



Center News

September 2019

Notes from the Director

Dear Parents,

Forty-three years ago, my children were young and ready for preschool. Like many of you, I, too, was concerned that I find the best educational setting for them and I looked high and low for that. Unable to find what I had in mind, I started our school. At first this school was not a Montessori school but it was an alternative school founded on three principles: 1. Children would be taught whatever they were ready to learn regardless of their age, 2. Music and art would be taught and not sacrificed because of funding, and 3. Children would be spoken to kindly by all adults. As a former public school teacher, I knew that my small children could not accurately report to me about their day so I needed to have a school setting I could trust.

From that time to now, we have been delivering to the many families who have found us, a unique educational model where we not only practice these three principles but we also value children and the time they spend in school. Most schools don't really respect children's time. After all, children don't produce work that is valued by our society. But as educators, if we look carefully at children, we will observe that they do in fact turn time into achievements. And if we are particularly sensitive to them as they work, we will gain a respect for their capabilities as we witness what they each teach themselves before they enter school.

There are actually many areas where children are self-taught. One example is language. Most of us have difficulty learning a second language even though we already speak one fluently. But babies meet the challenge and with no prior information about languages, teach themselves their first language without any lessons, review, homework, or tests – things schools think they need in order to teach children the school's curriculum. Unfortunately most educators ignore the work of children and suffer an inability to teach children efficiently because of it.

So after 43 years of work, our school still stands head and shoulders above the others as one worthy of your trust and support. We are a school created for the benefit of children whom we serve respectfully.

Welcome to this new school year. We look forward to a productive school year and your growing commitment to the Montessori method.

More later,

Janice Mattina

QUOTES FOR THOUGHT:

The secret of good teaching is to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flaming imagination.

- Maria Montessori

Center Nest Ms. Christine Assistant: Ms. Rosa



Welcome to Primary 1

Teacher: Ms. Saleha

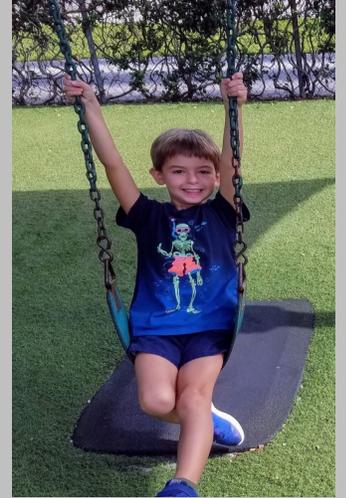
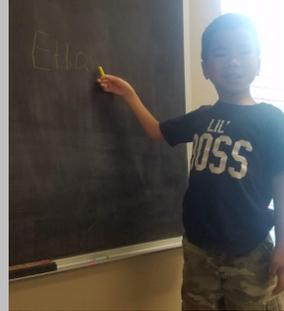
Assistant: Ms. Amy



Welcome to Primary 2

Teacher: Ms. Crystal

Assistant: Ms. Tammy



Welcome to Primary 3

Teacher: Ms. Betty

Assistant: Ms. Giannina



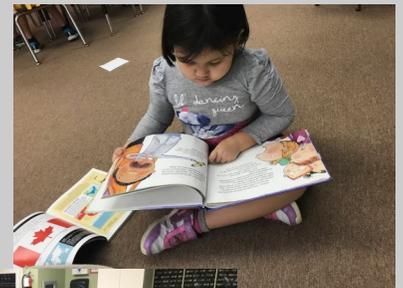
Welcome to Elementary 1

Teachers: Ms. Rachel, Ms. Juana, Ms. Janice

Assistants: Ms. Yenis, Ms. Melanie

What a true gift it was to welcome the children back into the classroom! The E1 students have happily begun to settle into our routine. We begin each morning with our daily class meeting and morning meditation, then have our work cycles in math and reading. Our afternoons are spent exploring the beautiful Montessori cosmic curriculum with our cultural subjects. The children have music and PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as art and yoga on Fridays. What a wonderful life these little human beings have, as we endeavor to educate the whole child! As teachers, we strive each day to create a classroom community where the children feel safe, welcome, nurtured, and loved. We hope that as parents, you will all begin to create an extended community among yourselves in support of the children and the school. We are grateful for your trust in us in choosing the Center for your child's education. We are committed to providing an emotionally and socially safe environment to facilitate the child's enthusiasm for and love of learning. We are proud of our commitment to academic excellence and the Montessori cosmic curriculum. We look forward to partnering with you in your child's education throughout the year and we are grateful for your trust in us.

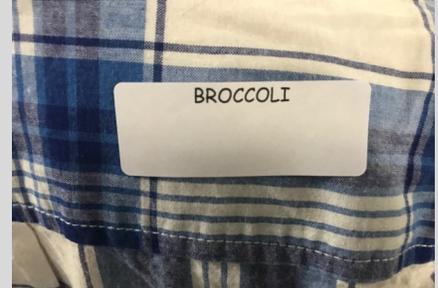
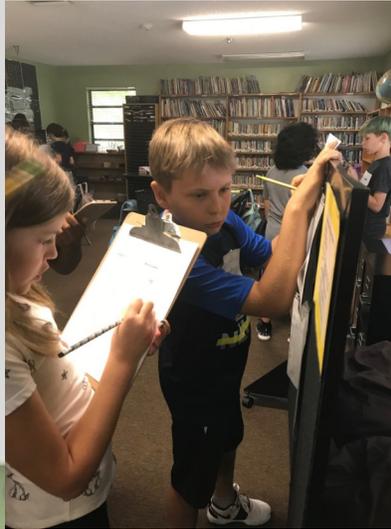
Thank you for joining us!



