

Dear Parents,

I love this time of year! Our whole culture shifts into celebration mode because of the birth of Jesus. It's a season where we remember the value of joy and wonder—and many times our kids lead the way!

This time of year is also when we begin firming up our plans for the next school year so that we're ready for registration season, which always seems to come upon us quickly after the new year. As we've been planning for next year—and the years to come—we've made a decision that we want you to know about.

We have decided that the current school year will be the last kindergarten class for EHCC Preschool. That means we will not be offering kindergarten for the 2018/19 school year and beyond.

There are several reasons we have made this decision. For the past 6 years, we have had a great little class each year, ranging from 8 - 18 children. The kindergarten class has never completely filled as most families choose to transition their children into the school district where they will attend beyond kindergarten.

At the same time, we have had over 100 kids each year on a waiting list for playschool, preschool, and pre-kindergarten. It is clear that there is a greater need in our community in those age groups than for kindergarten and we believe it's time for us to focus our efforts on making more space available for those children and families.

We are always looking for ways to serve our community and families better and it has become clear to us that the step of closing kindergarten and opening some additional classrooms is the right next step for EHCC Preschool.

If you were considering sending your child to kindergarten with us next year, we're honored that you would trust us with that responsibility in the life of your child. We do, however, believe that our school district offers wonderful elementary education and your child will have a great opportunity for a life-giving kindergarten experience. And we wanted to make sure you knew about this shift for next school year so that you have plenty of time to register your child for the fall of 2018.

Additionally, we want to thank Ms. Paige for creating a fabulous kindergarten experience at EHCC and to wish her well as she has chosen to retire after this school year.

We know this decision may raise questions or concerns for you and we want to do what we can to address those. Steve Finkill, the Executive Pastor of Ministries for Eastern Hills Community Church, and I will be available on Monday, 12/4, from 9-9:30am in the Treehouse Room immediately to the right of the EHCC Preschool entrance, just off the main lobby.

Thank you so much for being a part of the EHCC Preschool family. We take the care and nurturing of your children very seriously and we strive to do our best to serve you all with excellence and grace.

And, may you and your family experience the peace of God during this Christmas season.

Warm Regards,

Shannon Peterson, Director