

Meadow Montessori School

Junior Level

Welcome to the Junior class and the 2008-2009 school year. We are very excited about working with you and your child this year and look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing together.

Our goals for your child are as follows:

- To have a positive, happy attitude toward school and learning and to foster a sense of wonder and curiosity about their world.
- To build and encourage habits of independence, initiative, concentration and persistence.
- To provide children with the opportunity to progress at their own pace, while also maintaining a high academic level for the classroom.
- To develop a sense of high self-esteem, a sense of order and inner discipline.
- To foster socially acceptable behavior.
- To create a caring and supportive school community.
To give each child the skills they require in order to be successful in whatever endeavors they attempt, now and in their future.

The MMS Handbook, as well as the following information, should give you and your child what you need to know to make this year successful.

I. Attendance

- Class at the Junior level begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. This means that our first lesson of the day will begin at 8:00 a.m. Every lesson missed will have an impact on the success your child has on building his/her educational foundation. Please have your child here and ready to work at 8:00 a.m. It is best to drop him/her off about 10 minutes early. If your child arrives in the classroom after 8:00 a.m. s/he will be marked tardy.
- If your child arrives at school before 7:45 a.m., they must be "signed in."
- If your child is going to be absent, please call the school before 8:30 a.m. If you do not call us, the office may contact you.
- Please plan your family vacations around the school year breaks. Your child should not miss more than 10 days total for the school year. This is a state law.

II. Dismissal

- Extended Time Care students will be sent to the resource room everyday at 3:30 p.m. Please make contact with the ETC staff when picking up your child to be sure the child is signed out properly.
- All elementary children who are not staying for Extended Time Care will be dismissed from the front doors at 3:30 p.m. If you are picking your child up from the front doors, please do not leave your car. Be sure to pull ahead so as not to block other cars. The classroom teachers will sign your children out. If you have both preschool and elementary students, please pick your children up at their respective doors.
- If your children are not picked up by 3:45 p.m., they will be signed into Extended Time Care. After 3:45 p.m. you must make contact with the ETC staff when your children are picked up.

III. Mailboxes

- All families will have mailboxes located in the sign in/out area of the school. Your child will check your box daily for communication from the school. Be sure to ask your child for any mail.
- All teachers have mailboxes at school. Please pass any notes or communications through the office, or through email address (amccormick@meadowmontessori.org) or

rebeccaloope@meadowmontessori.org. If you need to make an appointment to see a teacher, please feel free to pass that message through the office staff.

- If you need to communicate with your children during the day, please do so through the office.

IV. Appointments

- All children have individualized schedules every day. All parts of the schedule are important. Please try to schedule doctor, dentist, hair and other appointments after school hours.

V. Homework

- Generally, we do not assign homework at the Junior level. However, we may send home your child with reading assignments and/or educational assistance tools provided by the teacher, with which you will need to help your child. This work will be transported to and from school in a designated "red folder" which should be stored in your child's book bag when not in use. Also, if your child is using a vocabulary or spelling book, s/he may have homework. This workbook must be returned to school on a daily basis.

VI. School Supplies

- Each elementary child is charged a fee for supplies and materials used throughout the year. This fee covers:
 - Workbooks
 - Paper
 - Pencils
 - Composition books
 - Subjects books
 - Folders
 - Art materials
 - Music
 - Erasers
 - Glue sticks
- Children should not bring any school supplies from home.

VII. Observations

- We encourage all parents to observe their child in the classroom at least twice a year. A good time for this would be sometime close to each conference time. That will give us a foundation for discussion. The school asks that you not schedule an observation during the first three weeks of school, as we are building a sense of community during this time. Call the office and schedule an observation at your convenience, any time after the first three weeks.

VIII. Parents as Resources

- We would like to take advantage of all the talents our parents have to offer. If you have a special skill, a special knowledge about a particular subject, have visited a foreign country, have a unique collection, or just want to help out in the classroom, please let us know. Our parents are a valuable resource and we would like you to share your talents with all of us.
- Please take a few minutes to complete the Volunteer Assessment sheet and return it to my mailbox located outside the office.

IX. Lunch

- Both junior elementary classes eat lunch in the lunchroom from 11:00-11:45 p.m. The teachers and staff will expect that all children practice good manners during lunch. The children will be asked to use quiet voices, remain in their seats during the lunch period and not speak while chewing. Lunch should be a pleasant social experience for the children and adults.

- If your child will be bringing his/her lunch to school, we ask that you help your child choose nutritious food. If your child participates in the selection and preparation of food, then s/he is more likely to eat what is packed.
- Some healthy suggestions are fresh fruit and vegetables, yogurt, cheese, sandwiches, soup and milk or real fruit juice to drink. We would also ask that you try to stay away from foods that need to be prepared at school because of the time it takes. We cannot refrigerate any lunches, so please purchase a cold pack or plan lunches that do not need refrigeration.
- We are aiming for zero waste at Meadow Montessori!

X. Responsibility

- At this age level we are working with your child on personal responsibility. We try to teach that each individual is responsible for his or her own actions, words, work, body, etc. If we allow children to live out the natural consequences of their actions, we are helping them develop the mental and moral independence they need.
- Please help your child by allowing them the dignity of accepting personal responsibility for all situations.

XI. Communication with teachers

- We want to make ourselves available to parents as much as possible. However, we cannot speak with you before school begins because we are getting things ready for your children. During the school day all of our attention is focused on your children.
- We will try to make some times available after 4:00 p.m. on certain days to speak with parents. If you need to talk to us, please leave a note with the office staff, email us, or call the office and we will return your call as soon as possible.
- We can be reached at home, but please try to keep these calls to emergencies only.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Ms. Anya & Ms. Rebecca

Junior West 2008 Wish List

Junior West would like to make their wishes known! We have compiled a list of items that we think would make a great addition to our classroom. Check the list in case you have any of the following items at home, or if you are in the giving mood. Thank you!

- Child-sized gardening tools
- Current World Atlas
- Sewing machine
- Listening C.D. of world music
- Wooden folding dish rack (Ikea)
- Dust buster / hand vacuum
- Room plants
- Child-sized mop