

The Montessori House

Summer Session Parent Instructions

Arrival

Anyone who enters the school during the school day (staff, students, permitted visitors) must have a health screening. We will provide student screenings each school day only to students who arrive at school between 8:30 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. We will be at the door and screen students until the later of 8:50 a.m., or until no one is waiting in line for screening. **Once we complete Arrival screening and close the door, we will not admit your student to school that morning.** A full-day student, who doesn't arrive by 8:50 a.m., may return at between 12:10 p.m. and 12:20 p.m. to attend for the afternoon only. Half-day morning students may only return the next school day.

Upon admitting anyone to the school we need to have a temperature check (must be below 100.4F), check for symptoms, and answer a series of questions about exposure to Covid-19, etc. **We are required to refuse entry to any student who exhibits symptoms, has had contact with a person diagnosed with Covid-19, or whose household members exhibit symptoms.** We report all this information to the NJ Dept. of Children and Families daily.

To minimize parents' waiting time in the morning, we ask parents to do the following:

- Each school-day morning, between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. we'll send an email with a link to an on-line health screening, a different link each day. Before you join the arrival line, please complete the on-line health screening for each child coming to school that day.
- Park your car anywhere in the parking lot, but not in front of The Montessori House playground. You may park in the spaces towards Knickerbocker Road. When you leave your car be sure to bring your own quick-scan thermometer.
- We have a one-way circulation for Arrival. The direct walkway from the school door to the parking and playground (the one used for arrival in the past) is now EXIT ONLY; please do not use this walkway when you arrive. Instead, proceed to the next walkway to the west (toward Knickerbocker Rd.), where you'll see small, bright green flags in the ground spaced 6-feet apart. Please line up for screening along this walkway, by the green flags, keeping your distance from other families in line. Please do not let your children wander; they must remain with you at all times, and should not mingle with anyone outside your household while waiting.

Adults and children waiting in line should observe general social-distancing and mask-wearing guidelines for NJ residents in public spaces.

- When you get to the school entrance, if you've completed your child's on-line health screening already, we'll have a record, and will ask you to scan your child's temperature with your thermometer, and show us the reading. We may take a duplicate reading of our own, to check, or take a reading if you don't have your own working thermometer. Either way, we'll record your child's temperature, check your on-line screening responses, and observe your child for symptoms. If there are no reasons for exclusion, we'll admit your child to school for the day.

If you have not completed the on-line screening, we will ask you be patient while we ask you all the screening questions, take your child's temperature, and observe your child for symptoms.

- You may then exit along the short walkway to the parking lot.

Students are required to wash their hands before entering the classroom. We have an outdoor handwashing station at the front door; after screening, students will wash their hands before going upstairs to the classroom. We will continue to make use of cloth towels for hand-drying (laundered after one use), our standard practice.

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RAIN -- Car Line for Arrival:

- If it is raining, we will use a car line for arrival. We will fly the green-checked flag in the morning if we use a car line for Arrival.
- Same instructions regarding your on-line screening, and the recommendation about bringing your own thermometer for temperature check.
- Arriving cars form a line entering from Riveredge Rd., with the head of the line at the short walkway to the school. Circulation is one-way, entering from River Edge Rd. and exiting to Knickerbocker Rd.
- We will meet you at the curb. Take your child's temperature in the car, and show us the display. We will record or double check the results. If you haven't completed the on-line screening, we'll ask you the screening questions. Once we give permission, turn off your engine, and you may exit your car, help your child exit, and leave your child with us for the day. (To avoid contamination, we will not touch your car exterior or interior -- we will not open the door, unbuckle your child's restraint, or help your child exit the vehicle.)
- Once your child is safely away from the vehicle, you may continue straight ahead to exit at Knickerbocker Rd. only (for your safety, we recommend exiting to the right onto Knickerbocker).

Dismissal

You'll be relieved to know that Dismissal is less complicated than Arrival.

DCF guidelines require us to keep children isolated in groups of 10. We will dismiss each group from a different playground gate. When Summer Session starts, we'll let you know if your child is in the Red, Yellow, or Blue group for dismissal. Caregivers who pick up should park and come to their student's gate. As with Arrival, we have marked with colored flags (Red, Yellow, Blue) the parents' waiting spots that are 6-feet apart. Please remember to observe general social-distancing and mask-wearing guidelines for NJ residents in public spaces.

Note, **we are NOT offering After Care during the Summer Session**, so please arrive by 11:15 a.m. for morning dismissal (Half-Day Morning students) or by 3:00 p.m. for afternoon dismissal (everyone else).

If you need to pick your student up earlier than scheduled dismissal, please call ahead and be sure to pick up at least 20 minutes before your student's scheduled dismissal. After that time, you may have to wait until scheduled dismissal to retrieve your student.

RAIN -- Car Line for Dismissal:

If it's raining hard enough, we will display the green-checked flag for car line dismissal. As we do during the school year, we will dismiss from the "living room" door (there's sufficient space in the room to keep the student groups separated). Please have your car line card available.

Dismissal car line forms from Riveredge Rd. to the door. There is a one-way flow, with all exits to Knickerbocker Rd. Display your car line card in your car window, and we'll bring your child to the car. **Unlike the school year, we will not touch your car -- we will not open the door, or help your child into the car.** As soon as you reach our door, please turn off your engine, exit your car, take your child from the teacher, help your child enter your car, and buckle your child up in the car seat. Then re-enter your car and exit toward Knickerbocker Rd.

Lunch and Personal Items

Students may not bring personal items to school, other than outerwear (e.g. sweater, jacket, etc.) and lunch.

- Lunch must be sent in a paper bag, or a disposable bag or container - not a lunch box - as we will not send any lunch items home with your student. Please do not send cups, and send only utensils that we may throw away. We will dispose of all lunch materials -- uneaten food, bags, containers, utensils, etc.
- Do not send drinks. We provide water in the classrooms.
- We do not heat students' lunches.
- We do not refrigerate lunch. (You may pack lunch with a disposable ice pack -- e.g. ice cubes in a sealed sandwich bag.)