

Weekly Notes August 18, 2020

*We are all working so well together and keeping the children
in school for in person learning!!*

Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Covid fee explained: We computed the supply fee in early February before realizing the extent of extra supplies/staff needed for additional sanitizing and cleaning staff. So, we added in a \$25 fee per child for August-October to cover those expenses which have been quite extensive! We spoke of the fee during the summer in the Zoom meetings, but we have given you all so much information this year that it is hard to keep it all straight! So, that is the mysterious Covid fee you see on QuickBooks. Thank you for helping us with these expenses!

Tardies: You all are trying hard and doing a great job in the parking lot- please continue to use your blinkers/turn signals. One problem we are consistently noticing is tardies.

It is extremely important this year that you are on time for drop off and pick up. We have it down to the minute, and if you are late, it disrupts the classroom line time, the teacher must stop what they are teaching in the classroom to meet the child, etc. Things get hectic and mornings do not always go smoothly, but allowing yourself some extra wiggle room to arrive on time will make you and your child feel better in the long run 😊

In the afternoon, if you are not here at your pick-up time, the teacher must wait and cannot begin their cleaning routine for the afternoon, which means they must stay later. They are all working long hours, and I want them to be able to leave at their designated time. Our faculty and staff have dedicated a great deal of their summer and so many hours after the school day to ensure a successful return to school. They have all worked tirelessly, and I know you appreciate them!

Also, we are all required to leave the building earlier this year to allow for the additional sanitizing, and we cannot get everything done we need to do if the students are not picked up in a timely manner.

Please help us by picking up your child on time. If you are significantly late to pick up, we are adding in a drop-in late stay fee of \$20 per day which will be reflected on your QuickBooks invoice as "Late Stay Drop-in Fee".

If you find that you consistently can not pick up on time, please notify me, and we will enroll your child in the 3:30 pick up time.(Space permitting). There is a fee of \$100 per month for this extended day.

It is a difficult time, and we know there have been so many extra protocols to follow, and we appreciate you!

QuickBooks Invoice Date Change:

To accommodate requests from families, QuickBooks invoices are now going out during the third week of the month instead of the fourth. The due date remains the same: due the 1st of each month and past due by the 5th with a \$50 late fee.

Ms. Ginny and Ms. Kayla's class

After a couple of weeks at school, the children seem to be settling in well. They are loving line time where we are talking about colors and shapes and singing lots of fun songs. They have already started participating in the movements of the songs.....which is great for the young ones!

The drop off and pick up is going great! I believe this is working better than the way we were doing before when parents walked in. It was a much harder separation for them. They are normalizing so much faster. Please remember drop off is 8:15 to 8:30 and pick up is 2:15 to 2:30. We have other obligations after 2:30 that we must take care of.

You are doing great about sending in extra clothes after accidents! Thanks so much! Please remember to apply bug repellent and sunscreen before school each morning. We go outside at 8:30, and those mosquitos seem to be waiting on some of the kiddos!

Ms. Kayla and I are now in the classroom and it is running so smoothly. Sarah only helps in the mornings and afternoons with drop off and pick up. So, if you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to me or Ms. Kayla.

Ms. Shannon and Ms. Rachel's Class

We are all settling into our new routine. The children come in happy and ready to get started. The car line is moving smoothly. Lunches are looking yummy. The children are napping. I think we are hitting our stride!

We have been working on grace and courtesy, colors, and shapes. They really love colors and are doing well with naming them at line time. Last week one of the toddlers made his own triangle out of sticks on the playground. Of course, manners are something we are working on constantly.

Music class with Ms. Angela will start next week. She will introduce them to lots of new instruments. We look forward to her visits each month. We have our own music daily at line time, but the children really love their time with Ms. Angela.

Please remember to send in plenty of extra clothes for your children who are potty trained. You also need to work on labeling everything that comes to school – articles of clothing, water bottles, etc. Also please do not forget to spray your child daily with bug spray before school. The mosquitoes are awful this year. Mr. Jim fogs for us but they are very persistent.

Thank you for being so supportive through all the new procedures. It is new for all of us, and we appreciate your help. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Ms. Valerie and Ms. Christina's Class

Hello,

We have had a delightful start to our school year. The children are settling in wonderfully. During line time, we are having grace and courtesy lessons, practical life lessons, and we have started our space studies. Be sure to ask your child something they have learned about space! You can ask them what planet we live on, what do the planets orbit around, and how is life different for astronauts in space?

Some friendly reminders

- please send readers back on Monday's and Thursday's
- please send nap rolls and nap bags back on Monday, and we will send them home on Fridays to be washed
- please send forks/spoons with your child's lunch. We are not able to provide forks and spoons this year

Thank you to the Collins family and the Pollard family for donating bird seed and hummingbird food for our outdoor area. We were so excited to see a hummingbird at our feeder this week!

We are so thankful for such a wonderful Montessori Community.

Warm Regards,

Ms. Valerie and Ms. Christina

Ms. Angie and Ms. Carolina's Class

Happy Tuesday!

We cannot believe we are already on week 3 of school, and things are going great. Children are going straight to work and enjoying being back in the classroom and having a routine.

We are excited that this week we will start having music with Ms. Angela on Wednesdays at line time.

Every couple of weeks we will send the clear work folders home so you can see what your child has been working on in the class; please make sure the folder comes back on Mondays.

