



THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Family Fall Start-up Packet 2014-2015

Welcome Letter

Back to School Orientation Schedule

Student Supply List

Community Education Calendar

School Provided Lunch Information

Rise and Shine

Parent Handbook - available on the website:

http://traversechildrenshouse.org/downloads/parent_handbook_201415.pdf



THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE

August, 2014

Dear Children's House Families,

I hope you have been enjoying the majesty of our Northern Michigan summer, one we all earned after successfully living through the long winter. TCH campus is buzzing with activity with summer camp, all year Montessori, and preparations for welcoming our inaugural group of Jr. High school students.

At TCH, we believe in the incredible potential that exists in every child. With that in mind, we thoughtfully prepare a learning environment that supports our mission:

"We are a Montessori community dedicated to providing a learning environment that guides, nurtures and enriches the individual."

Our prepared environment doesn't only refer to our beautiful physical campus and fully equipped classrooms. It also includes a highly trained faculty, staff, specialists and an administration dedicated to our Montessori philosophy—an approach that values and supports the path of optimal learning for every child. This is our commitment to you.

In return, we look to you to partner with us in the support of your child by engaging in TCH community. Through participating in some of the many opportunities offered throughout the year—building relationships with the staff, participating in community events, volunteering and, most importantly, supporting your child's independence, you strengthen this valued partnership with us in your child's education.

In the following pages, you will find all of the details needed for great start to the 14-15 year. Please take time to review these details, as they are important to the success of our partnership and, ultimately, the outcome of your family's experience.

I look forward to seeing you and your children soon to kick off another great year together.

Sincerely,

Michele Shane
Head of School



Back to School Orientation Schedule 2014-2015 (no classes the week of August 25-29)

PARENTS

Back to School Parent Meeting
Thursday, September 4 at 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. (no child care provided)

AGNES, BETSY, COURTNEY, & MARIE'S INFANT-TODDLER CLASSES

Thursday & Friday – August 28 & 29 Individual visits for children new to the classroom
Tuesday – September 2 Regular schedules begin including early (7:30) and late care (5:30)

MELISSA AND JULIE'S PRIMARY CLASS

Tuesday – September 2 Regular schedules begin including early (7:30) and late care (5:30)

ALISON, AMY, AND JEN'S PRIMARY CLASSES

Thursday & Friday – August 28 & 29 Individual visits for children new to the classroom
Thursday – August 28, 10:30-12:00 Open House for Amy Flaherty's families
Tuesday – September 2

1 st year students	8:30-9:30
2 nd year students	10:00-11:00
Extended Day students	1:00-3:30 (Tile Party trip to Blackbird Arts – Be sure to sign the permission form at TCH On-line.)

Wednesday – September 3 Regular schedules begin including early (7:30) and late care (5:30)

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Tuesday – September 2

1 st year students	8:30-11:00
2 nd and 3 rd year students	1:00-3:30

Wednesday – September 3 Regular schedules begin including early (7:30) and late care (5:30)

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Tuesday – September 2

4 th year students	8:30-11:00
5 th and 6 th year students	1:00-3:30

Wednesday – September 3 Regular schedules begin including early (7:30) and late care (5:30)

JUNIOR HIGH

Tuesday – September 2 Regular schedule begins

School provided lunches begin on Wednesday, September 3rd.

STUDENT SUPPLY LIST 2014-2015

Welcome! Please bring the following items to school on your first day (even if it's just a visiting day). **Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about supplies.**

ALL STUDENTS

- Health Appraisal form including the immunization record completed by a physician annually for children under 30 months and every 2 years for children over 30 months who are not yet in extended day.
- Updated family information and forms complete at: <http://traversechildrenshouse.org/>
- Hat and long sleeve shirt for sun protection while outdoors.
- Sunscreen - The school provides child friendly sunscreen. If you prefer a specific brand, please send it in and clearly labeled it with your child's full name.

Children's House
On-Line

Please label clothing, outerwear, footwear, and backpacks with your child's name.

INFANTS

- Diapers as needed. We can store larger quantities and let you know when the diapers run low. Diaper cream as needed. The school provides an organic and unscented brand of wet wipes. Please send your own wipes (labeled packages) if you do not want us to use these on your child.
- One or two complete changes of clothing, a jacket/sweater/sweatshirt as needed, a sunhat and foot covering/shoes for outdoors.
- The state regulations are very specific about bottles/milk being sent to school. All bottles must be prepared at home in a ready-to-feed manner and labeled with your child's full name. Breast milk can be stored in our classroom freezer. Breast milk bottles prepared at home must come ready-to-feed and be labeled with your child's full name and also bearing the date of collection.

