



Emmanuel Christian School

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September 4, 2018

Dear ECS Family,

I hope this letter finds you all doing well and settling into a routine with your students and families. With three weeks of the school year under our belts, procedures are well underway, expectations have been established, and students and teachers are working diligently to learn, grow, and develop daily. I have had the opportunity to spend time in every single classroom on our campus over the last few weeks, and I am proud of the instruction that is taking place. Students are on task and engaged, and they are active participants in the learning process!

We have unveiled many new things at ECS this year, and we are very appreciative of your patience as we continue to monitor and adjust our practices as needed. Anytime change occurs, growing pains tend to come, but we are striving to make transitions flow as smoothly as possible.

In our first few weeks, we have already taken part in numerous athletic events, hosted Kona Ice twice, continued to welcome new faces onto our campus, held many faculty meetings, taken Senior and Fall pictures, experienced our first fire drill, expanded our After School Care program, held our first Fall Fundraiser meeting, met with fifth grade parents to discuss the annual Washington trip, facilitated signups for the upper school NYC trip, kicked off our Excel program, gotten our Accelerated Reader program up and running, prepared for our first chapel services, completed CPR and First Aid training for staff, enjoyed delicious new cafeteria offerings, celebrated College Team Day, had a pep rally, and MORE! Whew! I am exhausted just from typing all that! We are a thriving, busy ministry, and we are dedicated to offering the finest opportunities to all of our students and families.

As we continue through our year, we are aware that apprehensions will occasionally arise. As with anything we carry out, we desire for all things to be done decently and in order. The Bible tells us that our God is not a God of disorder, but of peace. We rely on His Word, and we want to honor Him and teach our students to handle matters in the correct ways at all times. I believe that our school and families should work hand in hand so that we are setting the right examples for our students. As situations happen, please help us continue to model the correct protocol by always communicating with your child's teacher first regarding your concerns. If resolution cannot be found at that level, upper school families should next seek the assistance of Dr. Ankers, our Upper School Principal. If guidance is still needed, situations should then be brought to the Head of School. Lower school families will contact their teacher first and then the Head of School if a solution has not presented itself. I strive to always make myself accessible to our students and families, and it is essential that we keep all lines of communication open in order to continue to achieve positive results. I am very appreciative of your assistance with this.

Many more exciting things are on the horizon here at ECS. Our teachers will be participating in staff development this week that will allow them to implement exciting technological advances into our classrooms. We have a captivating guest, Rev. Paul Veit, known as the Dino Pastor, who will be coming our way next week to share with our students the thrilling story of Creation. We would love to have our parents come take part in that invigorating presentation! The Scholastic Book Fair is just a few days away, and one of our very favorite days of the year, Grandparent's Day, is happening very soon! Also, be on the lookout for details concerning our beloved annual Fall Festival. We hope to have all of our families come out to make wonderful memories with your children while supporting our Parent/Teacher Fellowship. Lastly, we have a GREAT new fundraiser in the works! I cannot wait to tell you all about Boosterthon and the awesome Fun Run/Color Run that is coming soon.

These are exciting times around Emmanuel Christian School, and I am grateful to be a part of all of it with you and your family. Thank you for supporting us, believing in us, and allowing us to serve your family. We pray God's richest blessings over each of you!

In His Service,

Katherine M. Atkinson
Interim Head of School