Also please make sure your child has at least two complete changes of clothes at school.

We are wrapping up our space studies, if there is anything space related your child would like to share with us, please make sure it is in a Ziploc bag with your child's name on it.

We have been working on our manners and how to keep ourselves healthy; hand washing has been our number one priority, and children have been conscientious at doing so.

We appreciate your texts asking us questions and concerns; if you need to let us know anything, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Angie & Carolina.

Ms. Dolores and Ms. Robin's Class

We have had another busy, productive week in the classroom. Students are becoming more independent, working in small groups, and moving about the classroom with purpose. This week, Ms. Dolores will present Montessori's Second Great Lesson, The Timeline of Life. The students will learn about each living thing from microorganisms to humans. This lesson leads us to the study of botany, zoology, ecology, and microbiology.

A few reminders-

Please make sure that your children are getting enough sleep. We have several who are extremely tired daily. It has been a long while since they have had a school schedule!

Some students are finishing with the primary reader series, but we want to emphasize that all students should be reading at home every evening.

Please watch the sugar content in lunch items. If your child drinks water, there is no need to send juice.

Thank you so much for the pleasure of guiding your children each day! Watching them absorb the lessons is so rewarding!

Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie's Class

Happy Tuesday!

The students are all settling in very well to our daily routine. We are thoroughly washing hands and doing our best to social distance in the classroom. On Friday, the students received the Timeline of Life lesson. They enjoyed learning about life from past time periods. Happy birthday to Sabrina, Kyleigh, and Om this month! We will do our best to make their birthday a special day.

Please refer to the Illness COVID Addendum sent from the office. Students can bring in individually wrapped treats from a vendor to share with the class. Please look at the dress code section of the Parent/Student Handbook as well.

Dress Code Key Points:

- The length of shorts and skirts should be modest. Please go by fingertip length.
- Tank tops with narrow straps, spaghetti straps, low-cut necklines and shirts that bare the back (including halter tops and dresses) are not acceptable school attire. The length of the top should be enough to prevent the midriff from showing when the arms are raised.

Prohibited Items:

- Shirts with characters or superheroes/heroines.
- Blinking lights or characters on shoes.
- Sweatpants or athletic shorts (except for P.E. time on Friday).

Homework will be sent home on August 28th and should be returned on September 3rd. Please continue to send in an extra water bottle and cutlery if needed.

Thank you,
Ms. Stefanie & Ms. Maggie

Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Kaitlin's Class:

Parents:

We are gradually settling into a classroom routine, practicing our new health protocols while adjusting to a full academic schedule. We are working towards confident, independent students but currently focusing on review and mastery of previously learned concepts.

During this normalization period, students are being guided in respect of self, others, and environment; health and safety of self and others; listening to verbal instructions/directions; as well as completing tasks. Please remind students to always have an "emergency mask" in the locker and one on their person for daily use. Also, encourage students to maintain a regular sleep/shower schedule. Many students are fading throughout the day and participation/behavior is adversely affected.

This week, we will continue our in-depth study of the timeline of life as we explore areas of Botany, Zoology, Geology, and Physical Geography. This is in preparation for our next great lesson, the Coming of Humans.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the students' participation in "Fussell Fitness" Fridays. Please encourage students to bring extra water on Friday due to the heat and intensity of our workouts.

This week will mark the end of our "pre" school preparations and will observe regularly scheduled homework starting August 24th, which is also the due date for any remaining summer homework assignments. We have started Classical Roots testing on Fridays and students should be studying at

home consistently in preparation for their assessments. A homework schedule will be sent out with general instructions for homework assignments.

Thank you,

Ms. Rebecca

Adolescent and Secondary Class

We are a community of 16 this year, ranging from 7th years to 11th years, and we are developing a close-knit group. We have been paddle-boarding, had our first seminar classes, attended tennis lessons and are staying organized to keep on top of the academic workload.

Our new math instructor, Dr. Norma Harper, teaches Algebra 1, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus. When we asked for her thoughts about working here, she stated, "I love it! I have been impressed with the ability and well-mannered demeanor of the students." We wish our former math instructor, Ms. Patti, the absolute best as she moves from Rome to be closer to her grandchild.

At Montessori, we offer Dual Enrollment , a program where a high school student enrolls at a college while still in high school. With DE, you earn credit hours which count towards actual college classes, so you do not have to take them again when you are officially off to college! It is also an opportunity for personal growth as you can attend in person classes and interact with your instructors and students from other schools. Nicholas and Illiyaan, our 2020 graduates, earned over 60 college credits during their DE program. The classes are paid for by the GSFC as part of the Hope scholarship. Even the textbooks are complimentary! It is a beneficial experience that truly helps high school students.

Advanced Placement, or AP, are special elevated classes that Montessori offers for students, giving them the opportunity to earn college credits. The classes are year-round, and the AP exams are held in the Spring Semester. We offer AP Psychology, AP World History, AP Biology this year, and we have offered more than 12. All students here have earned top scores such as 4's and 5's on their exams. For example, as a Freshman, Pablo earned a 5 on AP Environmental Science. He will likely receive college credit for the 5 AP classes he took last year and the 3 he is taking this year.

A special congratulations to junior Kaylie Martin as she begins High School Leadership Rome this Thursday, a prestigious group chosen by the Rome Chamber of Commerce!

We will keep you advised through the year as we progress through our academics and extracurricular activities.