



ARBORLAND MONTESSORI INFANT - 8TH GRADE PRIVATE SCHOOLS

1700 W. Valencia Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833

Phone: (714) 871-2311 Fax: (714) 773-1532

Website: www.arborland.com

2121 Hughes Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833

Phone: (714) 871-3111 Fax: (714) 525-9925

E-mail: info@arborland.com

Greetings Parents,

Welcome to the 2026- 2027 school year!

I am Ms. Janet Hernandez, and I'm excited to begin another wonderful year at Arborland Montessori Children's Academy. This marks my 14th year at Arborland and my 21st year in education. I have a Master's Degree in Education and Montessori Lower Elementary Teaching Credential. I am deeply committed to providing the highest standard of Montessori education and fostering an environment where children are encouraged to explore, learn, and grow.

It is a joy to welcome back our returning students and to get to know the many new families joining our Lower Elementary community. This year, our class will be located in **Classroom 101**, and we're excited to enjoy a beautiful new learning space that offers even more opportunities for collaboration and growth.

One of the things I am most excited about this year is the opportunity our students have to learn from an exceptional team of Montessori educators. Together, our Lower Elementary teaching team brings decades of experience, specialized training, and a shared commitment to helping every child thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our students will benefit from the unique strengths and expertise of each teacher while enjoying the consistency and close collaboration of a unified teaching team.

I am delighted that Ms. Varee Tan will continue working alongside me in Classroom 101. Ms. Tan first joined Arborland in 2004 as a Lower Elementary Assistant Teacher at our Valencia Campus. Inspired by her love for Montessori education, she went on to earn her Montessori Lower Elementary Teaching Credential. After taking time away from the classroom to raise her family in North Carolina, she returned to Arborland last school year just so that her daughter, Audrey, could attend Arborland. We are grateful to have her warmth, experience, and Montessori expertise back in our classroom.

We are also thrilled to welcome back Ms. Fritzie Sebial following her medical leave. Ms. Sebial brings more than 30 years of experience in education, including 18 years teaching Lower Elementary at Arborland. She holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Mathematics and has inspired countless students throughout her career. This year, she will focus on teaching the Language Arts Program with the Wonder Textbooks in both Classrooms 101 and 105, helping students strengthen their reading, reading comprehension, writing, and critical thinking skills while fostering a genuine love of literature and lifelong learning.

Lower Elementary is an important and exciting time in your child's development—a time when students begin to understand story contents, structures, communication styles, fundamental logic, math operations, and so much more. Together, our Lower Elementary team is excited to partner

with your family in creating a joyful, engaging, and challenging learning experience.

We also look forward to building a strong partnership with you to support your child's growth and success. Together, we can ensure your child reaches their full potential. We kindly ask for your continued support in the following ways:

- Ensuring your child attends school daily and **arrives on time, ready to learn**
- Checking the completion and comprehension of all homework assignments
- Reading with your child daily to help foster a love of reading and build comprehension skills
- Chatting regularly with your child about their school experiences
- And most importantly, reinforcing the belief that you expect them to work hard

Let's work together to make this a joyful, enriching, and unforgettable school year!

Daily Classroom Schedule

8:30-9:00	Class Meeting/Whole Class Lesson
9:00-12:00	Morning Montessori Learning and Work Time
12:00-12:30	Lunch Time
12:30-1:00	Outdoor Recess Time
1:00-3:00	Afternoon Montessori Learning and Work Time
3:00-3:15	Dismissal (home or childcare)

As part of the elementary curriculum, students will learn math, language arts, social science, science, PE, art, music, technology/digital citizenship, performing arts, public speaking, Spanish, and character education. The subjects are taught as an integrated curriculum with increasing complexity over a 3-year-cycle. This year's social science curriculum will focus on a study of people and places in the United States and bring in global and cultural learning about South America for our International Culture learning and celebration. This year's science curriculum will focus on life science in the fall and chemistry in the spring.

