



The Montessori Academy of Arlington LOWER ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM ORIENTATION AND GUIDELINES





CLASS SCHEDULE

Students may enter the classroom after 8:00 am. Please make every effort to have your child at school on time. Attendance is taken at 8:40 am. Arriving with time to catch their breath and settle in sets a better tone for the children's day than rushing in late and flustered. In addition, it is important for the children to bring themselves to class. An important milestone in their growing independence is saying good-bye to parents at the door to extended care or in the car line. We impress upon the children the importance of coming in and beginning work immediately. This

process is facilitated if they have said their good-byes before entering the classroom.

Afternoon carline begins at 3:15 pm and ends at 3:30 pm. Any students not picked up by 3:30 pm will be sent to Extended Day (charges will be applied).

CHILDREN'S BELONGINGS

Please make sure that your child's name is on all of their belongings. Everything from lunch boxes and food containers to water bottles and jackets needs to be labeled so that lost items can be returned. Name Bubbles is a great source for labels that hold up well through daily use. **Please send a change of clothes, indoor shoes with soft soles, and rubber boots and a raincoat for rainy weather, all which will be kept in backpacks.**

SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATION

Take-Home Work

We will send home correspondence, classroom work, and workplans on Fridays. Additionally, first level students may have handwriting practice for homework as we begin learning cursive this year. Please keep the contents at home, including completed work and work plans.

Homework Reimagined

First Levels: We would like you to carve out some time in your daily routine to curl up with a good book and read with your child. This may look different depending on the day and the family. We encourage you to select books you and your child are interested in and can enjoy together.

Second and Third Levels: You may have heard about the Makerspace Movement, where, by providing space, resources, and time to let a child's creativity thrive, children discover, invent, and learn through *making*. We would like learning to continue beyond the classroom by having your child become a Montessori Maker at home. The children can research and explore any cultural area (Geography, History, Botany, or Zoology) or the continent currently being studied and *make* something that illustrates or represents their findings. Each classroom will provide an opportunity weekly for the children to share their work with their classmates, though it is not required. In the

spring session, however, these Makers' Moments will be required for third level students on a monthly basis in preparation for the transition to Upper Elementary. Additionally, third level students will begin completing spelling packets and a Book of the Month project.

FITNESS EDUCATION

The children will have F.E. outside every day that the weather permits. It is very important for them to be dressed appropriately for fitness activities, including running shoes, and have a water bottle that they can take to class with them everyday. Please make sure the bottle is labeled with your child's name and filled with cold water at the start of the day. If necessary, water bottles can be refilled on the way to F.E.



MEAL GUIDELINES

Individual Snacks

When choosing snacks, please select foods that will give the children a healthy boost of energy to get through their morning. Please look for foods that contain easily-identified ingredients. Fresh fruits, cheeses, bagels and cream cheese, and plain popcorn would be good choices. Please avoid sugary (including yogurt tubes) and excessively salty snacks like chips as they cannot be served and will be returned to you. Please note, we have a no peanut policy at our school due to allergies.

Lunch

Please note, there will be no microwave or refrigerator access this year due to COVID-19.



When planning lunches, please consider good nutritional guidelines. **High-sugar foods and drinks should be avoided for daily lunches. Additionally, flavored yogurt tubes and fruit-flavored "juice" drinks will not be allowed for meals or snacks.**

Lunch is from 11:30- 12:00. Each child should bring the following items from home:

- A placemat
- A napkin (preferably cloth)
- Eating utensils, as appropriate for their lunch
- [Healthy lunch](#) in appropriate containers from which to eat