



# ARBORLAND MONTESSORI INFANT - 8TH GRADE PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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August 10, 2023

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I am honored to serve as Arborland's principal. The staff and I have been using time during the summer to plan and prepare for this milestone school year. We are looking forward to taking Arborland to the next level and continuing our high quality education standards.

To share a little more about myself, I attended Arborland as a student from 3-12 years old. As a child, I was extremely shy and quiet. I loved reading the *Boxcar Children* series and learning about famous historical figures. I remember that Arborland started a new public speaking program when I was in upper elementary at Valencia Campus. I was so nervous to have to speak in front of an audience! But little by little, my confidence grew, much in thanks to the recitals, speeches, and performances that Arborland provided to me and gave me many opportunities to practice in a nurturing and encouraging way.

While I have always been a studious and hard working person, this public speaking skill has enabled me to host fundraising events for non-profit organizations, give professional presentations in other countries around the world, and lead a call center team for AT&T prior to returning to Arborland in 2017. In 2020, I gave birth to twin girls, Daphne and Iris. Then little brother Theo came along soon after! As a mother of 3 children ages 2 and under, I feel so lucky every day to be able to bring my children to Arborland where I know they are in the hands of amazing, professional educators who care to help them blossom in this safe and loving environment.

Nowadays, we are living in a digital world where many of our records can be accessed online or through an app. A couple years ago, we implemented *Transparent Classroom*, a digital platform for our infant, toddler and primary parents to see what the children are learning in the classroom. Transparent Classroom has been a huge success with providing parents photos of the children working and descriptions of the materials. I myself have enjoyed seeing the look of concentration on my daughters' faces as they pour liquids in glass containers or are practicing their phonetic red dot sounds.

This year, my goal is for elementary and junior high parents to also have digital access to what the students are learning and how well they are learning it. Instead of monthly reports, the idea is to give parents weekly feedback as to how the children are doing simply by logging onto

a website. We will be formally introducing the platform at Parents' Night on Aug 30 at Valencia Campus and Aug 31 at Hughes Campus so stay tuned for more information.

I am looking forward to meeting new faces at our Meet & Greet tomorrow morning. Please bring your newly enrolled child so that they have a chance to meet their teacher and get familiar with the environment. Don't forget that your child will look to you as a role model during this transitional period of the first few weeks of the school year. If you are feeling anxious, let your child's teacher or the office know so that we can help! For returning students, we cannot wait to hear about your summer stories during the first day of school on Monday, August 14, 2023!

Parents, don't forget to check our website ([www.arborland.com](http://www.arborland.com)) for important administrative information. The Teacher Announcement letters that you should have already received by email are available under the "About" tab if you need to refer to it again for supply lists.

You will find additional important links in our "Parent's Corner" tab at <https://www.arborland.com/parents-corner>.

Click on the links below for direct access to each item.

- 1) [2023 Parent Handbook](#) (See Drop-Off/Pick-Up times and locations pg. 19-23)
- 2) [2023-2024 School Calendar](#)
- 3) [August Lunch Menu](#)
- 4) [First Day of School Preparation Tips Blog Article](#)
- 5) [Transparent Classroom Guide for Infant, Toddler, & Primary Parents](#)

Welcome again to the 2023-2024 Arborland school year!

Sincerely,

Veronica Chen, M.Ed., MBA  
Principal