

Weekly Notes August 25, 2020



Office Notes:

Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or visit our website at msor.org and peruse the galleries to see images of your children at work and play.

Thank you for your help in keeping the parking lot safe!

Thank you for arriving on time for drop off and pick up! We appreciate your help!!

Ms. Ginny and Ms. Kayla's class

The month is flying on by. We are still talking about colors, shapes and adding in number recognition this week. This class loves to sing and dance! Ms. Melanie posted some pictures and video on our Facebook and Instagram; be sure and look – they impress me with how well they are doing the movements to go along with the songs!

Thank you for getting your children here and picking them up in the allotted times. It helps us out tremendously.

They are truly settling in well. Please pay close attention to the way they feel. Sometimes they do not run a fever but still seem to be “off” from not feeling so well. We are trying to be super cautious!

Everyday is a treasure; thank you for allowing us to guide your little ones!

Ms. Shannon and Ms. Rachel's Class

We have had another great week. We had a lesson on rain yesterday that really captured their attention. We talked about how rain comes from the clouds. We did an experiment with a sponge and baster showing when the cloud is full, the rain comes out. They loved it, and the work has been off the shelf in use since. Also, ask them to sing the umbrella song for you. It was a big hit! The words are come under my umbrella, umbrella, umbrella. Come under my umbrella. It is going to rain. With thunder and lightning and thunder and lightning. Come under my umbrella, it is going to rain.

Everyone brought back their library books! The kids were so excited to get a new book!

Class reminders:

Please remember to label everything that comes to school.

Do not forget to join the class remind.

Ms. Valerie and Ms. Christina's Class

Hello,

It is hard to believe that we have been in school for almost a month! We are so thankful that everyone has stayed healthy and we deeply appreciate everyone's patience with the new protocols this year. This week we are finishing our space studies. Ms. Christina has planned several fun space crafts with the students this week. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about space! Next week we will start learning all about the ocean.

Sandpaper letters:

You may have noticed your child coming home with letters on their hand. This is from sandpaper letters. We have the child trace the letter and say the sound the letter makes. When you see letters on your child's hand, please use this opportunity to play some games with your child. Ask your child what sound the letter makes. (We do not say the letters by the letter name.) You and your child can come up with words that start with that sound on the way home. For example, some words that start with a "c" are cake, cat, and carrot. You can also play I Spy and have them find things around the house that start with a certain sound. Please only say letter sounds with your child. The names of the letters will come later.

Strategies to help your child become a successful reader

- Try to read books with your child every night. Let your child pick out a book that interests them. Try to read the book with enthusiasm to capture their attention. There is substantial evidence that reading with young children has a positive impact on a child's reading and cognitive skills
- When you are reading to your child, discuss the story with them. You can ask open-ended questions to help your child express more.
- Read rhyming books and identify the rhyming words to your child.
- Sing rhyming songs
- Build their vocabulary skills by exposing them to new words, reading aloud, and playing word games
- Have your child tell you a story and allow them to dictate the narrative

Here are some ways we are increasing our literacy skills in the classroom:

- We introduce a word of the day to the children at line time. We want to increase their vocabulary usage and introduce them to new words. Ask your child what the word of the day was!
- We read a chapter book aloud every day after lunch. We just finished reading a Magic Tree House book about the hurricane in Galveston.
- We read stories pertaining to our unit of study. Right now, we are reading many books about space.
- We have planned lessons during morning line time where we will go over phonological awareness skills such as rhyming, initial sounds, concepts of a spoken word, etc.
- In the classroom, we extend work using the Three-Period Lesson to introduce the child to the nomenclature associated with Sensorial, Practical Life, Cultural Subjects and Science, enriching their vocabulary and providing new tools for communication.

Our hope is for every child to have a love of reading and knowledge. Thank you for allowing us to guide your children every day! We love watching them blossom to their fullest potential

-Ms. Valerie and Ms. Christina

Ms. Angie and Ms. Carolina's Class

Happy rainy Tuesday!

This week we have wrapped up our space studies and we are beginning to talk about the ocean. This Friday we will send the clear folders home; please make sure they return to us on Monday. Children love to keep their work and show it to you.

We are continually reinforcing our manners and how to respect each other. Also, we are working diligently on our handwashing procedures, care of self, and how to keep our personal space by keeping our hands to ourselves. We are so pleased that we are all staying healthy!

As you have noticed, some of our children are bringing letters written on their hands, please make sure to ask them and help them practice the sound that letter makes (example a is for apple).

For those students that are taking readers home, please send readers to school on Mondays and Thursdays so we can work with them during the week and send new ones back.

Due to not being able to go to the library, Ms. Carol is bringing a cart with books for us to choose from on Thursdays since the process of exchange is a little more complicated, please make sure that library bags and books are back in our class on Tuesdays.

