



Dear Parents, Friends, and Concerned,

July 6, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we write to notify you of a challenging decision we've had to make regarding the **Red Apple School, Inc.** After much deliberation, careful financial review, and exploration of every possible alternative, we've made the incredibly difficult decision **not to reopen for the 2025-2026 school year.** Our last day of operation will be **Friday, August 15, 2025.** Summer camp will end as scheduled. Registration fees for 2025 will be refunded by mail. Please give us a few weeks as we need to bring in help to assist us.

Like many small child day centers in Virginia, we have been navigating an increasingly challenging financial landscape. Over recent years, we've faced a continuous rise in operating costs due to factors largely beyond our control. This includes a significant burden from unfunded mandates passed down by the state, which require us to implement new programs and procedures without the necessary financial support. Additionally, our part-time school model is no longer adequate to financially meet these requirements. Adding to this pressure, our state-mandated insurance premiums have skyrocketed by an unsustainable margin this year. After 44 years, this decision was not made lightly. We are immensely proud of the Red Apple community that has entrusted us with their children and their children's early childhood education. We leave a school that has consistently maintained national accreditation and is recognized as a top preschool in the Northern Virginia region, including in 2025.

We understand that this news may raise concerns about your child's care for the upcoming school year. Please contact Child Care Aware for Child Care Assistance at 1-866-543-7825 or for general inquiries at 1-804-285-0846. They will help you find care.

We want to express our deepest gratitude for entrusting us with your children. It has been an honor and a joy to be a part of their early years and to partner with you in their development. We cherish the memories created within these walls. The smiles, the giggles, the hugs of new friends, the wonders of discovery, a comforted tear, and the relationships we've formed with each child and family. There is so much joy over these years; my heart bursts remembering. Thank you for your understanding and support during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bjerke-President -Red Apple School, Inc-Redappleschools@gmail.com