

New Family Orientation Information Packet

We are so happy to welcome you into our Montessori Centres community this year! Following is some information for you and your student that should help with transitioning into the classroom.

- Please follow us on Facebook for updates throughout the school year. We will post upcoming field trip information, reminders for upcoming events as well as school closures in the winter months. Also feel free to visit the school website to get monthly information like our class calendars and monthly newsletters, the website is www.montessoricentres.com
- Please bring a gallon size Ziploc bag with your child's **extra clothes** inside. The outside of the bag should be labeled with your child's name as well as all clothing inside (initials would also be ok). I do send these clothes home periodically if they are not weather appropriate or if your child has outgrown them.
- Please provide your p/k student with **nap bedding**, that will be left at school. I recommend a pillow and blanket. If the blanket is a smaller one they are more than welcome to bring another. Also, if they have a special lovie please let us know ahead of time if it is to stay at school OR be sent home every night.
- **Snack** is served everyday in the classroom. We have a rotating snack schedule throughout the year, that is based upon the class roster. When it is your turn to bring snack the teacher will provide you with a list of foods the classroom needs. Our snack is then placed on our snack table where children can help themselves throughout our work period. Most often snacks consist of whole fruits or vegetables, carbohydrates (example: mini bagels, graham crackers, Cheerios) and Juice, milk or water. Attached in the back of the packet is an example of what the snack form looks like. *If your child has allergies please let us know ahead of time so we can make other snack time arrangements.*

- Lunch is provided by you, so please make sure to pack your child **utensils** in their lunch. We do have a small supply of disposable utensils however would like to be as eco-friendly as possible.
- **Our day begins** at 8:30am (see attached daily schedule). We start our day with circle time. This is when we say our good mornings, have calendar time as well as present new Montessori lessons therefore it is important that your child be to school on time.
- When the weather starts to change many children start dressing in layers. Please remember to **label ALL** sweatshirts, jackets, coats, hats, gloves, slippers, etc. Many children like the same kinds of things, so might have similar items in their cubbies.
- Children must have closed toe and heel **shoes** to play on the playground. This means NO flip flops or Crocs. Your student will not be allowed to play on the playground or go on nature walks without appropriate shoe wear. You are more than welcome to leave a pair of indoor shoes (slippers, crocs, etc.) in the classroom so that your child can have another pair of shoes at school.
- Students are encouraged to bring a **water bottle** to school. With many hot days we like to encourage water drinking. Please remember to write your child's name on their bottle.
- Every Tuesday the bookmobile (a traveling public library) will visit Montessori Centres, in our classroom we use the bookmobile as a learning opportunity for children to write their names. Once a child can write their own name they will be able to take books off weekly to take home.
- Children are welcome to celebrate **birthdays** in the classroom with their classmates. This needs to be prearranged with Miss Lydia ahead of time.

- We love going on **field trips** with the children, however know that this would be nearly impossible without the help and support of you, the parent's! All field trips will be on our monthly calendars as well as posted on our parent information bulletin board in the hallway. This bulletin board is where you will find any signup sheets for field trip drivers or classroom parties.
- Our **school day ends** at 3:15pm. When weather permits we will go outside to play on the playground. After 3:30pm our extended care hours start and run through until 5:45pm. If you are late, there is an additional fee to be paid to the after-care person at a rate of \$5 every 10min.