

Welcome Parents,

As we begin this 2022–2023 school year, we thank you for sharing your children with us and celebrate the opportunity to learn and grow together. Virginie and I fully embrace the privilege and responsibility of being with your children each day and of guiding them as they develop into the amazing human beings they are meant to be.

ONGOING COMMUNICATION

Although some of what this year has to offer is set forth below, this list is not exhaustive. Please contact me should you have any questions at karin@traversechildrenshouse.org. I will do my best to respond to your inquiries within 24 hours. Should you need to contact your child or me during the school day, please call the front desk **(231) 929–9325** for assistance.

Clear and open communication among parents, children and teachers is vital for the success of our community. I will correspond regularly with you about your children's progress and invite you to meet should any concerns arise. To develop independence and accountability, however, I may ask your child to communicate information directly to you either by phone or in person. I will follow up with an email or call to ensure the necessary communication has taken place.

Classroom Highlights are another way for us to share a snapshot from our days in the classroom with you all at home. They will be emailed and then posted on our [Classroom Page](#) every other Friday.

SAFETY & WELLBEING

Your children's safety is of utmost importance to us. Although upper elementary children are granted many more freedoms than younger children, our primary concern is to always keep them safe, physically and emotionally. In this regard, please let us know either in person or in writing if someone other than you will be picking them up. If you need to pick them up during the school day, please park at the main entrance and come down to the classroom to retrieve them.

Another important aspect of creating and maintaining an environment in which all children feel safe, emotionally, physically and intellectually, is the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion learning we will do together. Issues of equity and justice will be explored in many ways throughout the year, such as when they arise in our community, in read-aloud books, in current events, or in MMUN topics.

WORK

School is your children's work. We expect them to arrive on time and be well rested and prepared. Because their work is important, we ask that you make your best effort to schedule appointments before or after school. We also look forward to working with them on TCAPS "snow days"; so, unless it is unsafe, we expect them to come to work in accordance with the TCH inclement weather policy. Finally, because so much of your children's work is collaborative and group lessons are the norm, advance notice of vacations or other time away from school is greatly appreciated and allows us to plan accordingly.

Our **work cycle begins at 8:20**. Please take this start time into consideration when planning your days. Early care is offered from 7:30–8:00, and the children have an opportunity to play outside or in the gym until 8:15.

With the possible exception of the 6th years' UN work, we do not anticipate sending homework home with your children. They have sufficient time to complete their responsibilities during the workday. However, we do expect them to continue learning and engaging in "**work at home**". It is essential for their development to contribute productively to your family's daily

activities, whether they walk the dog, care for a sibling, help prepare dinner or wash the dishes. Last, but certainly not least, we ask that you set aside ample time for **reading every night**.

SPANISH, ART, MUSIC, DELLA TERRA, KITCHEN CLASSROOM, READING

Our children have an opportunity to enrich their learning experiences through their work with **Señora Jen Geroux** for Spanish, **Alison Hoffman** for Art, **Angela Aleo** for Music, **DiAnn Service** for Della Terra and reading support, and **Andrea Deibler, Brenda Lijewski and David Myers** for Earth to Table and Kitchen Classroom. Your children will have several opportunities to spend portions of their work cycles in Kitchen Classroom and Della Terra throughout the school year. Formal instruction in Spanish, Music and Art will take place on a weekly basis.

THEATRE

It is a TCH tradition to provide a theatre workshop in the spring. We share information about this important experience as soon as it is available. Rest assured, this art form will be fostered in our classroom throughout the entire year as well.

GOING OUT AND CLASS EXCURSIONS

One of the many aspects that make a Montessori education unique is the opportunity for your children to pursue their interests and deepen their understanding of a topic outside of the classroom. This is an extremely important component of their learning, and we welcome your participation as a resource (e.g., hosting a student visitor at work, sharing a hobby, presenting a specialty to the class, or giving an interview).

SIXTH YEAR BUSINESS AND MMUN

Our 12th group of delegates will participate in Montessori Model United Nations (**MMUN**) this coming spring. This is an amazing culminating experience for our sixth year learners. In addition to participating in the conference, they will fund a portion of their adventure by establishing a small business.

Participation in MMUN is an emotional and intellectual commitment, so we will do our best to support your children in understanding real world issues and in developing solutions for the same. Your support is essential in helping them build their comfort level with their new knowledge and express their solutions with confidence.

HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

As your children enter their next stage of development, our goal is to prepare them as much as possible. We will provide a safe and comfortable forum in which to discuss how their bodies are changing as they approach puberty and the practical aspects of dealing with these changes and addressing related peer and societal pressures. **Carrie Ullery-Smith**, the Education Specialist of Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan, masterfully facilitates these conversations with the support of a TCH representative.

SAVE THE DATE(S) AND EVENTS TO NOTE

- Class Picnic, Sunday, September 25, 2:00–4:00, Silver Lake Recreation Area
- Inland Seas Outings for 4th & 5th years, Friday, September 16
- International Coastal Cleanup, Saturday, September 17, 10:00–12:00
- [Learning Opportunities for Adults](#)
- Fall Harvest Festival, Sunday, October 9, 11:00–1:00
- Parent Visiting Days, late October