

MONTESSORI SCHOOLS

of Central Texas



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IMPORTANT DATES

8/6-7 Staff Development
No School

8/10 Fall Semester Begins

8/25 New Parent Orientation (I/T) -5pm

8/27 New Parent Orientation(P/E)-5pm

Friday Splash Days (Toddler-Elementary)



A NOTE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to our 44th year of excellence at MSCT! We are excited about the upcoming school year, and I am so glad that you are a part of our school family!

Thank you for allowing my amazing teaching teams and me to be an active participant in your child's life. We are honored that you have chosen our school and privileged that we get to watch your child blossom!

-- Mrs. Jennifer Watson



"Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed."

—Maria Montessori



BACK TO SCHOOL

INFANT

I am thrilled to welcome the new babies to the Infant Class. The Infant classroom provides an environment with talented, dedicated teachers, but isn't complete until each child arrives. The excitement and joy that we see on your children's faces make this more than just a school. It's a community that cares, shares, and learns together.

During the month of August, we aim to bond and build trust. Montessori babies require orientation, familiarizing themselves with their environment through music, activities, and communication in English, Spanish, and ASL. Our vocabulary focus this month will be "more", "eat", and "milk". Our language discussions will center on the summer season, hot weather, watermelons, and the sun. We will explore the color yellow and the shape of a circle. For Bible study, we will introduce the children to prayer at mealtime.

We are honored to have your support and the opportunity to educate and nurture your precious little one!

-- Mrs. Terri Wallace



TODDLER

Welcome, all students and parents! We are so excited to have your child with us.

This month, we will be getting to know your child, building our new relationship, learning the classroom rules and routine, encouraging language development in English and Spanish, along with developing fine motor, gross motor, and social skills.

Here are a few of the things we'll be doing this month:

GROUP LESSONS

Welcome song and greetings; All about Me (body parts and five senses; Intro to shapes (circle, square, triangle) and colors (red, blue, yellow)

PRACTICAL LIFE

Brushing our hair, handwashing, setting the table, and wiping the table. Preparing snacks, peeling bananas.

COGNITIVE MANIPULATIVE

Music and movement; sort objects from small to large; shape puzzles and shape sorter; nuts and bolts; match primary-colored objects.

LANGUAGE

Read aloud books: *My Five Senses* and *This Is Me*; Vocabulary in English and Spanish: eye (ojo); face (cara); nose (nariz); mouth (boca); head (cabeza)

BIBLE

Bible Story: Jonah and the Whale; Memory Verse: "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." - 1 John 4:8

SENSORY & ART

Paper plate self-portrait; fingerprint painting; kinetic sand sensory bin; smelling jars; mystery sound bag



One of the main goals of the Toddler level is to foster their independence. Please partner with us by allowing your child to walk to and from class, carry their lunchbox, put on their shoes, and restore their toys at home before moving on to a new activity. This fills them with a sense of pride and accomplishment, and their confidence will grow by leaps and bounds. Together, we can help your child reach their full potential!

-- Mrs. LaDonna Ronelus and Mrs. Tammy Clausen



ELEMENTARY

Welcome, new and returning Elementary students! We are excited to start a new year with all of you! Hope you had a fantastic summer and are ready to kick off the school year!

This month, we will focus on learning classroom expectations, and the children will make their own bookmarks and name cards.

MATH

Operations with concrete materials; geometry concepts intro.

SCIENCE

Formation of galaxies and stars; laws of the universe; gravity

CULTURAL STUDIES

Classification of living and non-living things; hemispheres of the globe; landforms, oceans, and continents

LANGUAGE

Phonogram cards, nouns, and handwriting; Spanish alphabet and letter sounds

BIBLE

God's creation; navigating the Bible; talking to God

Parents, please check the supply list to be sure your child has everything they need, and label all belongings with your child's name. We look forward to a wonderful year!

Mrs. Dolline Abraham
and
Mrs. Tracie Steele

PRIMARY

Welcome back to the returning students, and a special welcome to our new students! We are excited for the new school year!

This month, we will focus on learning the procedures of the classroom as well as how to treat the materials and care for our environment.

Here is a look at our lesson plan for the month:

GROUP LESSONS

Welcome; care of environment and materials; restoration; responsibilities board
Books: *With Jesus I Learn Teamwork*; *Little Blue and Little Yellow*

SPANISH

Primary colors (los colores primarios) and secondary colors (los colores secundarios)

GRACE AND COURTESY

Mat rolling; walking feet; greeting/eye contact; shaking hands; responding to others

PRACTICAL LIFE

Cooking: Spreading Cream Cheese
Art: Mixing Colors

CULTURE

Living and non-living things classification; food groups

BIBLE

Matthew 6:9-13; How to pray

Please remember to label all your child's belongings, including lunch boxes, blankets, bags, shoes, change of clothes, and towels.

We are looking forward to a successful school year!

