

Welcome to Monroe Montessori School

The term Montessori comes from the famous educator Maria Montessori (1879-1952), who founded a method of teaching young children. Dr. Montessori believed the goal of early childhood education was to help the child develop a love and enthusiasm for learning. She believed *the most important period* was not the "age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to age six."

Current research indicates that a child's first educational experiences, at home, at **pre-school, and at kindergarten will have more to do with his performance in the later grades than anything else.** The Montessori classroom provides the enriching and stimulating environment a child needs to develop his full potential during these critical years.

STARTING SCHOOL

The beginning of the school year may upset a child attending for the first time. Some children find it

difficult to be separated from their parents. Our experience suggests that all children work through this "separation anxiety". To aid your child in his or her transition from home to school we recommend your approach during the first few weeks be firm and consistent. You might tell your child: "I'm going to leave you here for a few hours. I will be back. Have fun today. Love you. Good-bye." Your child may cry at first. Be assured within a few minutes his attention will turn towards the activity in the classroom. Crying is a normal part of separating from a parent. If your child is not adjusting to school after the first three or four weeks we will notify you



READING AND MATH

Learning to read is very important to children. When they show a readiness for reading they are introduced to the letters of the alphabet. The names of the letters are not stressed but rather the sound each letter makes. (i.e. 'a' as in the first sound you hear when you say

apple) Our phonetic reading program involves pre-reading, word building, writing, and reading hand made materials. In math your child will be using special Montessori materials to understand concepts before any written work is done. If you are interested in more detailed information regarding the teaching and philosophy of Montessori education there are a number of excellent books available at local book stores as well as information on the school's website at monroemontessori.com

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

We invite both parents to be present at the Parent-Teacher conferences held the first part of February. At the end of the year you will receive a written progress report. Additional conferences may be requested. We recommend you stop after class and chat for a few minutes each week about what your child is learning.

Your involvement is what allows your child to appreciate and enjoy the excitement of learning.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The school year is 180 days from September to mid June each year. Our holidays are similar to the Monroe School District but are not an exact match. During winter weather if both Monroe and Sultan public schools are closed we are closed. Notification begins with a posting on the school website, the school's Facebook page and an individual email alert before 6:15 a.m. Typically we would start 1 hour late. During parent conference week in February, we will follow a modified schedule. Latest information on school activities may be found at monroemontessori.com

SCHOOL PARTIES

There will be a Harvest Celebration in October, a Polar Express event in December and a Valentine exchange in February. At the Harvest Celebration, students come dressed as



their favorite storybook character or as a famous historical figure. Birthday celebrations are fine, but please keep them simple. Muffins, cookies or fruit with napkins and birthday cups works best for the class. Please see your child's teacher for additional details.



IMMUNIZATION

Immunizations must be up to date before a child may enter school. We also recommend a physical. A child who has trouble learning because of a physical problem can easily lose self esteem and self confidence. The exam should include vision, hearing, urine, tuberculosis and blood pressure tests. Notify us before class begins if your child cannot fully participate in school activities.

MONTHLY PAYMENT

The preferred method of payment is by e-pay. A form is available in the office. Payment is due each month between the 1st-5th. The first payment is due August 5th. The tenth payment is due May 5th. A statement of account will be given to you in November, March and May. In many cases up to 20 percent of preschool and kindergarten tuition may be returned to you at tax time as a child care credit. Ask your accountant for details.

We look forward to the coming months. We have some exciting things planned!

Warmly,
Thea Heineman
Director



Parent volunteer helps elementary students

"Education is not something which the teacher does, but it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being. It is not acquired by listening to words, but in virtue of experiences in which the child acts on his/her environment...."

Dr. Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*