



Center Montessori School

Dear Primary 3 Parents,

Welcome or welcome back, to Center Montessori School! We are excited to share in your child's growth and development throughout the coming year. We thought the following information would be helpful to you as our year begins.

Our Daily Schedule:

7:30-8:20am	Before Care
8:30	Morning group time/lessons and work cycle
9:00	Playground
12:00pm	Lunch
12:30	Dismissal of half-day children
12:30	Story/rest time
1:00	Work cycle
2:00	Playground
2:50	Pick-up

Arrival time: On the occasion that you are late (after 8:45am), please go to the office where one of the office staff will escort your child to class so as to not interrupt lessons in progress.

Music: The children have music two times per week with Ms. Alicia.

Naps: The nap room is reserved for children who are still in a nap routine. You may request elimination of naps at any time during the school year. If your child's routine is to nap, it is best to begin with this expectation and routine and phase it out as your child grows. Please label all of your child's nap items.

Snack Bag: Your child will receive two turns to bring home the weekly snack bag. You will have the opportunity to go shopping with your child to choose healthy snacks for each day of your week for the classroom. Your child will prepare snack each morning for his or her classmates. This helps build our classroom community and encourages your child's independence with food preparation. When providing snack, please note that enough snack should be brought for morning and afternoon snack for all children all week. The Manatee County Health Department will not allow School to receive an open bag of snack. Each family will receive 2.5 hours for each week you provide snack.

Sharing: Fridays will be our sharing day. We encourage items about family, travel, hobbies, projects, or favorite books. This activity builds confidence in speaking to a group, enhances reasoning skills, and helps us learn more about your child as a person. Please do not include toys in your sharing day items.

Mystery Box: Your child will get a turn to take home the Mystery Box. Please help him/her select an item, write three clues about the item, and return the box to school. We read the clues and guess what the object is which is a fun exercise in critical thinking.

No toys or food please.

Items from home: Toys, jewelry, make-up, bug boxes and other "treasures" should be left at home. They tend to be distracting and loss or breakage of these items is upsetting to the children. On our last day of school we have a traditional Toy Day.



Clothing: Please send a complete change of clothes in a Ziploc bag and mark all belongings with your child's name. **Close-toed shoes with non-skid bottoms** are important for your child to be safe on the playground. **NO Flip Flops.** Please mark all outerwear. Many jackets and sweaters are not claimed during the year because they don't have names on them. When clothing is marked we are able to return them.

Scheduled Observations: We encourage classroom observations after our first 6-weeks of school and prior to the last 6-weeks of school. In order for you to get the most out of your observation, we ask that you schedule a time in advance with the front office. This will ensure that you do get to see the work cycle and will avoid scheduling conflicts.

Volunteer hours: Throughout the year there are many opportunities to fulfill your 15-hour volunteer commitment to the classroom. These would include our holiday parties, work preparation for crafts (these items can be taken home), and several more opportunities that arise during our school year. Credit will also be given for providing an extra week of snack.

Celebration of Life (Birthdays): We have a special tradition of marking the children's birthdays with a Celebration of Life Ceremony. As part of the ceremony, we ask you to please send in a series of pictures for each child, one for the day of birth and one on or around each successive birthday. Family is invited to attend the actual classroom ceremony. Please be sure to schedule this with the teacher. If your child has a summer birthday you can choose to have the celebration at the beginning or end of the school year. If you would like to provide a birthday treat to the class, we request non-edible items. Please use the U.S. Mail (rather than distributing invitations or notes in the classroom) to distribute party invitations and/or thank you notes for the consideration of those who may not be invited. You may request an address list from the office.

Medication: If your child needs any type of medication please contact the teacher. There will be paperwork for you to complete before medication can be given, which can be found on our website.

Envelopes/Communication: Your child's weekly work, a record of his/her work choices and general school communications will be sent home on a regular basis in a large envelope with your child's name on it. Please empty and return the envelope to the classroom the following school day. If you are sending or returning something to me, please do not use your child's envelope as these envelopes are not opened by us until the end of the week when we are refilling them. We will use your child's lunchbox for parent to teacher communications.

Conferences: We have two parent-teacher conferences per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. If you would like to meet at any additional times, please let me know and I will be happy to schedule that for you.

Lunches: Our goal is for your child to enjoy a nutritious, filling lunch in a calm and pleasant atmosphere. We encourage packing high protein foods, and fresh fruit and vegetables rather than prepackaged and processed. Please pack lunch items in reusable containers that your child can easily open, including drink containers that do not leak or squirt when opened. **Avoid Go-gurt and fruit roll-ups;** they are very messy and encourage children to play with their food. **Candy, soda, chocolate items, and iced tea are not allowed.** *When packing your child's lunch please include a placemat, cloth napkin and utensils (all labeled).* We are willing to microwave where it is needed. Hot lunch order forms are emailed once per month and are available on the school's website. You just need to complete the order and submit payment to the school office by the deadline.

****Extra Note of Caution for Lunches** - Peanut butter or any kind of nuts are not allowed.** We have several children in our school who are highly allergic to these foods. To protect these children we must ask that these items not be sent for lunch. Our goal is to make the classroom a safe environment for everyone.

Again, welcome to our Center family. We will all enjoy learning and growing together as we travel through these magical years of your child's life. We will host a New Parent Orientation before our Ice Cream Social on August 18, from 1-2pm, during which time you can ask questions and meet the other families in our class who have chosen this exceptional method of education for their children. We will also mention ways in which you can become involved in your child's classroom and school. We invite you to share your talents!

If you have any questions please email me at bcamacho@centermontessori.org

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, August 18 for the New Parent Orientation and Ice Cream Social!

Primary 3 Team