Snack

We have a daily 10-minute snack time available for your child. Please send a small, nutritious snack such as a granola bar, fruit, crackers, or juice. Kindly remind your child that chips are not preferred for snacks. Please also note that candy, gum, chocolate, nuts, and soda are not permitted at school. Additionally, we discourage sharing of food for safety and health reasons. A microwave is not available during snack time.

Homework

Contrary to popular belief, Montessori students do receive homework. The Montessori approach is continuous and extends into the home environment. Homework provides children with opportunities to develop responsibility, time management, and wise decision-making. Homework packets are sent home every Friday to allow for planning and scheduling. Remember, children learn best by doing. They should be involved actively in daily life. They are capable, energetic, and ready to take on responsibility.

Lunch

For children bringing lunch from home, a microwave is available to warm meals (not for cooking). If your child brings instant noodles or macaroni and cheese, please prepare it at home and place it in a microwave-safe container. We will assist your child with warming it up.

Technology in the Classroom

Technology is an important part of our classroom and will be used regularly to support learning across many subject areas. Each student is expected to bring a personal laptop or Chromebook equipped with a physical or detachable keyboard. All children should bring your fully charged device beginning the second week of school.

Students will use their devices for:

- Research projects
- Presentations
- Typing practice
- Educational games and classroom activities

To help students remain focused during class, please disable messaging apps and notifications on your child's device. Technology is to be used for academic purposes only, and non-academic games or entertainment apps may not be used during the school day unless directed by the teacher.

Please ensure your child has access to:

- Gmail
- Google Drive
- Canva
- Typing Club
- Blooket

If your child does not already have a Gmail account, please create one for them so that I can send them the Google Drive work. I strongly encourage creating one using a professional format such as: firstnamelastname@gmail.com.

Students will use this account to submit classwork and access classroom materials throughout the school year. Please also make sure your child knows their Gmail password or keeps it in a safe place with their device so they can log in independently during class.

Technology Requirements:

- Laptop or Chromebook
- Fully charged each morning

Supplies Needed – Bring on the First Day of School

- One 5-subject notebook college ruled (**red for 1st grade, green for 2nd grade; blue for 3rd grade**)
- Three 1-subject notebook (**red for 1st grader, green for 2nd grade; blue for 3rd grade**)
- One graph-paper notebook
- One ream of copy paper
- One white 1/2-inch three ring binder for weekly homework
- 2 packs hypoallergenic baby wipes (for cleaning)

- 1 pack assorted bright colored card stock paper
- 2 pocket folders
- 1 set of markers
- 1 set of crayons
- 1 set of colored pencils
- 2 white liquid glues
- 4 glue sticks
- Erasers
- Sharpener
- Pencils
- Dictionary

Show and Tell

Each child will have a scheduled day for Show and Tell. Items shared should be educational in nature—souvenirs from trips, photographs, hobbies, special interests, or nature collections are great examples. Please do not send toys. This activity helps students practice public speaking and share what is meaningful to them.

Communication

Open communication between parents, students, and teachers is essential. I am always happy to see you briefly for pick up and drop off. However, if you need to speak with me for a more in-depth conversation, please email me directly.

Jupiter Ed is the parent-teacher communication platform through which you will be able to see what your child is learning and working on. It is updated weekly, and that will act as the clearest picture of your child's week-to-week learning.

For urgent matters, I am available from 8:00–8:30 AM on the playground. You may also contact me by email at mshernandez@arborland.com. Please note that while teaching I do not view messages or emails, so in the case you need immediate response, please call our office.

Lastly, please take time to review our school handbook available at:
www.arborland.com → Parent's Corner → Parent Handbook

I am looking forward to a wonderful and productive school year with you and your child!

Warm regards,
 Ms. Janet Hernandez, M.A. Ed
 Classroom 101 Montessori Teacher
mshernandez@arborland.com