Welcome to Elementary 2

Teachers: Ms. Jayne and Ms. Susan

Assistant: Ms. Erica



Welcome to Level 3 - 6th Grade

Teacher: Ms. Deana



Level 3: 7th and 8th Grade: Teachers Ms. Robin and Ms. Beronica

Assistant: Ms. Erica

It's been a great beginning of the year in 7th and 8th grade! Seventh and eighth grade students have participated in a number of teambuilding activities with our new sixth graders, as we work toward building a healthy community. Personal organization of binders, folders, and lockers are also emphasized at the beginning of the school year. Our academics have also gotten off to a strong start. We've had lessons on the writing process, on finding issues in literature, on the history of the universe (with emphasis on Earth's history), on characteristics of living organisms, on creating etymology cards and learning how to approach etymology study. Finally, our middle school students each received a powerful academic tool: a Google Classroom account. Part of our orientation period has involved learning how to use Google docs, and how to hand in written work within our digital domain. We're looking forward to seeing how Google classroom will expand our horizons this year.



Quote For thought

"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

- Maria Montessori



Ms. Alicia's Music Notes

"Experience first, intellectualize second," said Carl Orff, the German composer and music educator who, along with associate Gunild Keetman, developed the Orff Schulwerk philosophy of music education. Just like spoken language, children learn to hear and make music before they learn to read and write it. Poems, rhymes, songs, games and dance provide the educational materials, allowing students to learn by doing what they already enjoy. Studies have shown the use of age-appropriate instruments and activities throughout the Orff program enhances both musical and academic learning.

Here at CMS music in the toddler and primary classes will be filled with learning rhymes and songs which help develop language and a sense of timing. Small percussion instruments are used to enhance the music making experience.

Elementary students will be working with the Orff melodic instruments such as glockenspiels, metallophones, and xylophones. The third graders will enjoy learning to play the soprano recorder. The fourth grade students will learn the alto recorder along with orchestra bells and percussion instruments. Playing both soprano and alto recorders will give the students an opportunity to enjoy playing harmony and to improve their music reading skills. Playing the percussion instruments will increase the students' proficiency at keeping time and playing more complex rhythms. The fifth grade students will be trying out different band instruments in order to determine which one they would like to learn to play. We will spend this year learning proper instrument care and the correct techniques for playing their chosen instrument. The students are encouraged to also take private lessons during this year as they will progress at a faster pace with private instruction along with band class.

The Middle School Concert Band students will have an opportunity to improve their playing skills and play more challenging music. Most of these students have been playing their instrument for at least a year. Learning to work as a team is one of the most important tasks for these students as they learn to perform together. In October, we will begin Jazz Band after school on Wednesdays. The Jazz Band is by invitation only. All Fifth through

Eighth grade students are also invited to be a part of chorus. The chorus will perform a Spring Musical on April and perform at various events throughout the school year. I am looking forward to a year that will hopefully inspire our students to learn and participate in music and enjoy it the rest of their lives.

Welcome Ms. Vesna To Spanish

Dear Parents, I would like to introduce myself, my name is Vesna Hirschfeld and I am the new Elementary 2 and Level 3 Spanish teacher. I have taught elementary and middle school Spanish and this fall, your child began a new Spanish program with me, called "Historias en Acción."

This program has proven to be an innovative, new approach to second language instruction. It is based upon the use of stories and music for the teaching of Spanish. Specifically chosen stories, written in the form of plays, become the focus for a range of motivating language activities that help students develop confidence and competence in the language, as they progress through each story unit. This approach allows language development to be supported and nurtured within the familiar, predictable context of a story that is the focus for the unit's work. Music is integrated with the story, and in each unit of our program, students will learn to perform a play and a dance to accompany a play. The vocabulary has been carefully selected as essential to the student during the initial stage of language learning.

Another important component of this program is the Gesture Approach, a technique that uses hands signs to help students learn and remember vocabulary (about 1300 words) found in the play, songs and other activities. There is an equal, strong emphasis on the development of all four-language skills (reading, writing, listening and the most important of all, speaking) through a program that meets the needs of all language learners and their learning styles. Activities are varied, so that students have the opportunity to work individually, with partners, in small groups, and as a whole class.

I am happy to be at Center Montessori and look forward to sharing Spanish with the students.

Quotes for Thought

The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, 'The children are now working as if I did not exist.'

- Maria Montessori

Redirecting Children's Behavior Course

Held 2 Non-Consecutive Saturdays from 9am-3pm

October 5 and October 19, 2019

Center Montessori School

Instructor: Rachel Wallace Reid

Certified Montessori Teacher and Certified Parenting Instructor

From time to time, our Center families have questions about sound child-rearing practices. Every year, Center Montessori School is proud to address this need in a very positive manner by offering a special parenting course entitled "Redirecting Children's Behavior." RCB parent graduates have found this to be a fun time together where parents can gather and share their experiences, triumphs, laughs, frustrations and questions regarding the biggest task they have – raising children.

This course will provide you with methods that have been proven effective in changing inappropriate or unacceptable behavior from toddlers to teens. It will also give you tools to encourage responsibility within your child, as well as ideas you can implement to enhance your child's self-esteem while building family community and closeness. Finally, RCB provides techniques to promote agreement on discipline between spouses/partners and helps to build confidence in parenting skills.

RCB is based on the work of Rudolph Dreikurs, acclaimed therapist, researcher and author of *Children the Challenge*. The teachers at the Center implement these techniques within their classrooms each day and find they work well. In addition, this course would promote a similar manner in dealing with children between home and school, from which the teachers and more importantly, the children benefit. This course offers valuable insights for families with very young children, as well as older ones (yes, even your teenager), and is recommended nationwide by pediatricians and health care professionals.

If you are interested, please contact the office for more information or contact Rachel directly. We hope to see you there!