



MAPLETON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

45th Year, No.1

July 2023

Short and Sweet School starts August 28 for children whose forms have been returned by Friday, August 11. Forms are available on our Parent Portal; code is 1979.

45th SCHOOL YEAR TO START SOON!

It's time to start thinking about fall and the start of our 45th school year! Actually the weather has been so cool and rainy it sort of feels like fall already and we haven't even had summer yet! This newsletter is packed full of information that helps our program run smoothly and will bring you up to speed on our routines, schedules, staff and other tidbits. This fall our classes will grow a little because we're welcoming several families from Sunshine House Montessori which closed its doors after 38 years. We'll continue to offer 5 days/week either mornings-only 8:30-1 or full days 8:30-3:30. Aftercare, from 3:30-5:30, is actually full at this point.

OPEN HOUSE 8/25 from 9-11

Come to our Open House for new students so children can meet our teachers, visit the classrooms, play on the playground and get pictures taken for their hooks. These visits are fun and really help promote successful 1st-day transitions for students!

SCHEDULE

Arrival time is 8:30-9:00 with outside playtime during that window. 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 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

For forty-four years, we have been fortunate to have an incredibly dedicated, well educated, very experienced, fun and loving staff. And, we've added another wonderful Montessori guide, Angela Rose Maeding, to our MMS family. Many of you met Angela Rose in Camp 1 aftercare. She'll be the lead Montessori guide, starting in the fall, in **Our south classroom**. Angela Rose, both Montessori trained and Director Qualified, has been working in Montessori for over twenty years, both in the public and private sector. Her assistants Hilary Tulloch and Parul Agarwal have each been at MMS for over twenty years! They are both ECTs (Early Childhood Teachers) and their experience will be invaluable as Angela Rose gets settled in her new classroom.

Our north classroom is led by Linda Kilanoski, a Montessori certified guide who has been at MMS for eleven years; first as a parent, then an assistant and finally a Montessori guide. You could say she knows Mapleton Montessori from the inside out! Linda's assistants are Beatrix Zoe and Carrie Coffey. Beatrix, Montessori certified, joined us in March and almost without effort blended beautifully into our MMS school culture. Carrie's been at MMS off and on for eons and wears many hats! She might be the glue that holds it all together so beautifully! She's helped both classes and aftercare as a floater and a sub, since the pandemic.

Aftercare: Susan Leibfritz, a Montessori guide who joined MMS in 1995, will lead the aftercare program. Susan is both primary and infant/toddler certified. Tovah France, a Special Ed. Para at Niwot HS during the day, will assist Susan in aftercare. We're so lucky to have this incredible staff and with such longevity!

We're looking for another assistant for the fall. If you know anybody who'd love to work with young children in a beautiful, well established Montessori School (who wouldn't?) please let me know. Thanks!

FORMS DUE BY FRI. AUG 11th

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 5 forms: 1. Emergency Information, 2. Questionnaire, 3. Health form, 4. Immunization Cert. on a CDPHE-approved form, 5. Acknowledgements of Risk. Your doctor's health form is ok or [click here](#) to download ours. If you can't schedule now (because of insurance or your pediatrician's busy schedule) send us the most current Health exam you have. Let us know immediately if your child has any allergies/emergency medication; we'll give you forms to be completed by your pediatrician.

All forms must be complete by Friday, August 11 in order for your child to start school on Monday the 28th.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

Drop-off is 8:30 -9:00 at the gate. When you arrive you'll use the sign-in sheet to sign your child in. The sheet also has a column labeled "NOTES" where you can leave a note for the pick-up person (if you're not the pick-up for that day!) If your child is reluctant at drop-off 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 hesitant. Even when they're not, many children really enjoy their own "gate" routine! At the gate, children take responsibility for their affairs and carry their backpacks, water bottles and lunch boxes into the school to be put away. After school, parents pick up between 3-3:30 and the same holds true; the children gather their affairs and bring them all to the gate. These routines help children to develop independence leading to more freedom within the environment. The real evidence is the Lost & Found; previous to Covid it over-flowed with miscellaneous hats, socks, lunchbox parts, etc. Now the Lost & Found is practically non-existent because children are taking care of their own things! They bring their "stuff" into the school and put everything where it belongs - they know where it is and they take responsibility for it! We've also seen that parents have found new ways of socializing with each other at drop-off and pick-up; the previous volley ball court to the south has become a great hang-out spot (as long as the children are monitored!) Covid forced us into certain routines and some of them, such as the children's new-found independence and the calm atmosphere in the entry, have really been worth saving!

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 work alone or in small groups, with or without a Montessori guide or assistant.

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, tending gardens, raw building materials, the slide, monkey bars, and various lessons brought out to the decks 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

You'll sign your 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 - teachers may not get the message if I'm not here.

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 but it's very helpful if we can identify the owners of miscellaneous items that might have gotten separated from their owners. Thanks for help in that department!

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 children 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?

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 but if you absolutely cannot use that, bring your own, label it, give to a teacher and fill out a permission card. Children may not have sunscreen or ANY other products in their possession. (On a practical note, it is much easier for staff when children are using the same product - allergies aside.) Also, a short-sleeved tee is good to wear outside because even when children want to be independent it's difficult for them to reach their necks and shoulders with sunscreen. The tee can stay at school and go over a sundress, for ex.

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!

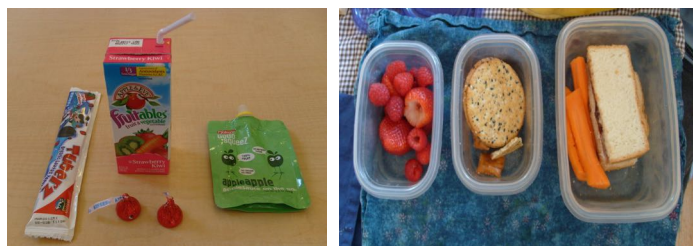
OUR GOAL: PEANUT-FREE SCHOOL

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. If children help to make their lunches they're more likely to eat them. Think colorful - eat the rainbow! A lunchbox filled with good food also fosters the child's independence because we won't have to micro-manage the dining experience!



On the "no, no" list.

Healthy food, reusable containers

TUITION

Tuition is due by the 5th (or the next work day if we're closed on the 5th). 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. 5th. Thank you for keeping your account current.