

Upper Elementary 2023-2024

Welcome!

Important Dates

- *Class Picnic* at Silver Lake Park on Friday, September 15, from 6-8 pm
- *Inland Seas* outing for 4th and 5th years on Friday, September 15
- [International Coastal Cleanup Day](#) on Saturday, September 16, 10-noon
- [The Montessori Potential](#) on Thursday., September 21, at 6:30 pm
- [Fall Festival](#) on Sunday, October 8, from 11 am- 1 pm
- *Parent Visiting Days* to be offered the week of October 23
- *Conferences* to be held Thursday and Friday, November 9 and 10

Opportunities to Connect

- [Community Connections](#) - Sign up to visit our classroom to share your interests and/or expertise. Join us for lunch if you'd like!
- [Santa's Helpers](#) - Sign up to provide crickets for our leopard gecko.
- *Going Out Transportation* - Contact kim@traversechildrenshouse.org to become an approved driver and help us get to our various destinations.
- *Library Support* - We are so fortunate to have such a healthy library, but it needs care and upkeep. Please let me know if you'd like to help out.

Communication

- Please reach out with any questions at karin@traversechildrenshouse.org.
- Office Hours: M-F 3:40-4:00 and W 1:30-2:30.
- Should you need to contact your child or me during the school day, please call the front desk (231) 929-9325 for assistance.
- To develop independence and accountability, your child may be asked 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.
- *Waypoints* and [Classroom Highlights](#) provide important information about schoolwide and classroom specific events.

Safety & Wellbeing

- Our primary concern is to always keep your child safe, physically and emotionally. 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, Inclusion and Belonging 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 at School and Home

- Going to school is your children's work, and we expect them to arrive on time and be well rested and prepared.
- Because their work is most often collaborative, we appreciate notice of appointments and vacations so we can plan accordingly.
- For your reference, please see our [Weekly Schedule](#).
- To support your child's development as a contributing member of our community, we ask that you expect their participation in your family's daily activities, such as meal preparation, care of each other, pets and the home environment.
- We also request nightly reading for the myriad benefits it provides.

In addition

- Your children will enrich their learning through their work with Señor Jordi Lloré for Spanish, Alison Hoffman for Art, Angela Aleo for Music, and Andrea Deibler, Brenda Lijewski and David Myers for Earth to Table and Kitchen Classroom.
- For several Fridays starting in January, your children will participate in a robotics program developed and supported by [Quarkmine](#).
- Be on the lookout for information about Theatre Week which usually takes place prior to spring break.
- Our Human Growth & Development unit provides a safe and comfortable forum in which your children can discuss how their bodies are changing, the practical aspects of these changes and how to address related peer and societal pressures. The Education Specialist of Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan facilitates these conversations with the support of a TCH representative.
- Our 13th delegation will attend the Montessori Model United Nations in New York City from Tuesday, February 20-Saturday, February 24. Be on the lookout for information about the 6th year business to help pay for this experience.