

Primary East 2022-2023

Welcome to the new school year! This time of year is one of beginnings and a shift as we prepare to gather and build our classroom community. We will welcome new children from our Young Children's community, returning students, children new to the area, and recognize our Kindergarteners as they step into a role of mentorship. I hope that this year we can work together for the best for each child and communicate clearly and openly.

Independence is an important part of a Montessori Primary classroom and I encourage each of you to help facilitate this at home as your children learn and grow. I look forward to sharing developmental milestones with you this year.

Thank you for allowing me to play a part in your child's life!

This document will outline a few logistics for our classroom. For returning families, many things will not have changed much from years past.

Observation:

Observation is a cornerstone of a Montessori classroom. As the year begins and we start to get into a routine, I encourage you to utilize our observation window to see the classroom "at work". This works best if your child isn't expecting that you are watching. After the first six weeks, you may be interested in observing in the classroom in one of our observer chairs. If you choose to observe in the classroom, please minimize interaction with your child and his or her classmates to see an authentic representation of our work cycle.

Snack:

Each day, your child will be provided with a morning and afternoon snack during our work cycles. A healthy and balanced snack is important as we learn about nourishing our bodies. A fruit/vegetable, protein, and whole grain are the components of our provided snack and we choose local or school grown options when available. You'll be amazed at what your child may try if they have a hand in growing, preparing, or selecting the food!

Volunteering:

Please let our room parents, Kristin Hansen (kristinhansen04@gmail.com) and Katie Short (katie.short@live.com), know if you have time, energy, hobbies or

interests to share. Your help makes this all possible. Stay updated with volunteer schedules by checking the class Sign Up page. Thank you!

Save the Date:

There are lots of fun TCH events to attend throughout the year, but the list can be overwhelming! Below is a list of some important events to put on your calendar, but feel free to attend any others on the school-wide calendar.

- Classroom potluck
- Parent Visiting Days
- Seasonal Sing (December 16)
- Grandparent's Day (May 26)
- Dance of the Cosmos (Friday, June 19th)
- Parent Teacher Conferences (Beginning of November and mid-March)
- For Extended Day parents: May Day, Moving Up Ceremony

Lunch:

- The school lunch program is wonderful. I encourage you, without reservation, to check the calendar on the website and select your choices. You will not be disappointed.
- If you pack your child a lunch, know that we will supply cloth napkins, tablecloths, plates, silverware, and glasses of water for your child, so no need to pack them. Milk is available for purchase for \$.75/glass.
- Our refrigerator is very small, so we ask that you include an ice pack in their lunchbox if they have perishable food items. Please pack their warm food in a thermos as we are not able to heat food in our classroom.

Personal Belongings:

- Please label all of your child's personal belongings on the tag of the clothing item. This aids our efforts in helping them keep track of their things and minimizing "lost and found" items.
- If your child has something from home that they would like to share with their classmates, they are welcome to tell me in the morning and share the item when we gather as a group. Please limit items to these categories: something from nature, photographs, something they have made or a souvenir. Please encourage them to keep toys at home.

Supplies: Please supply your child with these items to leave at school:

- One pair of indoor sneakers with non-marking soles (Please refrain from lights, bells or whistles.)
- At least one extra change of labeled clothing for accidents and spills, weather appropriate and a reusable wet bag.

Birthday Celebration and Snack:

Your child will be invited to have a special birthday celebration with you and their classmates during the school year. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on their half birthday. I will contact you around the time of their celebration to schedule a

date and a time with you. If you like, you may bring a few photos of them on the morning of their celebration; it is always great fun for the children to see them “growing up.” Many children also enjoy bringing a snack to their celebration. You may bring a low or no sugar birthday snack for your child to share with the class. Please save cookies, cupcakes and other sugary snacks for their celebrations at home. I have many ideas for delicious, healthy birthday snacks. If you would like some suggestions, please ask. Teaching the children about healthy food choices is part of our curriculum. I appreciate your help in this effort.

Medication/Illness:

- If your child becomes ill at school, I will call you to come and pick them up. They will rest in the comfortable room adjacent to the front desk until you come for them. For specifics about our illness policy, please refer to your parent handbook.
- If your child needs to take medication at school, you must fill out and sign a medication form. This is available online or you can get a copy of this from the front desk.

Non-Parent Pickup:

If someone other than you will pick up your child, their name must be on the approved list of adult drivers on your child’s account in our database or the child must have a signed note from a parent or guardian. We will check ID of everyone I don’t recognize. I appreciate your patience with this safety precaution.

Teacher Availability:

The support system we create for your child will be strongest when we are on the same page. The more we know, the better we can provide for your child’s needs and interests. Please never hesitate to contact me. Kindly keep in mind the school’s policy prohibits texting between teachers and parents.

School Phone: (231) 929 - 9325

Personal Phone: (231) 620-1344

Email: allie@traversechildrenshouse.org

How to contact me:

- Call the front desk during school hours (8:00-3:30) and leave a message. I will check messages at the end of each school day.
- Set up an in person meeting after school
- Call my personal phone until 5pm (please pre-arrange anything outside this time)
- Email me and I will respond within a 24 hour time period
- Send a note with your child in the morning

I look forward to a wonderful school year!

Best,
Allie Bukowski