Parent Open House

Thursday, September 7th, 2017 Ms. Jalee and Ms. Sara's Classroom



Communication

Blog

Our blog is set up so that you will be informed weekly of what is happening within our classroom along with reminders of upcoming events at our school. Our blog also has all important documents you will need throughout the school year such as: Home Projects, Year-at-a-Glance, etc. Please make sure you have subscribed to our blog: http://blogs.mariamontessoriacademy.org/jalee/ in order to be up-to-date.

Emails

If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or other information that you would like us to know about, please email us at <u>jschofield@mariamontessoriacademy.org</u>. Our blog has a comment and email feature; however, we do not get these very quickly. An email is preferred in order to have a response in a timely manner.

Normalization Period

Please respect the first 6 weeks of school. Please try to avoid being absent during this time, including vacations. This period of time is essential since the dynamics of the classroom are being formed. The children are learning their environment and curriculum, establishing time management skills as well as establishing themselves intellectually, emotionally and socially. We will be creating a community in our classroom and building teams by playing cooperative games and other activities. We'll be getting to know the children and doing placement testing.

Attendance

School starts promptly at 8:30 a.m. If your child is not in the building by 8:30 in the morning, you will have to walk your child into the school and check him/her in at the office. They will be considered tardy. Please help your child be on time to school. It is very important to his/her education to be here on time, so that they may start their day calm and relaxed, not rushed and stressed.

If your student will not be attending school, due to illness, vacation, or any other reason, please email Ms. Lana at <u>jschofield@mariamontessoriacademy.org</u> and the office to notify them of your student's absence.

Cosmic Education

The 6-9 year old is in a sensitive period for the acquisition of culture. They have an innate need to learn about the world around them and their place in it. Maria Montessori called her curriculum the "Cosmic Curriculum". What this means in simpler terms is that we have an integrated science, social studies, and cultural curriculum. While we have separate math and language works, they serve as a support for the cultural core. Botany, history, geography, zoology and physical science are the areas of

focus in order to help the child understand the world around them. We also incorporate art and music into continent studies. Please take time to extend your child's learning by taking them to museums, walks or simply help them make connections between what they are learning at school and their home life.

Classroom Lessons and Follow-ups

Each child will receive lessons in alternative math (fractions, time, money, and measurement), arithmetic, language, writing, geography, history, zoology, botany, and geometry. All lessons will be taught weekly to each child.

Every morning, following the morning math work, each child will have a plan of their day on their work charts. As the children become more normalized, they will be asked to plan their day based on their follow-up works. These work charts are to be used to help guide each child to complete their assignments on time and independently.

Grading

Each child will progress at his/her own pace through the lessons for their level. As teachers we constantly observe the child and provide them with an environment (lessons, materials, guidance and encouragement) that will help the child strengthen their interpersonal development.

Your child's work will not be given a traditional grade. The children and showing will help conduct their parent teacher conference by reviewing their goals you their progress through work samples.

Homework

You will not find traditional homework within our classroom. Homework will be completed in the form of home projects. Home projects will be guided by monthly themes, which are posted on a separate blog page. These home projects are meant to explore questions, find answers, share information with peers, increase academics, and ultimately instill a love of learning. Reading about your home project topics is a great way to include both aspects of your work outside of the classroom.

Your child will have many opportunities to **read** and be read to in the classroom and we highly encourage reading at home. Research shows that reading at home with your child is more effective at creating a successful reader than any reading drills, expensive programs or instruction. We'd like to recommend at least **20 minutes a day**.

Parent Education

Please attend Parent Education nights and Parent Teacher Conferences- these are opportunities to see your child's work, and to better understand the Montessori curriculum.

Practical Life at home and at School:

-Dress themselves -Care of plants -Public speaking

-Grace & Courtesy -Nutrition -Care of animals

-Make own lunch -Writing letters or -Peaceful conflict

thank you notes resolution (I messages)

-Gardening

-Home safety -Making & keeping

friends

-Social Etiquette

-Using the

-Brush teeth/hair

library/Obtaining own -Simple acts of kindness

card

Don't be surprised if they want to implement some of these at home!

In addition, there are no scheduled bathroom breaks in our school. Your child will be allowed to use the bathroom as needed. In order for this program to be successful, it will be necessary for us to demonstrate how to take care of the bathroom environment without supervision.

PE and Music

Students have a 90 minute period for guided PE and music instruction, **every Monday**. Please talk to your children about respecting every adult and teacher in our school- not just their classroom teachers. The PE teacher asks for children to come in sneakers or tennis shoes on their day of PE.

Snack

There is a philosophical reason behind snack time in the Montessori Method. Your child will gain the skill of helping to prepare (cutting apples, etc) and clean up snack and serve their classmates. This teaches leadership and is one of the children's favorite activities. We will be teaching healthy eating habits and ask that only healthy snacks be brought for this time. We really need your help for this food preparation/snack time to work. Fresh produce from your garden is a welcome snack as well. Please find the link to sign-up under the 2017-2018 Snack Sign-up post. Ideally, we ask that you provide snack twice during the school year.

Suggested Healthy Snacks

Any fresh fruit or vegetables

Pretzels

Graham Crackers

Whole grain bagels or bread with cream cheese or butter

Strawberries, cantaloupe, oranges, grapes, apples, pears,

Dried fruit such as raisins or fruit leather

Granola or granola bars

Whole Wheat Crackers

Dry cereal (no sugar coatings)

Cheese

Rice cakes

Jerky

Snacks do not need to be preassembled. Teachers assist children with this.

Please! No candy, sodas, chips/Cheetos, drink mixes, dips or peanut butter (because of allergies).

Thank you for understanding our commitment to healthy minds and bodies.

