

“Imagination does not become great until human beings,
given the courage and strength,
use it to create... Obstacles abound in the world
but human beings’ mental lives
(including their powers of reason and imagination)
give them the strength to surmount them.”
-Maria Montessori

Parent Orientation Packet
Elementary II (ages 9-12; grades 4th-6th)



Panther Room

2015-2016

Montessori World School

Philosophy

Dr. Montessori believed that in order for children at any age to be successful, it is the teacher's responsibility to create the proper learning environment. In an elementary classroom the most conducive environment for self-formation is one in which students are themselves responsible for constructing their own knowledge. In a Montessori elementary classroom students are provided autonomy within a 3-hour uninterrupted work cycle. During this work cycle the students have the ability to create their own academic work time. They are able to freely choose from among all subject areas. They can work individually or in a small group at his/her own pace at his/her own level. During this academic time, it is not the amount of work they complete that is important, but the quality of the work during this time period.

Promptness

We, as teachers, strive to provide an excellent academic foundation as well as ensure your student's emotional and social growth. In order to do so, we count on the support of our parents. It is important that children arrive to school no later than 8:55. When your student arrives late, they miss out on the first lesson of the day; it disrupts the calm atmosphere and causes the children who are already engaged in the lesson to become distracted. Students who are tardy often miss the instructions for the day and have to rely on their friends and/or teachers to update them. The problem with this is that it takes away valuable teaching time from the other students in the classroom.

Materials

The Materials and Activities Fee (which is now due in addition to your tuition fee) ensures your student will receive the necessary supplies over the course of the year to complete his/her work.

Clothing

Please refer to the Parent Handbook in order to ensure your student is wearing appropriate clothing to school. We ask that students wear clothing that can get dirtied during the school day. Our classroom activities will include gardening, art and outside play.

Environmentally Conscious Healthy Lunches

As it is very important to have students be aware of saving the earth around them. Please have your student pack his/her lunch in reusable containers. As we believe a healthy lunch is key to continuing your child's academic success, please pack the following items: a protein (meat, nuts, beans, etc.), a vegetable, fruit and then a snack. Please do NOT send in chocolate, soda, candy or lunchables. Your student will have access to a microwave in the classroom for heating up lunch. Your student is responsible for bringing in two serviettes, one to be utilized as a placement while the other is for wiping the crumbs off his/her face. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for Lunch Program information.

Healthy Snacks

Your student will be assigned weeks to bring in snack. Please bring snacks in on Monday and Wednesday mornings, as storage space is limited. A reminder note along with a suggested healthy snack list will be provided. Please see attached suggested snack list.

Backpacks

Please do NOT have your student bring in a backpack. Instead please purchase an expandable folder (3-5 compartments) for items to come to and from school.

Electronics what is and is not allowed

4th graders: Please do NOT send in the following: iPads, tablets or gaming devices. This is the age we continue our focus on their foundational skills.

5th and 6th graders: These students ARE permitted to bring in the following: iPads, tablets. Please do NOT send in the following: gaming devices of any kind.

Cellular phones: Students may bring in phones but these will be put in a basket by the teacher's desk and not used during the school day unless it is an emergency. They will be returned to the students at the end of the day.

Parental Involvement

We encourage each child to explore his/her interest both inside and outside the classroom. In addition to some daily reading and writing work, we may ask your child to involve him/herself in the following at home activities.

- Reading: 20-30 minutes each 5 days a week (preferably aloud)
- Journal: Each child should write a reflection of their day
- Outside Research. This research will align with the classroom curriculum. They will be able to choose what types of research based on what has inspired them through the lessons presented.
- Special assignments: based on curriculum.
- Math: specified to each child's individual needs.
- Responsibility: We encourage you to have your child help around the house with daily chores and/or volunteer in the community.

Volunteering at School

Parent volunteers are always welcome. Your involvement enriches your child's experience and builds a community between school and home. Here are a few suggestions:

- Create new materials for the classroom
- Help the students care for the animals
- Listen to the children read
- Gardening
- Clean the classroom
- Come and share your talents, etc.

Communication is Key

MWS is your child's home away from home. Please feel free to contact me with any questions via email.

Panther Room: panther_room@montessoriworldschool.com OR

Mary Frances Stage: stageclassroom@gmail.com