



Hillside Preschool & Academy

A Certified Program of Excellence for Young Children

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Dear Families,

As you know the situation of our community, our nation and our world has changed very rapidly over the past week. It is not what we had in mind for March, or what we would choose for our families if given the choice. However, I can also confidently say, that **I am so proud and inspired by the way our circumstances have been embraced and the way our teachers, students and families have adapted.** I am humbled by the blessings that continue to overflow even in the face of this new challenge. Please know that we are diligently working to switch 400 families over to digital learning options. All of our families can expect to be digitally connected to their child's teacher by Monday, March 23rd.

We are staying abreast of all CDC recommendations, those made by our public officials and directives given by our Bishop's office at the North Georgia Conference. **At this time, we will continue to align with the school closure decisions made by Cherokee County Schools which now run through March 31st. This will mean that our school building will also remain physically closed to our students and staff through that date.** While our building is closed, our staff and students will still remain actively engaged digitally while honoring the need to socially distance ourselves for the good of our community. As more decisions are made and information is updated, we will be in close contact with you. These choices and decisions made with the support of our board, are not easy and not to be taken lightly. They effect over 400 children, 73 staff members and the families of all of them. Our school is amazing. We appreciate so much that you have chosen to be a part of it. We know that it is our people that make us what we are. While we can't meet inside our building, we are a community still built of the same people. This situation that we are in is temporary. It will end. We will be back together. In the meantime, we are being asked to "be still." How about that?

"The Lord will fight for you. You need only to be still." –Exodus 14:14

"Be still and know that I am with you." –Psalm 46:10

"They broke bread in their houses and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." –Acts 2:46

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." –Matthew 18:20

I pray that you will take this opportunity to be together with your family as a blessing. May you find the time for daily devotion both alone and together. Find three consecutive hours a day to be screen free. Go outside and watch spring arrive. May it fill us all with hope. I know that it is not a time that is without anxiety or hardship for some of us. Don't let those things drive your thoughts. We can all find a way to be the "helper." In the words of Mr. Fred Rogers, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things on the news, my mother would say to me 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" Thank you for your support and patience as we navigate these days. We will continue to be in communication with you.

Joyfully His,
Amanda Carver