



# MAPLETON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

44th Year, No.1

July 2022

**Short and Sweet** School starts August 29 for children whose forms have been completed and returned. Forms are available on our Parent Portal; code is 1979.

## YEAR 44 SOON TO BEGIN!

Our summer camps are in full-swing and the children are happy and healthy. It's hard to believe we're half-way through the summer! We're looking forward to the start of our 44th year and returning to a more normalized routine although we'll continue to do drop-off and pick-up at the gate. This summer we made masking optional inside and out and it's been going well. With vaccines available for younger children, we plan to move into the fall without masks. Our class sizes in the fall will remain smaller and we'll continue to offer 5 days/week either mornings-only from 8:30-1 or full days 8:30-3:30 with or without aftercare 3:30-5:30 (for a limited number of students).

## OPEN HOUSE for newbies 8/26, 9-11

We'll have an Open House for new students to meet our teachers, visit the classrooms, play on the playground and get pictures taken for their hooks. These visits help promote successful first-day transitions for students!

## SCHEDULE

Children arrive between 8:30-9:00 and play outside until everyone has arrived. Every morning each class has a circle time, an outdoor playtime and a work period during which time snack is available. When the weather is nice we often have children working outside on their respective decks. After lunch, all the children play outside for a bit. The nappers come in first, followed later by the non-nappers who have another work period and circle time. This is when the older/kindergarten children often do more advanced work. Aftercare starts at 3:30 so children who are not staying for aftercare are picked up between 3:00-3:30.

## NAPPERS

Please bring a fitted crib sheet, a modest blanket and a small pillow, all labeled. A small stuffed animal just for nap-time is ok! The nappers sleep from about 1:15 - 2:45.

## STAFF

I cannot adequately express the gratitude I feel working with these amazing women. They are dedicated to Montessori, the children, the families, our school and each other. They go above and beyond to help children feel loved and accepted and to make each day a beautiful learning and growth opportunity for children. They are strong and loving, smart and fun. With my whole heart, I thank this beautiful group of Montessori professionals. I am blessed to work among them.

**Our north classroom** Montessori guide is Linda Kilanowski. Her boys attended MMS and the oldest is now heading off to college; that tells you how long she's been here! Jane Boggs-Guthrie starts her third year at MMS; she's the assistant in this classroom and is considering taking the Montessori training in the future-yay! Susan Leibfritz, a Montessori guide at MMS since 1995, has mentioned the "R" word (retirement) but after much reflection has decided that doing just aftercare would be a great way to lighten her schedule and remain connected with our school and the children; phew - dodged that bullet!

**In the south classroom** Susan Hesselink is the lead Montessori guide. She began her Montessori journey in the Netherlands (her native country), continued in Australia for ten years, then moved to Boulder and is starting her seventh year at MMS! We are fortunate to have Hilary Tulloch and Parul Agarwal assist in this class; both Hilary and Parul have been at MMS for well over twenty years and bring a lovely calm presence to the environment. Their specific schedules are TBD but we're very happy they are continuing at MMS!

**Floater and Aftercare:** Carrie Coffee is a floater and moves seamlessly wherever help is needed. Tovah France is our aftercare assistant and is a natural with the children. Both Carrie and Tovah have been around MMS for decades. Last year they moved into more regular positions at MMS and we're thrilled about that!

## FORMS DUE BY FRI. AUG 19th

Forms are available on our parent portal, code 1979.

**Returning students** all need a current Health form on file; they expire after one year. A new Immunization Certificate is not needed; I'll add any new vaccinations/dates to their existing form. Nothing else is needed.

**New students need:** 1. Questionnaire, 2. Emergency Info, 3. a current Health form, 4. an Immunization Certificate (on CDPHE-approved form), 5. Acknowledgement of Risk and 6. Acknowledgement of Covid Risk. Your doctor's health form is ok or [click here](#) to download ours. If you can't get in to your pediatrician now, send us the most current you have. Let us know immediately if your child has any allergies/allergy medication; those require different forms to be completed by your pediatrician.

**All forms must be complete by Friday, August 19 in order for your child to start school on Monday the 29th.**

## DROP-OFF BETWEEN 8:30-9:00

We'll be conducting health checks at the gate from 8:30-9, our check-in time frame. Children with any Covid symptoms stay home unless they have an alternate diagnosis (allergies, for ex) from a health care provider. And actually, covid symptoms could be any illness so it's best to keep your child home so we can all stay healthy. If minor symptoms resolve within 48 hours (24 hours for major symptoms) and stay resolved for another 24, your child may return to school. If unresolved, a covid test is recommended and, if (+), the child will be out for 7 days. (Remember, this information has changed many times over the last two years! We'll keep you updated as we go.

**Major COVID Symptoms:** loss of taste/smell, fever/chills, fever of 104° or greater, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, new or unexplained persistent cough.

**Minor COVID Symptoms:** runny nose/congestion, sore throat, muscle/body aches, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

If your child is new to MMS you might create and practice a goodbye-at-the-gate routine together. A well-rehearsed routine (3 kisses, a hug, a high-5, etc.) can really help if a child is reluctant. Once in the gate, children take responsibility for their affairs: water bottles go on the shelves outside their class doors; lunch boxes in cubbies, backpacks on hooks; then they wash hands and return to the playground. These routines help children to develop independence leading to more freedom within the environment. We saw such growth in independence during covid and are eager to continue that momentum!

## THE FIRST DAYS

Here's a wonderful thing about mixed-age groups: the returning students can be great role models for the new and/or younger children. Whether they're just doing their 'work' or they're actively helping, they generally feel pretty good about being a leader. If your child is new, review these phrases we use to describe our daily cycles:

**Work time:** Children are encouraged to choose their own lessons from among the many activities available in each area of the classroom. They may work alone or in small groups, with or without a teacher.