Recess and Lunch

Recess will be before lunch. Generally, recess begins at 11:30 a.m. and lunch begins at 12:00 p.m. Lunches must be brought from home. Please be mindful as you help your child prepare a healthy lunch for school by sending a well-balanced meal free from empty calories and added sugar. Please send a small ice pack in your child's lunch box if the food needs to be kept cold. Students may use the classroom microwave, but we ask that they limit their heating time to only **one minute** in order to provide time for multiple students. We are kindly asking to limit drinks to low/no sugar drinks, milk, and water during lunch. Please do not send drink mixes or any drink with red or orange coloring to school as the spills will stain our desks and carpet.

Daily Schedules

Monday

8:30am-9:00am Morning Math, Circle, community building

9:00am-11:00am Work Cycle

11:00am-11:15am Restore for recess

11:15am-11:45am Recess

11:45am-12:20pm Lunch

12:20pm-12:30pm Restore for music

12:30pm-2:00pm Music and P.E.

2:00pm-2:30pm Writing

2:30pm-3:00pm Restore and Read aloud

3:00pm Dismissal

Tuesday

8:30am-9:00am Morning Math, Circle,

community building

9:00am-11:15am Work Cycle

11:15am-11:30am Restore for recess

11:30am-12:00pm Recess

12:00pm-12:35pm Lunch

12:35pm-12:45pm Restore lunch

12:45pm-1:00pm Read aloud or

community building

1:00pm-1:30pm Writing

1:30pm-2:30 pm Cultural lessons/

continue morning works

2:30pm-3:00pm Restore and read aloud

3:00pm Dismissal

Wednesday

8:30am-9:00am Morning Math, Circle, community building

9:00am-11:15am Work Cycle

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11:30am-12:00pm Recess

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Friday

Fridays will very based on whether or not we have Studio. We will do things such as art and music studies and continent students on Fridays.

Year at a Glance

Ms. Jalee and Ms. Sara

Character Ed

August

14th – **Teachers** back to school

15th – Back to school pool party at North Shore Aquatic Center 7-9 p.m.

> 2480 N. 200 East North Ogden (across from school)

21st – First day of school for Levels 1 to 9.

21st - Total Solar Eclipse

21st-25th – First week of school; early outs, **children picked up at 1 p.m.**

28th – Early Childhood starts school

31st – Maria Montessori's birthday

September Friend Awareness

4th – No school; Labor Day

5th – 2nd Grade Aguarium School Visit

7th – Back to School Night 6-7:30 p.m.

21st – International Day of Peace

(September Cont...)

22nd – Early Release: Teacher Professional Development

23rd – Annual 5K Color Fun Run and pancake breakfast

25th-29th – *I Wonder...* home project due.



October Team Building

1st – Normalization Ends

3rd – Gary Hogg School Visit

16th, 17th, 18th – Early Release and Parent Teacher Conferences, and book fair

(October Cont...)

19th, 20th – No School; Fall Break

26th – Field Trip to Black Island Farms

23rd-27th – Red Ribbon Week

23rd-27th – Pumpkin Character **Book Report** due

24th – Box Tops Store

27th – Fall Festival 4 – 7 p.m.

31st – Halloween

November Cooperation

7th – Chili Cook-off

10th – Early Out: Professional Development

16th – Community Gratitude Feast

20th-24th – No School: Thanksgiving

27th-1st – Animal Habitat **Home Project** Due

December Compassion

8th – Classroom Holiday Feast

8th – Early out; Professional Dev.

18th – Asia International Festival **Home Project** Due

19th, 20th, 21st – International Festival

(December Cont...)

22nd – No School, Holiday Break Begin

25th-29th – No School, Holiday Break

January Fairness/Equity

1st, 2nd – No school

3rd - Back to school

12th – No school: Professional

Development

15th – No school: Martin Luther King

Jr. Day

29th-2 – Author Study **Home Project**

Due



February Forgiveness/Resiliency

1st-9th – Carnation Sales

14th – Carnations Delivered

14th, 15th, 16th – Early Out and Parent Teacher Conferences and book fair

19th – No school: President's Day

(February Cont...)

20th – Box tops store

26th-2nd – Literacy Week

26th-2nd – *I Wonder...* Home Project with KWL Chart Due.

March Respect

2nd – Dr Seuss' Birthday

8th – Scales and Tales Reptiles School visit

16th – Early Out: Professional Development

19th – No school: Professional Development

26th-30th – Artist Study **Home Project** Due

April

2nd-6th – Spring Break

 12^{th} - 13^{th} – 4^{th} Grade History Fair

19th – Scales and Tales Birds School visit

20th – Early out: Professional Development

(April Cont...)

26th – Field trip to Discovery Gateway and Clark Planetarium

30th-4th – Cultural **Home Project** Due

May

Tentative field trip: Dino Park with Ms. Kirsten

13th – School Spirit Week

21st – Early out all week

21st - Early Childhood Bridging

22nd – Lower El Bridging

23rd – Upper El Bridging

21st, 22nd, 23rd – Parent teacher conferences and book fair

25th – Last day of school



Family Survey Please return by September 7th, 2017

	Student's Name: Pa	arent(s)/Guardian(s):
Student		
1.	Does your child have any allergies? If so	please list.
2.	What are your child's interests?	
3.	What is something that motivates your o	child?
4.	Does your child have an area for improv	ement in school? If so, please specify.
5.	What are your child's areas of strengths	in school?
Family		
1.	Describe your family	
2.	Does your family have any planned vacabelow.	tions for the school year? If so, please list the dates

Continued on Back

Parent Communication

1. Do you prefer verbal (face-to-face), written (notes), or electronic (email) communication?

Other Information