TODDLERS

- Diapers as needed. The school provides an organic and unscented brand of wet wipes. Please send your own wipes (labeled packages) if you do not want us to use these on your child.
- One pair of shoes with good tread, a waterproof bottom, and easy for the child to put on and take off. No "light-up shoes" please.
- One complete change of clothes including socks and underclothing. Place clothing in a one gallon size labeled zip-loc bag. (Wet clothes will be sent home in plastics bags to be washed.)

PRIMARY STUDENTS

- One complete change of clothes including socks and underclothing. Place clothing in a one gallon size labeled zip-loc bag. (Wet clothes will be sent home in plastics bags to be washed.)
- One pair of gym shoes to be left at school. Students are not allowed to participate in gym activities without appropriate footwear. Please see the details below.

Athletic Shoes for Physical Education - By Steve Maas

Primary, elementary and junior high students must have one pair of athletic shoes to be left at school.

Students are not allowed to participate in gym activities without appropriate footwear.

Athletic shoes with "non-marking soles" must be worn in PE. Shoes with non-marking soles are common and the norm. It is rare to find an athletic shoe that marks the floor. Improper shoes can cause shin splints, injury to the students and others if it comes off while kicking or running. Athletic shoes are more shock absorbing and thus protect the knees, hips and ankles of the child. The shoe must be secured by laces, Velcro straps, or elastic so that the shoe does not fall off during active play. Mary Jane style shoes or slip-on loafer style shoes do not provide support, traction or protection to feet and ankles. When considering a purchase, please consider the following issues:

- Would you run in this shoe? (The activity level in a PE class is similar to running 1.5 miles)
- Does the shoe offer proper shock absorption? Does the shoe fasten securely to their feet?
- Does the shoe motivate the child to be an active participant in PE class?

ELEMENTARY & JUNIOR HIGH

JILL'S CLASS

- 3 dozen plain #2 pencils (preferably Ticonderoga)
- 2 rectangular, pink rubber erasers
- 1 spiral bound sketch pad (blank)
- 1 small, zippered pencil case
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 sturdy, hard covered journal with **wide-lined** paper and a bookmark

NADINE'S CLASS

- 1 dozen plain #2 pencils
- 2 dozen pencil tip erasers
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 1 spiral bound sketch pad with blank pages for drawing
- 1 glue stick
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 small zippered pencil case
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils (no larger sizes please)

UPPER ELEMENTARY – Karin & Jamie

- (1) 1" D-ring binder with clear cover (view pockets), any color
- 5 Index dividers with tabs
- 1 Composition Book (100 sheets, wide ruled, $9 \frac{3}{7} \times 7 \frac{1}{2}$), any color
- 24 yellow, wood, #2 pencils
- 250 sheets, reinforced, wide-ruled, filler paper
- 150 sheets, reinforced, quad-ruled (graph paper)
- 1 glue stick
- 1 small, soft pencil case
- 1 small pencil sharpener
- 2 erasers (preferably white "magic" erasers)
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils
- 1 spiral bound sketch pad with blank pages for drawing

6th year students: 1 tool to organize MMUN materials, such as notes, printed resources, rough drafts, rubrics, etc. (e.g., binder with tabs/pockets, folder with pockets, accordion folder w/strap)

JUNIOR HIGH – Susan

- 1 package lined paper: college ruled, 8.5" x 11"
- 1 package graph paper: Quad ruled, 4 squares per inch (8.5" x 11" or 8" x 10.5")
- 36, #2 wooden pencils
- 2 highlighters
- 3 glue sticks
- 1 small pencil case
- 1 pair scissors
- 1 ruler
- 100 (1 package) 3x5 lined index cards
- 3, 1" 3-ring binders
- 2 sets of 5-tabbed binder dividers
- Planner – academic year 2014-2015, weekly/monthly format and have room to write assignments. If you have big handwriting, I suggest an 8.5" x 11" planner. Here are two examples:
http://www.staples.com/2014-2015-AT-A-GLANCE-Academic-Go-For-Baroque-Weekly-Monthly-Planner/product_297826
http://www.staples.com/2014-2015-Staples-Recycled-Academic-Weekly-Monthly-Planner-5-1-2-inch/product_319782

Appropriate outdoor work gear:

- Outdoor work gloves
- Outdoor work boots (rubber boots, hiking boots, or similar)
- Complete change of clothes (to be kept at school)
- Appropriate shoes for outdoor and gym
- Raingear (raincoat and rain pants recommended)
- Winter hat, gloves, coat, etc. – *recommended*
- Sun hat - *recommended*

Community Education at The Children's House

At TCH, we believe a strong partnership with parents is a vital part of the success of every child's development and education. Our community education offerings include a wide variety of educational topics for the adults in our community. We are thrilled to kick off our series with Dr. Sharon Maxwell, a nationally recognized author who many of the TCH faculty heard speak at the International Montessori Congress in Portland last summer. Dr. Maxwell will speak on the hot topic of technology that impacts all of us today; so mark your calendars now for October 16th and read below for further information.

