



# ARBORLAND MONTESSORI INFANT - 8TH GRADE PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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July 18, 2023

Hello Classroom G Families! Welcome to Room G Upper Elementary 2023-2024! This year we will be experiencing a fabulous all three grade level Upper Elementary School Year.

I am Mrs. Hernandez and my educational background includes a valid Clear California Credential, a Master's Degree in Multicultural Education, and a Montessori Teaching Credential. I have taught pre-school, been a school bus driver, an entrepreneur, and an Elementary teacher in both private and public school settings. I have been teaching at Arborland for 9 years. This is my second year as an Upper Elementary teacher. I cannot be more excited to start our new year together.

Personally, I have been married for 34 years this year. I have three wonderful adult children, Victor 30, Sarah 29, and Lisa 24. I am blessed to have one grandson, Dean, age 8. We also have three dogs, two cats and a turtle. I enjoy my personal time with my family and our pets. I also love to learn and love to see my students learn.

August is always exciting, yet anxiety and nervousness come for many students. I will do my best to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible and that each and every student feels loved, respected, and safe.

The goal is to provide a carefully planned, stimulating environment which will help students continue to develop the foundational habits, attitudes, skills, and ideas essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and learning. Each child will feel empowered to know how great it feels to learn independently. We are here to nurture, support, and guide them every day, and are committed to making your child's Montessori experience productive, stimulating, and fun!

Regular and open communication between you and I is imperative to your child's quality education. Parent/teacher conferences are our formal avenues to discuss your child's progress, but please do not hesitate to contact me anytime during the school year with questions or concerns regarding your child's education. Please email me your questions or concerns. My email address is [mshernandez@arborland.com](mailto:mshernandez@arborland.com). My cell phone number is 714-610-4731, and I encourage you to text me when you have questions or to let me know what is going on so I can be supportive. Please allow 24 hours for a response for emails, as I try to look at them regularly but mostly by the end of the day.

Texting gets to me faster but there are times when I don't look at my phone all day due to our busy schedule. Telephone messages to the office are good for more immediate concerns, as Ms. Martinez can notify me. Please email me with your child's name in the subject so I can add you to my contacts.

Our Upper Elementary curriculum includes Language Arts (reading), Math, Science, Social Science, P.E., Spanish, Chinese, Art, Technology, and Music. This year we will focus on Earth Science and Ancient Civilization for History and Asia for Culture Day. This year is going to be fun!

Due to our technology curriculum, we need the students to bring in their personal technology device **daily**, which *must have a physical keyboard*. The devices will be used as academic learning tools and with teacher permission only. *Please disable messaging apps, as these may distract your child during class*. Also, nonacademic games are not allowed at any time. Students will be using their devices for curriculum work, test practice, typing programs, presentations, writing curriculum, and research. (Please allow for your child to have access to Canva, Blooket, Typingclub, and have access to Google Docs and Slides, as they will have assignments that will require them to submit to me via their gmail account.)

Our homework policy is based on reinforcing work being done in the class and is handed out daily. This policy will be explained to students and in more detail during Parent's Night. Thirty minutes of reading is allocated for homework every day. You are encouraged to show interest, listen to your child read, and make sure their homework is completed. Part of our classroom economy is if the students do not have your signature daily, they do not receive credit for reading. (I specifically align our homework with daily work to ensure high competence.)

Class will begin at 8:20 am every day. Please ensure your child arrives on time to get the very best start to the day. When a child arrives late, he/she misses vital information and directions for the day. It disrupts the latecomer as well as the lesson in progress.

Birthdays are low-key celebrations. The birthday child may bring treats to share. Please remember that no candy, gum, or soda is allowed at school. Please do not hesitate to check with me if you are not sure what to bring. There are students with allergies, so please check in.

Students will have snack time in the morning. Please send a snack for your child, as the school **does not** provide snacks. If your child has an early breakfast, please provide them with a healthy snack to ensure consistent energy throughout the day.

### Supply List

Please do not purchase any spiral notebooks; they fall apart and children lose important notes.

- 8.5"x11" Weekly Student Planner (Sturdy binding with enough space to write down class/homework log) Example: [Secondary Student Planner AY 2023-2024 - Matrix Style - 8.5"x11" \(Rainbow Silhouette\) \(SMALL: 5.5" x 8.5"\) - Walmart.com](#)
- Laptop or iPad with Keyboard (needed **daily**)
- 7 Composition Notebooks College Ruled (Labeled: Reading/Homework, Spanish, Chinese, History/Science/Geography, Morning Work, Geometry/Fractions, Writing)
- 2 graph paper Composition Book (Labeled: Math)
- Inch/centimeter ruler, protractor (Labeled with name)
- 3 book covers to fit large book (1 math, 2 reading)
- Box of 24 sharpened pencils
- 3x5 Index Cards (quantity needed 300 for homework)
- Package of lined paper (college-ruled)
- 1 package of unscented baby wipes
- 1 Clipboard (for floor work)
- 1 Highlighter
- Two black sharpies
- 1-inch Binder with clear pocket on front (aka View Binder)\*
- Colored pen (for correcting)
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Glue Sticks (3)
- Dictionary/Thesaurus (for vocabulary homework)
- Construction paper (mixed colors, 50 sheets)

5 two-pocket folders (1 for each subject below)\*

- Unfinished work (Plastic with three prongs)
- Art
- Spanish
- Chinese
- Music

\*\*\* Art supplies will be determined by the art teacher

Please ensure that your child has sufficient supplies, but also that your student will not be distracted by their supplies. We urgently request the basic supplies outlined above to be sent on the first day of school. (\*Returning 5th and 6th Grade students, please check in with me as you may have some of these items in class already)

Cell phones: If you feel the need to let your child have a cell phone there are certain classroom rules that apply, and please discuss these with your child. No calls or texts may be made without the teacher's permission. The phone must stay in their backpack. Incoming calls are not permitted, and the phone must be switched to off or airplane mode while at school. If these rules are not followed, the phone will be turned into the Front Office for the parent or guardian to pick up.

I wish to keep your students healthy and safe. That being said, please kindly see the following guidelines:

1. Students must stay home if they are ill, which includes vomiting, diarrhea, excessive coughing, temperature of 100.4° or higher, etc.
2. Wash hands for at least 20 seconds whenever necessary (Please note: Hand sanitizers are welcome, but students will still be expected to wash their hands).
3. Wipe down their desks or tables before and after every meal.
4. Students who are not feeling well should be resting at home

In turn, the following are what we are doing in the classroom for the student's safety:

1. Parents are welcome to stay in the playground for drop off/pick up.
2. Regular disinfection of frequently-touched surfaces
3. School supplies will not be shared (All personal supplies need to be labeled).

I hope I have touched on all major points, but you are requested to look through the school handbook (available on our website under "Parent's Corner/Resources") for further information.

I look forward to meeting all our new students and welcoming our returning students in a few weeks. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hernandez  
Upper Elementary Montessori Teacher  
[mshernandez@arborland.com](mailto:mshernandez@arborland.com)