Welcome Back!

We’ve had a fantastic week in 7th and 8th grade! It’s been so good to see everyone, and get back into our groove.

Some of the most important things we do during our orientation period are teambuilding and cooperative activities. We firmly believe that one of the most effective ways of promoting learning is to build a strong and vibrant community where the learning will take place. Another part of building a supportive community is to have each of our seventh graders choose an eighth grader as their mentor. Our sixth graders also choose seventh graders as mentors. We refer to this 6th-7th-8th mentor trio as a “mentor family.”

Study habits and organization are another focus of Orientation. A core Orientation activity for each student to set up a personal work organization system that will work for them. Seventh and eighth graders have also been learning about effective study and memory techniques to help internalize new material. We had a short presentation on Gardiner’s theory of multiple intelligences, and students are now completing a multiple intelligences inventory to find out about their strengths.
Academics

An important part of this week was the introduction of Google Classroom and the online software that is part of G-Suite for Education. Each student received a web-based log-in, which allows them to use Google Classroom at home as well as at school. Some (but not all) of their assigned work can be submitted directly to us online. We in turn have the capability to make comments and suggest edits, and then return the work to the student for corrections and polishing. Consequently, work has been flying back and forth (through cyberspace) between the students and teachers! We are ALL on a sharp learning curve -both students and teachers- as we explore the capabilities of these powerful new tools. G-Suite includes Google Docs (a versatile word processing software), Google Slides (Google’s version of Powerpoint), Google Sheets (Google’s version of Excel), Google Sites (a super user friendly tool for building websites), Google Calendar (each student has their own individual calendar; each assignment added by teachers is posted on everyone’s calendars), and Google Meet, a Skype-like application that the students had figured out in 5 minutes. Each student also has an individual google drive with unlimited storage.
In language, we’ve had a number of lessons (introductory lessons for our seventh graders; refreshers for our eighth graders). As part of the language lesson follow-up, our 7th grade students received extra one-on-one coaching and support from their 8th grade mentors. Having mentor support reinforces the lessons and work not only for the 7th graders, but also for their 8th grade mentors.

I’m happy to report that EVERYONE is off to a solid start in math! An important part of our math program is peer teaching and collaborative problem solving. Working together in math in pairs or in small groups develops higher order thinking skills in math.

Peer Teaching in Math

Land Lab

It wouldn’t be an orientation period without a trip to our beloved land lab! Our plan is to go out for the morning of August 30, to both work and play.

We do need one or two extra drivers. If you are available and willing to drive that morning, let us know!

ROPES Course: September 9th and 10th

Thank you to...

The Rupprecht family, for donating three new outdoor games to Level 3.
Mark Your Calendars

Montessori Model UN Informational Meeting.........................Monday, August 26

Land Lab Trip.................................................................Friday, August 23

End of Orientation......................................................Friday, August 23

ROPES Course...........................................................Sept. 9-10

International Peace Day...............................................Friday, September 20

Level 3 Potluck and Parent Education Night...............Tuesday, October 1

Regularly Scheduled:

Tuesday Tutorials.........................3:15 - 4:30 PM

-The Level 3 Team (Robin, Deana, Erica, and Beronica)

Please send any email address changes and updates to redidin@centermontessori.org