Our trained classroom guides, head of school and invited speakers look forward to discussing subjects ranging from educational philosophy to the joys and challenges of parenting. The Montessori method is often referred to as "Education for Life." We encourage you to attend as many events as possible as we work together to guide our children in the monumental task of their unique development.

We have provided a variety of times for presentations to take place, as well childcare being available during some of the sessions, to make it easier for you to take advantage of these tremendous offerings.

Sincerely,

Michele Shane, Head of School

Nadine Elmgren, Elementary Guide and Community Education Program Coordinator

2014-15 TCH Community Education Schedule

September 4th from 6-8 pm- Back to School Parent Meeting (Mandatory for all parents to attend)

Reconnect with the TCH parent community and staff. The evening includes time in your child's classroom to hear information specific to the classroom as well as a presentation in the Barn for school-wide information.

September 25th at 6:00 pm- New Parent Orientation and Montessori 101

Join Michele Shane, Head of School, to discuss life at The Children's House and get to know Montessori education a little bit better. This is required for all new families.

October 16th at 7:00 pm- Aligning Technology with the Values that Nurture a Healthy and Responsible Child, Community, and World

Dr. Sharon Maxwell is a clinical psychologist, adolescent specialist, and nationally recognized author of the award-winning book, "The Talk: A Breakthrough Guide to Raising Healthy Kids in an Oversexualized, Online, In-Your-Face World". Using current brain development research, this presentation examines the effect of the cyber-world on our children's spiritual, social, and intellectual development and presents guidelines for creating a healthy relationship with communication technology.

November 4th at 6:00 pm - ADHD Facts Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

ADHD is one of the most common and also misunderstood neuropsychiatric disorders. It affects approximately 6 % of children and adolescents. Psychiatrist Sander Weckstein, M.D. has worked with individuals who have ADHD from childhood to adulthood. His discussion includes his experiences as well as how diagnosis and treatment can help individuals who have ADHD manage their symptoms successfully. Both older, tried-and-true treatments as well as new, innovative, cutting edge treatments are presented. He is a board-certified child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist who has practiced in the Traverse City area for over 20 years.

November 13th at 4:00 pm – Montessori After School Hours

Plan to attend school this afternoon for an exciting peek inside your child's classroom. Participate in breakout sessions led by Children's House faculty as they present key Montessori Materials and Philosophy. Sessions are available in Infants, Toddlers, Primary and Elementary. You'll end up wishing you could come to school with your child! Prearranged childcare in Friends Club is available.

December 4th Parent Coffee Club at 8:30 am- Parenting Without a Manual

A Children's House favorite, Sue Bowerman, MSW, returns to share her wisdom, warmth and experience on social and emotional development in children. Come enjoy a casual, engaging discussion which includes time for your thoughts and questions.

January 28th at 4 pm- Supporting our Children's Natural Development

Cheryl Bloomquist, Child Development Instructor from NMC shares her thoughts on how to provide an environment that supports your child's development. She talks about sleep habits and other key areas that we all face throughout our children's growth. Come and hear her keen insights into how you can help your children grow into confident, independent, caring people.

February 3rd at 6:00 pm- New Parent Orientation and Montessori 101

Join Michele Shane to talk about life at The Children's House and get to know Montessori education a little bit better. This is required for all new families.

February 18th Parent Coffee Club at 8:30 am- Dyslexia and How it Affects Reading

Vicki Norris, director of the GTDA, has a heart for people with dyslexia and their families. She will discuss reading and literature in general as well as the challenges some children face. Vicki has an MA in Reading and Literacy, was a classroom teacher, and a homeschool mother of four. In addition to running the Dyslexia Institute, she is an adjunct professor at CMU where she is teaching corrective reading to prospective teachers, including the Orton- Gillingham approach.

March TBD

April 20th at 6 pm Michael Sullivan ACSW

Join Michael for what promises to be a fascinating evening. He is a marriage and family counselor with expertise in family systems theory, as well as a founding member of the band Song of the Lakes. Stay tuned for more information on the topic for this outstanding event!

