We would like to take this opportunity to share some important information as you, too, begin planning for the upcoming school year.

- **EC Uniforms - the first uniform day for the EC children will be Wednesday, Aug. 18, the first day of school.** There are a wide variety of options available at The Plaid Peddler, our campus bookstore. Bookstore hours are listed on the Back-to-School page of the Heathwood website. Alternatively, you can also purchase Heathwood logo attire from the Lands' End uniform division using our school code, 900068206. During the year, EC students may wear uniforms on any day, however, there are certain days when uniform are required for EC students:
 - **EC2s** - Uniforms are only required on special event days - first day of school, picture day, Convocation, Grandparents and Special Friends Day, etc. Notification about uniform requirements will be shared via Seesaw prior to the special event. Uniforms are no longer required in the EC2s on "Chapel Day" as every division's chapel service will fall on a different day and the EC2s will have chapel on a day that is different from the EC3s and EC4s.
 - **EC3s and EC4s** - Students follow the dress code of the rest of the school community on their Chapel day, which has been designated as Friday this year.
- **Backpacks:** In anticipation of the beginning of the school year, many children get excited about choosing a new backpack. Due to space constraints with the cubbies in the Early Childhood space, we cannot accommodate rolling backpacks. We would prefer the children use a regular-sized backpack or tote, with ample room for children's nap blanket, water bottle, and class work.
- **Nap Items:** Each EC class has rest time every day. We supply nap mats, but families need to provide personal nap items such as a small pillow, blanket, and lovey (optional). Please take the size of items into consideration (no sleeping bags or full size pillows). These items will stay at school all week and be sent home on Fridays to be washed and returned on Monday. As a reminder, pacifiers are not allowed.
- **School Supplies:** EC Students do not need to bring in any additional school supplies. All necessary classroom materials are covered by the supply fee and are therefore provided by the school.
- **Children entering EC3s and EC4s must be fully potty-trained prior to the beginning of school.** That means he/she can verbalize the need to use the bathroom, clean him/herself, and manage

his/her own clothing. Elastic waistbands make it much easier for your child to be independent. We understand accidents will happen and teachers will provide appropriate assistance as needed. Teachers are prepared to help a child who has an occasional wetting accident but, if after the first two weeks of school a child refuses to use the bathroom at school or has accidents on a regular basis, parents will be asked to take the child out of the program for a period of time to work on potty training at home.

In order to help make the transition into the Early Childhood program a smooth one, we are inviting you and your child to come in and get acquainted with the classroom and the teachers before school begins. Those visits will be scheduled and will be divided up according to whether or not your **FAMILY** is new to Heathwood this year:

- **Orientation to Heathwood and class visits for families NEW to HHES:** Each **NEW family** will receive an email invitation on July 30 to a group orientation meeting, followed by a visit to the classroom to meet the teachers. **New Families Orientation** will take place the morning of Monday, August 16, at your designated time - either 8:30 - 9:30 am; 9:30 - 10:30 am; or 10:30 - 11:30 am. Sign-up opportunities will be forthcoming in the Class Placement email.
- **Our visiting day for RETURNING families will be Tuesday, Aug. 17:** All **RETURNING families** are invited to visit EC classrooms and meet teachers on Tuesday, August 17, as a part of a small group. Those visits will be scheduled between 8:30 and 10:30 am. Sign-up opportunities will be forthcoming in the Class Placement email.
- **Class Placement:** Emails regarding class placement will be sent out on **Wednesday, Aug. 4**. The email will contain information about how to sign-up for the orientation and/or class visits. Your child will also receive a postcard from his/her classroom teacher on or about that day.

We look forward to getting to know your family and partnering with you in the coming months as your child embarks on this exciting new experience. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

With kind regards,

Stephanie Scanlon
Head of Early Childhood and Lower School
sscanlon@heathwood.org
EC/LS Office - 803.231.7748