



October 15, 2024

Dear Parents,

Thank you again for your continued support in the planning and design of the new Homewood Early Learning Center, located at the intersection of University Parkway and San Martin Drive. Your insights and feedback have been extremely valuable. We would like to share an update on an important development.

As a matter of course, JHU performs environmental site assessments for all projects. Investigations by our environmental engineering consultant found a contaminant in the top two feet of soil—part of a class of chemicals call benzopyrenes—exceeding standards for childcare centers. These chemicals are often found in urban areas and in this case, attributable to the land's previous use as a parking lot.

The safety of our children and staff is our first priority, and we are taking immediate and aggressive steps to remedy the issue. Of importance, we have voluntarily enrolled in the Land Restoration Program with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), for their guidance and approval of our proposed plan which will exceed the industry standard for soil remediation in situations like ours. We plan to remove and replace the top three feet of soil with MDE-certified clean soil.

Unfortunately, to replace the soil, we will need to remove the existing large trees in the play space area. We are working closely with our playground designer, landscape architect, and engineer to repopulate the impacted site with trees by planting trees that are 20+ years old and have reached a height of up to 25 - 30 feet. These trees, much larger and more mature than what is typically planted around new construction, will more quickly offer the shade canopy originally envisioned.

Developing a new home for the Early Childhood Learning Center is an important part of our long-term campus plan and we are committed to creating a lively, colorful space that both children and parents enjoy.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions, please email childcare@jhu.edu.

Sincerely,

Bob McLean
Vice President, Facilities

Meredith Stewart
Interim Vice President of Human Resources and Executive Director, Total Rewards