We are so grateful for all you are doing and if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Angie, Nikki, and Carolina.

Ms. Dolores and Ms. Robin's Class

Everyone is working diligently to complete assignments and attend to new lessons. Students are learning to fill in their weekly planners as they finish work. Last week, our students began group presentations of their creation stories. This week we are continuing our Timeline of Life studies. Ask your children about Pangaea to learn about Monday's lesson.

We continue to review proper handwashing and sanitation policies each day. Students are required to keep their tables and desks clean, and we have them clean out their desks and cubbies every Friday. They are all pitching in to help keep our classroom clean and safe.

Homework books (math and language) will be sent home this Friday, 8/28. Books will remain at home for the year. Assignments will be posted on Google Classroom every Friday. Homework is due the following Thursday and should be submitted through Google Classroom. When my children were students here, I loved this weekly system. It allows for you and your children to plan the completion of homework around your family's schedule. Please have your child take responsibility and have them help to plan for the week's work. Occasional extra assignments for special projects will be assigned during the year. Invitations to join Google Classroom were sent to new families when school was starting. Please follow the link in the email to join if you have not yet done so.

The office sent out addendums regarding illness and doctor appointments. There was also an addendum regarding school birthday celebrations. Students may bring in individually wrapped food items directly from the vendor for classroom celebrations.

Thank you,

Ms. Dolores and Ms. Robin

Ms. Maggie and Ms. Stefanie's Class

The students are happily working in the classroom! We are studying the history of different civilizations in afternoon class this week. Please be sure to ask them about their plans for their prehistoric/primitive necklace that we plan to make later this week.

Reminders:

- The mosquitoes are very persistent this year! If you have not done so already, please send in a bottle of bug spray with your child's name on it.
- If you arrive late in the mornings, please walk your child to the side door of our building.
- Please remember that most students are eating on the carpet this year instead of the tile. Please keep this in mind when packing lunches. Water is the preferred drink choice. 😊

Homework assignments (pages for the workbooks) will be posted on Google Classroom on Friday afternoons. The invite to join our Google classroom page was sent to your child's msor.org email. Please accept the invite and explore the classroom page. Homework books will be sent home on Friday and should be returned on Thursday, September 3rd. Although it is very tempting, please do not work ahead in the workbooks.

Returning students- I archived the Google Classroom page from last semester. Please join the “All Students_2020-2021” classroom.

Thank you,

Ms. Stefanie & Ms. Maggie

Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Kaitlin's Class:

Parents:

Welcome to Week 4 !!! Thank you all for your cooperation, support, and patience with all the new protocols; our hard work is paying off.

This week will kick off our in-depth study of the Timeline of Humans. As we continue to explore our other subjects previously introduced, the class will research humans throughout time. This includes the Fundamental Needs of Humans from Pre-Neanderthal to Modern Man. Students will present their research with visual arts to the class in the next few weeks.

A few reminders -

- * Drop off: 7:35 - 7:50AM (students may not be dropped off early, or left alone on the porch)
- * Pick up: 2:55 - 3:10PM (students will return to the classroom after 3:10 and considered 'late stay')
- * Homework will go home and remain at home until informed otherwise; students will utilize Google Classroom to submit homework completion
- * Lang. HW given on Monday, due Thursday
- * Math HW given on Thursday, due Monday
- * **Reading Books** - *1st Semester*
 - 4th Years: **Bound for Oregon**, Jean Van Leeuwen
 - 5th Years: **Little House in the Big Woods**, Laura Ingalls Wilder
 - 6th Years: **Woods Runner**, Gary Paulsen
 - *2nd Semester*
 - All Students: **Storm Warriors**, Elisa Carbone
- * We will begin reading our first semester books as soon as all students have their book.

Thank you,

Ms. Rebecca

Adolescent and Secondary Class

A perspective from new adolescent student, 7th year Maddie Green

Upper EI vs Adolescent

Upper EI was fun, but I like the Adolescent class more because I enjoy going to different classes and having more teachers. I also enjoy our free time outside and small snack breaks. One thing that really helps in the Adolescent class is study hall. We have a challenging academic workload, and I am glad that we have time to finish homework so we can have more fun at home. Ms. Shemi can be intimidating sometimes, but she is normally funny and sweet. I am glad that we go on many trips and see what we learned and talked about. The Adolescent Class is challenging but fun. I am very thankful.

We are reading *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Stephen Covey, and on our bonding trip, we will discuss this book and implement the ideas. Being proactive and organized will help us achieve our goals!

The Secondary class signed up for AP Exams this week, with options ranging from AP Biology, to AP World History Modern and AP Psychology. We are taking the PSAT and SAT in the coming weeks.