**Circle time:** Circle time is our community time. We come together and sit in a big circle on the floor for songs, movement, sharing, a group lesson or a story.

**Outside time:** We believe in lots of unstructured outside time. Trikes, swings, the sandbox, sidewalk chalk, watering flower gardens, raw building materials, the slide, monkey bars, tending the compost bin, and various lessons brought out to the decks and patios keep us busy!

**Snack time:** The morning, afternoon and aftercare snacks consist of mostly organic fruits, veggies & crackers. We have gluten-free crackers (or you may supply some, labeled for your child). Please let us know if your child has any allergies or food sensitivities.

## WHAT TO BRING ON THE FIRST DAY

**Inside shoes:** NO BIG FLUFFY SLIPPERS! Think ballet slippers, deck shoes or no-skid socks - not required but handy for fire drills outside!

**Hat:** w brim to protect face, ears, neck - not baseball cap

**T-shirt:** stays at MMS; protects neck & shoulders outside

**Water bottle:** MMS Polar bottles \$10 or bring your own

**Seasonal change of clothes:** all clothes should be labeled and put in a gallon ziplock bag, also labeled.

## SIGN-IN/OUT

We'll sign children in/out at the gate. Children are released only to you or your emergency contacts; please keep that info current. If you need to send someone we haven't met, call the **TEACHER LINE: 303-449-4445** to alert us of the change, and have that person bring a photo ID. Please DON'T leave messages on the office line - the teachers may not get them if I'm not in the office.

## LOST/FOUND, LABELING

Please use names, not initials, to label everything, all clothing, water bottles, lunch box & containers, etc. We'll help your child get all belongings to the gate for pick-up.

## CLOTHING, MASKS, TOYS

**Clothing:** Clothing should be user-friendly (your child being the user). Practice at home; work through trouble spots with them. It's a great accomplishment when they can dress themselves. Your child should be able to dress & undress, go to the potty & wipe, wash hands and get shoes, coats, boots, mittens, etc., on and off. Before you buy clothes or shoes have your child test them. Think: how can I foster my child's independence?

**Masks:** Masks have been optional this summer and it's been going well, so we'll continue this way unless, for some reason, we are guided to reinstate masks.

**Toys:** Toys, blankies, princess/super-hero garb, etc. stay home. If your child wants to bring something to school, she may bring an item relating to her class's current unit of study and share it at circle time; this promotes public speaking and a deeper exploration of our unit!

## MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

Meds should be given at home, except emergency meds like inhalers or Epi Pens - they require special forms so let us know ASAP. Any med to be administered at school (prescribed or OTC) must have written permission from you and the doctor; and be given to a teacher in the original container with a prescriptive label EXACTLY matching the doctor's orders. NO Keep Out of Reach of Children items (sunscreen, chapstick, lozenge, special lotion or homemade remedy, etc.) are allowed in a child's possession; not in lunch boxes, backpacks, pockets, etc. Give them to us and sign a permission card so we can help your child with them at school.

## SUNSCREEN

Apply sunscreen BEFORE drop-off; we'll reapply before lunch. We use Rocky Mtn SPF 30; if you prefer your own it must be labeled and given to a teacher; children may not have it in their possession. A short-sleeved tee is good to wear outside because it's difficult for kids to reach their necks and shoulders with sunscreen. The shirt can stay at school and go over a sundress, for example.

## BAREFOOT PLAYGROUND

From May through September, weather permitting, shoes are optional on the playground. When you buy shoes, keep the young child's motto in mind: "Help me do it by myself" and make sure your child can actually get the shoes on and off by himself; practice before you send your child to school with new shoes. We've experienced shoes that are difficult even for adults!

## OUR GOAL: PEANUT-FREE SCHOOL

Exposure to even a small amount of peanut can cause a life-threatening reaction. Please check labels and do NOT send your child to school with any food that contains peanuts or peanut butter. SunButter and other nut butters are great alternatives.

## LUNCH

Children love eating with friends at school. In fact, a new lunch box is only slightly behind the yellow summer camp school bus on their top-10 list! We encourage simple, healthy lunches that don't require refrigeration or heating. Environmentally speaking, we discourage individual or non-recyclable packaging, squeezie foods, go-gurts, etc. Please try to:

1. Avoid individual packaging such as juice boxes which leak on the way home, squeezie tubes of food and individual servings which, once opened, cannot be resealed. A child may eat two bites of a single-serve yogurt, for example, then toss the rest.
2. Stay close to the source for the least processed foods - a few apple slices or some grapes beat a fruit roll-up processed with artificial color and flavor!
3. Pack 2 cloth napkins (one's a placemat and one's a napkin) and utensils; we don't supply them.
4. Pizza Thursday! Order when you sign in on Thursday. \$2/slice will be added to your next tuition.
5. Candy and gum are not allowed at school. Fruit for dessert offers fiber and nutrients. And, when children make their own lunches (with guidance) they're more likely to eat them. Think colorful - eat the rainbow! If the lunch is only good food it won't matter what she eats first. We don't micro-manage the dining experience!



On the "no, no" list.



Healthy food, reusable containers

## TUITION

Tuition is due by the 5<sup>th</sup> (or the next work day if we're closed on the 5<sup>th</sup>). A \$10 fee is added to late tuition. Tuition slips are emailed on the 1st. If you don't have your tuition slip, call me or estimate it. Going on vacation? Send it before you go. Installment #2 is due by Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for keeping your account current.