Dear Parents,

The Elementary 1 teachers would like to welcome your child and your family to our classrooms. We are planning an interesting school year for your child and we look forward to partnering with you in giving your child the best educational experiences possible.

An important characteristic we want to encourage within your child is a continued interest in life-long learning. To that end and in keeping with the Montessori curriculum, we will offer stimulating, challenging, and interesting lessons. Our lessons will reach beyond the standard subjects of reading and writing to an emphasis on world geography including the fundamental needs of man. Also included will be a broad study of the biomes of the earth and the plants and animals that live in these biomes. Science by way of experiments is a study the children enjoy because they manage their own experiments and give their own observations. Art and art history bring children to museums and introduce them to famous artists and different forms of art production. We offer the children a vast array of cultural studies which they find captivating and which offer them the opportunities of collaborate work experiences with their friends.

Of course, a vital part of our work is in reading, writing, and mathematics. These subjects are usually taught in individually or in small groups. And here, mastery of skills is emphasized. We believe in and are committed to the Montessori curriculum and its appropriateness for the 6-9 year old child and we are proud to offer this work to your children.

Because we value a child’s time outside of school, we will not burden your child with an overload of traditional homework. We do ask, however, that you monitor your child’s recreational reading and be sure that s/he is reading for 20-30 minutes each day at home. We have a classroom library from which every child may select books for at home reading.

We will send your child’s work home in a weekly envelope. We ask that your child return the empty envelope to school every Monday. We will also send written progress reports throughout the year. Other communication will be sent through e-mail.

We enjoy celebrating the children’s birthdays in our classes. Please contact Juana to schedule a Celebration of Life as your child’s birthday approaches. There will be no celebrations during the first six weeks of school and the last three weeks in May. But other times can be chooses for these celebrations. Please send photographs for each year of your child’s life to keep his/her folder up to date. If you wish, you may bring a special treat for the children for these celebrations. We do ask you try to avoid gooey, sugary, overly iced
cupcakes. Fruit juice bars are an example of a good snack. If your child has a food allergy, or your family has specific dietary preferences, please send a container of “safe” snacks/treats for us to keep at school. We will share these safe foods with your child following a Celebration of Life.

We take several field trips throughout the school year. We have averaged the costs of the field trips and therefore each trip will cost $15.00 per child. We welcome parent chaperones on these trips. However, some field trip venues also require that chaperones pay for entry. We will let you know with each field trip permission slip the cost, if any, for chaperones. We will credit your volunteer hours accordingly for chaperoning a field trip.

The Elementary 1 students eat lunch at 12:00pm. As a reminder, your child needs a cloth placemat and cloth napkin, as well as any necessary utensils in his/her lunchbox. We do not provide a snack in Elementary 1. Please pack a healthy snack for your child to eat at our 10:15am community snack time. We have also noticed many children are very hungry at this time and sometimes end up eating most of their lunch during snack. Please make sure your child has plenty of healthy foods to sustain him/her throughout the entire school day. The children should also have a snack on the hot lunch days. We do not permit candy, gum, or soda in the lunchbox. Please feel free to join your child for lunch following the first six weeks of school. A note or a phone call to let us know to expect you would be appreciated.

We will supply the children’s consumable school materials including pencils, paper, and erasers. We do not use large notebooks so the children have no school need for backpacks. However, if your child has a sleep over, then a suitcase or a backpack can be stored in the school office for the day. Toys are not permitted at school or for after care.

Please label all of your child’s sweaters, jackets, and water bottles. CMS’ parent association, CEPA, has an ongoing fundraiser with the label company, Mabel’s Labels. Just go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for Center Montessori School Parents Association. Proceeds benefit the financial assistance program and projects for our students.

We will be having our Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 19, 2019. We will meet with parents of 1st-year students from 6pm-6:45pm and parents of 2nd- and 3rd-year students from 7pm-7:45pm. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the E1 environment and your child’s educational experiences. We look forward to seeing all of you there. In addition, the E1 1st grade parent meeting (or new parents to the Center), will be from 1pm-1:45pm prior to the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 18, in Rachel’s language classroom.

Finally, 2nd and 3rd year students should bring their New Practice Readers back to school on the first day of classes, along with any AR books if they have them at home.

Again, welcome to our classes. We are happy to be working together.

More later,
Elementary 1 Team