



# The Montessori Academy of Arlington

## UPPER ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM ORIENTATION AND GUIDELINES





## COMMUNICATION

Communication between the classroom teacher and parents is key to a successful year. If you need to contact your child's teacher, a voicemail can be left at the main TMA number (817-274-1548) or emails can be sent (rdotson@tmaonline.org or pbarnes@tmaonline.org). Email and voicemail will be checked throughout the day, though email is likely the quickest way to reach your child's teacher.

If there is a time-sensitive issue, your contact information in our database will be used. Please make sure it is updated on ParentsWeb.

## FRIDAY TAKE-HOME FOLDERS

Your child's take-home folder will be sent home each Friday or available for pickup for those who have chosen distance learning. It will include:

- a portion of your child's written work for the previous week (some work stays in the classroom),
- their work plan for the past week, and
- any other important information.

**Please take the time to look through your child's folder each week and keep your child's written work at home.**

### Work Plan

The back of the [work plan](#) may include written comments regarding your child's work or behavior for the week or a suggestion for future weeks. Please do not be alarmed if there is nothing written here; if your child is on track and meeting expectations, then you likely will not see a comment.

### Homework

Homework is part of the Practical Life curriculum for Upper Elementary students. Students are expected to complete one homework assignment **each week**: a **minimum of 60 minutes of online work via IXL**. IXL homework begins the first week of school and the teachers will check the following Monday morning to ensure that the 60 minute minimum was met.



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The work plan will include the number of minutes of IXL homework your child completed for the previous week. **Failing to meet the minimum number of minutes each week will affect their homework grade on their Progress Reports.** Continued issues will result in a parent/student/teacher conference.

Each week, students will complete timed math facts tests in the classroom. The tests consist of 75-100 multiplication or division facts that should be accurately completed in 5 minutes or less. If, after the first few weeks, a child is having difficulty meeting this standard, math tests will be sent home for practice. **Please make sure any tests sent home are completed.** Decimals, fractions, square roots, and cubing are even more challenging if a student is still struggling with basic multiplication and division facts.



## MEAL GUIDELINES

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

### Lunch

Lunch is from 11:00- 11:30. 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

### Snack

Upper Elementary children prefer to bring their own snack each day. **Please pack an extra snack or two in your child's lunch box.** It is important for students to have enough energy to complete the morning work cycle.

### Reminders

- No soft drinks, candy, or Lunchables with candy in them is permitted for lunch or snack. When planning lunches, please consider good nutritional guidelines.
- The school will no longer purchase plastic silverware, paper napkins, or paper plates.
- To compensate for students with allergies, please be aware that we will adjust seating accordingly so that a child with severe allergies does not come into contact with any allergens.