Mrs. Carmen Alvarado
and
Mrs. Angel Wang



BIRTHDAYS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Brennan Smejkal	Primary 2	August 1st
Duke Ley	Primary 2	August 2nd
Piper Barrett	Primary 2	August 4th
Rex Mikeska	Primary 1	August 10th
Myra Pabba	Toddler 1	August 12th
Rasa Palmer	Primary 1	August 12th
Evelyn Lopez	Primary 1	August 13th
Remington Oppenheim	Primary 1	August 15th
Bailey Waller	Primary 2	August 15th
Ava Rabadan	Primary 1	August 20th
Mikayla Mason	Toddler 1	August 20th
Alvaro Ramirez Torres	Primary 1	August 23rd
Ariya Roberson	Toddler 1	August 23rd

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NOTES

Supplies

Please send your child's personal school supplies by the first day of school. All items should be clearly labeled with your child's name. If there is not enough room to write their full name, please use their initials. Labeling belongings helps ensure items are returned to their owners rather than ending up in our lost-and-found or being donated.

Returning students will also need to replenish their personal supplies at the beginning of each school year.

Splash Days

Every Friday in August will be Splash Day for our Toddler through Elementary students. Please send your child to school wearing: A swimsuit with a cover-up. A labeled towel and a change of clothes in a labeled gallon-size Ziploc bag. If your child is not fully potty trained, please provide a swim diaper. Rather than putting it on before drop-off, hand the swim diaper directly to your child's teacher so they have a fresh one available for Splash Day. Because sunscreen takes approximately 30 minutes to become effective, please apply it before your child arrives at school.

Spirit Days & School T-Shirts

Every **Friday** is School Spirit Day! We encourage all students to wear their Montessori school T-shirt to show their school spirit. Each student receives one complimentary T-shirt upon enrollment. Additional shirts may be purchased through the school office for \$20 each. Order forms for long-sleeved spirit shirts will be distributed at the end of September for families interested in purchasing one for cooler weather. Sizes range from Youth Extra Small through Adult Extra Large, with the smallest size typically fitting primary-aged children. Please remember that Elementary students are required to wear their school shirts on all field trips and PE days. The first PE day is scheduled for August 26 at the Ralph Wilson Youth Club. A PE calendar and permission slip will be sent home before classes begin.

New Parent Orientation

We strongly encourage all parents to attend our New Parent Orientation. Infant & Toddler Parents: Tuesday, August 25, at 5:00 p.m. Primary & Elementary Parents: Thursday, August 27, at 5:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Upper Elementary classroom in the main building. During this meeting, we will review the Parent Handbook, discuss important school procedures, and answer any questions you may have. This meeting is intended for adults only; however, childcare will be available for enrolled students. Children thrive when families and teachers work together, and this meeting is an important first step in building that partnership.

Tardy Policy

Beginning **September 1**, students in our Primary and Elementary programs must arrive by **8:00 a.m.** If you arrive after 8:00 a.m., please stop by the office before taking your child to class to obtain a tardy slip. A tardy slip is required for classroom entry. Each student is allowed three unexcused tardies per semester. After those three tardies have been used, a doctor's note will be required for any arrival after 8:00 a.m. If Elementary students are already participating in morning flag salute when you arrive after 8:00 a.m., both you and your child must report to the office for a tardy slip before your child may join the class. **The tardy policy will be fully implemented following the New Parent Orientation, beginning September 1.**

Enrichment Classes

We are excited to offer a variety of enrichment opportunities this school year, including: Kindermusik for Toddler and Primary students, Art for Primary and Elementary students, and French Club for Primary and Elementary students. Additional information, including registration details, will be sent home prior to registration. Registration starts on August 12th and ends on August 21st. Enrollment will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and classes fill quickly.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NOTES

Early Morning Hustle and Bustle

In September, when the school day starts promptly at 8:00 am for Primary and Elementary students, please note that there can be traffic jams, especially during the times of 7:45 to 8:00 am. All parents are asked to drive to the end of the street to turn around. U-Turns cause a safety risk and definitely slow everyone else down. Please be aware that there are children crossing the street. If possible, drop off earlier to avoid adding to the traffic.

Playground Equipment

Please be mindful that our playground equipment is designed for different age groups. For example, the spacing of the bars is wider and the height of the slide is much taller on the elementary playground than that found on the toddler playground. It is not safe for younger age groups to play on equipment that is not design to accommodate their small bodies. When students are picked up from primary, please do not allow them to play on the elementary equipment. Additionally, after campus parties, students may play on the equipment, but please ensure that they are on the playground equipment that has been designed with them in mind.

Homeroom Parents

Would you like to become more involved in your child's classroom? We are looking for Homeroom Parents volunteers to assist with classroom parties, and other special events, such as Christmas decorating, etc. The teacher may even ask if you can help make materials. Other special events include Teacher Appreciation week in May and gathering Christmas and end-of-year gifts from our generous parents. It is okay to have multiple Homeroom Parents! If interested, please let me know.

New School End Times

We prefer all students be on campus no later than **8:00 am** to minimize distractions and give each child the opportunity to receive a full work time. If they are not here, they cannot learn. Although Toddlers do not participate in the tardy policy, the same rings true for them! This next school year, we have adjusted school times to reflect:

Toddler & Primary: 8 am to 2 pm

Elementary: 8 am to 3:15 pm

Door Codes:

Please be aware that the doors with keypads will have their door codes changed before the school year starts. The new code will be emailed to you. Remember to give this code to your authorized pick-up persons.

Questions Welcome:

We're here to help. Please never hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. Open communication is essential to building a strong partnership and supporting your child's growth and success. Thank you for the privilege of educating, nurturing, and encouraging your precious child! We look forward to a wonderful school year together!