May 6th Parent Coffee Club at 8:30 am – Summer is Coming and How Can I Keep my Kids Reading?

Tara Hochstetler, TCH Reading Specialist, has magical suggestions to keep your children excited about reading not only over the summer, but all year around. Make sure to come and hear Tara's thoughts on inspiring children of all ages to love books! Tara is a wealth of information on how we can create homes that cultivate the love of literature.

Important information about the TCH Lunch Program

(note Infant-Toddler Lunch ordering deadline is September 1)

CREATE YOUR ONLINE LUNCH ORDERING BOOKMARK!!

The website address for the Order Lunches program is <https://childrenshouse.orderlunches.com>.

RETURNING SUMMER FAMILIES PLEASE NOTE:

Make sure you move your child to the proper classroom. If you do not see a menu listed when you log in, it may be because your child is not in the proper classroom. Go to "My Account" and click "User Profiles". The "location" box has a drop-down menu with all of the classrooms. You can update the classroom there.

NEW FAMILIES:

Welcome to our online lunch ordering program. Start by going to <https://childrenshouse.orderlunches.com>. Click on "Register". It will ask you for a school password which is TCH1. Follow the instructions for setting up your family's profile and select the lunches you would like to order. The website functions like a typical shopping site with a virtual cart. Please be sure to check out & pay or we will not receive your order. Do not close your browser prior to receiving the confirmation display or your order may be interrupted and not fully processed. If you wish, you can print your order by clicking the print icon.

Primary and Elementary Programs:

September's Menu will be available starting August 20th. The program will run the same this year as it did last year so you can use the same user id and passcodes.

Toddler and Infant Programs:

The first semester toddler lunch program will be ready for you to place your orders in mid-August.

REGISTRATION FOR INFANT/TODDLER LUNCH WILL CLOSE ON SEPTEMBER 1st SO PLEASE REGISTER AND ORDER SOON!

- Register your child
- Open the Infant/Toddler menu and select the days of the week your child will participate in the lunch program and put those days in your "cart". For example, if your child will take lunch on Mondays and Wednesdays, click on the menu item for Monday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 3 and put those in your cart. Each day for the entirety of the first semester costs \$35. So a two-day per week lunch program would cost \$70.
- YOU MUST COMPLETE REGISTRATION BY MIDNIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 1!!
- Due to the very low cost of this program, there will be no refunds for missed lunches.

UPDATED FORGOTTEN LUNCH POLICY:

Families will be allowed five forgotten lunches before getting "locked out" from forgotten lunches. If your child incurs more than five forgotten lunches, you will receive a phone call from the front desk asking you to bring a lunch to school. Alternatively, you can log on to OrderLunches.com and satisfy your bill to clear the five forgotten lunches.

Additional details about our lunch program can be found on the Program Info page on Order Lunches.



Rise and Shine!

TCH school day begins at 8:30. It is essential for the life of the classroom community and your child's ability to engage in their work that you arrive on time. Morning carline begins at 8:20 and ends at 8:40.

The classroom door will remain open until 8:40 to allow a grace period for traffic and other morning delays. However, if you arrive after 8:40, please park, walk in, sign your child in at the front desk and walk your child to the door of the classroom. Please wait outside the classroom door until the guide or assistant can kindly greet your child in the manner they deserve.

For infants and toddlers, you may check in at the front desk and a representative from the classroom will be called to greet your child there.

“But if children work independently in their Montessori classroom, why does it matter what time we arrive?”

- The Montessori learning environment is based on a three-hour work cycle in which a child can work with classroom materials with deep concentration, uninterrupted by the clock. Late arrivals disrupt the flow of this cycle for your child and their classmates.
- Guides begin presentations at 8:30. In elementary classrooms, lessons are often given in small groups and, if your child arrives late, they disrupt the group and possibly miss the presentation. In primary and toddler classrooms, presentations are offered individually which leaves the guide unable to greet children after presentations have begun. Goodbyes to parents at the classroom door can be disruptive to a working classroom of children.

Please make every effort to create a morning routine that will enable you to arrive to school by 8:30 am. It is beneficial to begin your morning routine a week or more before school begins to help the transition back to school go smoothly.

We appreciate your attention to this important component of your child's education and the life of his/her classroom!

UPPER ELEMENTARY PARENTS

Upper Elementary will have P.E. in two groups – 8:20-8:50 (A) and 8:50-9:20 (B). We recommend an 8:15 arrival for students in Group A in order to allow time for them to change into gym shoes. Parents will be notified of grouping at the opening parents meeting.