

Corpus Christi Montessori School
 822 Ayers Street
 Corpus Christi, Texas 78404
www.cc-montessori.com

August 25, 2023



Dear CC Montessori Families,

As we finish our second full week of school and are close to the end of August, we are thrilled to share how much the students are normalizing and enjoying their communities. Our students continue to receive grace & courtesy lessons, understanding procedures and team building while also, receiving new academic lessons and learn about work cycle and using work plans. Our six weeks of “normalizing” or acclimate into our community continues. This time is filled with learning routines, receiving lessons, building connections and gaining confidence. In order for CC-Montessori to remain at 96% attendance and keep from losing funds students should aim to miss 7 or less days throughout the year. Please do your part and ensure your student is here every day.

Just a reminder, September 1st is a student holiday and a staff development day for our educators. September 4th is an all school holiday. Family conferences and opportunities for observations will begin shortly after the “normalization time.”

Enrichment begins September 5th in the afternoons. This includes Art, Music, Outdoor Education and Library/Technology. The students are already excited about enrichment and are looking forward to the afternoon activities.

Check out our **Website** (www.cc-montessori.com), Our school **ClassDojo** link on the parent page, our **public Facebook page** (Facebook.com/CCMontessoriSchool) and our **parent Facebook page** (search Parents of CCMS and request to be added). These are where you will receive the most up to date information.

We hope to see everyone at the upcoming Maria Montessori Social on Wednesday, August 30st, at 5:30 p.m. Please review the flier and bring your potluck for the evening. PTO plans to update our families about supplies and upcoming events that evening, and our classes are preparing some interesting information about Maria Montessori and the Montessori Method. Please review the reminders and share with your child(ren). Also, take a moment to read Bringing Montessori Home from the American Montessori Society – Montessori Parent page. It has some useful information about children and chores.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Upcoming Events

- August 28 MAST Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- August 30 Maria Montessori Social 5:30 pm
- August 29 & 30
 NCI Team Building for Middle School Community
- September 1 Student Holiday
- September 4 Student/Staff Holiday
- September 5 School resumes
- September 15 Grandparent’s Day Brunch
- September 25 – October 5
 Family/Teacher conferences

Gentle Reminders:

- **Drop off time begins at 7:45 a.m. – tardies begin at 8 a.m.**
- **Attendance is very important. Please ensure your child is here.**
- **Water Bottles daily! It is hot outside!**
- **Outdoor shoes/hats for P.E.**
- **Snacks for growing bodies each day and especially on Fridays.** We’ve had lots of friends who are showing up at the office for snacks.
- **For our littles, please send a change of clothes to be kept in their cubbies. Sometimes new spaces and confusion can lead to accidents.**
- **Please sign up for class Dojo & Remind to be up to date on what’s happening with your child.**

PTO News

PTO will provide an update on future PTO events, needs and the supplies for students during our first social: Maria Montessori Night on August 30th @ 5:30 p.m.!

Bringing Montessori Home

By Staci Jensen

As a parent and a teacher in a Montessori Early Childhood classroom, I have noticed a glaring disparity between my 7-year-old daughter's behavior at home and at school. She does fine, independent work in her Montessori school environment, yet, when handed a broom after a mealtime at home, tearfully claims she does not know how to sweep.

At school, skills are introduced from the simple to the complex, with new elements added gradually. Challenging new work still contains enough familiarity so that the child can succeed. For example, children in my classroom practice tasks such as dry pouring, sponge squeezing, wet pouring, tray wiping, filling and carrying vessels of water, and mopping, all in advance of easel painting. Prior experience creates comfort, confidence, and skill in the child; this structured approach helps each child to work to her fullest potential.

In this pursuit of independence, a child's home and school environment can be each other's greatest asset. However, creating a Montessori classroom in my kitchen and living room is simply not practical, though the two environments can provide mutual support as philosophical extensions of the same principles. The gifts we can give our children are adequate time, an economy of age-appropriate and well-communicated expectations, and trust in their innate capabilities, which are the same principles that support Montessori's educational philosophy.

Very young children are capable of independent work at home, though they must be provided enough time

and space to "do it myself." For example, 3- and 4-year-olds can wipe and dust tables, fold towels, and sort silverware. Older children can clear dishes from the table, fold a wider variety of clothing, and wash windows. Tasks presented without time pressures inherent to modern life give children an opportunity to focus on the job at hand and use their available coordination to attack it. Children require little more than to be kept company while working. However, we parents must be less judgmental and more willing to accept less-than-perfect results as tasks are performed to the best of the child's abilities. Finally, our children deserve to experience the small struggles that often accompany skill acquisition. In my home, a high-pitched wail signals distress but not the genuine need for assistance. Despite my intellectual knowledge and training, I still suppress the urge to rush to my daughter's rescue at the first sign of frustration. We rob our children of valuable learning opportunities when we step in, and worse still, may reinforce their sense of helplessness.

I vowed to try a different approach with my daughter, remembering a quote from *The Montessori Method*: "The child who does not do, does not know how to do" (Montessori, p. 109). I began by analyzing the sweeping task and removing any sense of time restriction; we swept instead of taking a bath that evening.

I asked her to fetch a broom and was surprised to see her return instead with a small hand broom and dustpan. Apparently, these were the tools she had used in sweeping her own *small* area of her classroom. I had erroneously assumed that she knew how to use a

regular broom to sweep a large area. After showing her how to use a child's upright broom for this task, I walked away to give her space to work, despite her protests that it was "too hard." Half an hour later, she finished the kitchen and offered to sweep the living room as well. While not a perfect job, the smiling child in front of me was visibly basking in the contentment of her independent endeavor.

I cannot say that my child has blossomed into an efficient, joyful sweeper of floors. However, that evening she began learning a valuable skill, and more importantly exceeded her own internal expectations. For me, this experience was a reminder that parents and teachers share the common goal of raising confident, independent children. If we as parents can take the time to provide better opportunities for children to do for themselves at home, we are assisting them as they grow into independent, competent adults.

Reference

Montessori, M. (2010). *The Montessori method*. Readaclassic.com.

STACI JENSEN is a lead teacher in the Primary Division of Westminster School in Oklahoma City. She has worked in several Montessori schools around the country and has a certification in music education from the University of Oklahoma. She is the parent of 2 children, ages 3 and 7. Contact her at sjensen@westminsterschool.org.

Teachers and administrators, please feel free to copy this page and distribute it to parents. It is also available online at www.amshq.org (go to Family resources > Support Materials).