



ARBORLAND MONTESSORI INFANT - 8TH GRADE PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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Dear Classroom E Parents,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We're excited to see all of our returning students and their families, and to meet our new students and their families. We are honored to be your child's teachers. Our goal for your child this year includes academic achievement, as well as grace and courtesy, respect, and responsibility. We have a lot of activities planned for this school year and will make sure it is both educational and fun!

Ms. Cynthia grew up in Orange County and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from CSUF. She taught dance at numerous schools throughout the area, including Arborland. Her interest inside the classroom led her to pursue a career in Montessori. She has her Lower Elementary Montessori Teaching certification and has been happily working at Arborland for over 32 years. When she's not in the classroom, Ms. Cynthia enjoys taking long walks, spending time with family and friends, and cruising the world.

Ms. Jordan spent her summer taking the Lower Elementary Montessori training and will be co-teaching with Ms. Cynthia this year. Before joining Arborland, she taught art in both educational and social settings and has worked with children for the last 9 years. In her free time, she enjoys taking road trips, hiking, cooking, painting, and live music.

Ms. Amber, our assistant teacher, has a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Channel Islands. She has previously worked with children with special needs. She grew up a Dodger's fan and has been collecting bobbleheads since 2016. She enjoys spending time with her daughter, going to new places, and meeting new people.

Our daily schedule will consist of the following:

8:30 to 12:00 – Morning Meeting (attendance, calendar, jobs, work assignments, sharing), Quick Draw (math facts), Journal Writing, Phonograms, Oral Language, Individual/ Small Group Montessori Presentations (Reading Groups, SRA, Math, Language, Geometry, Fractions), Computer and Independent Work Period

12:00 to 12:30 – Lunch (Students may use the microwave in the class)

12:30 to 1:00 – Recess

1:00 to 3:05– Art, Music, Chinese, Spanish , P.E. *, Silent Reading Time, Math, Science and Social Science

*Arborland t-shirt and sneakers are required for P.E.

3:05 to 3:15– Clean-up and Dismissal

Our day begins promptly at 8:30 am every morning and ends at 3:15 pm. It is very important that you bring your child to class on time. If your child is having difficulty waking up early, please set an earlier bedtime. Children who come late to the classroom miss valuable work time, as well as disrupt their teachers and classmates.

We are excited about using technology in the classroom and want to assure parents that our dedication to the Montessori philosophy, teacher-guided learning, hands-on learning opportunities, and academic excellence will not be devalued by the presence of technology, but enhanced by it. Technology implementation will include having students use technology devices on a regular basis throughout the school year. As a result, we highly encourage second and third grade students to bring their own personal technology device (e.g., laptop, tablet). First graders will be asked to bring devices later in the year.

These devices will be used as academic learning tools only. Non-academic games will NOT be allowed at any time on the school campus. Students will only be using their devices for test practice, typing programs, presentations, the writing curriculum, and of course, research. We are also incorporating a technology curriculum into our lessons and progress reports. We will be focusing on keyboarding skills, computer etiquette, and basic instructions for word processing and presentation program literacy for both Microsoft and Mac platforms, all at an age-appropriate level.

Supply list provided by school:

- Homework folder
- Spiral notebooks
- Composition book

Because your child will not be sharing supplies, you will need to label and provide the following items:

- One 2-inch binder with a zipper to carry homework (please fill with lined paper, pencils, and erasers)
- Four separate pocket folders for Music, Art, Spanish, and Unfinished Work
- One 1-inch three ring binder for Chinese
- One pack of white wide-ruled lined paper
- Graph paper (3rd graders only)
- Laptop for 2nd and 3rd graders only
- Pack of pencils with child's initials written on them (Only 2nd and 3rd graders may use mechanical pencils)
- Erasers (3)
- Colored pencils
- Crayons and/or washable markers

- Scissors
- One 12-inch plain ruler containing metric and standard measurements
- Glue sticks (4)
- Pencil sharpener
- One set of watercolors
- Pencil box to hold supplies

Please only purchase items that will not be distracting to your child. Also, the above items need to be labeled and ready for the first week of school. We will let you know when supplies need to be replenished.

Homework

Beginning August 21, homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. The assigned pages will be written on a weekly homework log. Children may work ahead, as long as they understand the work. Please review your child's assignment before it is turned in the following morning, even if it was completed during child care. We would very much appreciate it if you write your initials on pages you have checked. Initialing the page will avoid having to correct work that's already been corrected. If there are any questions regarding the homework, please feel free to write comments on the homework pages or homework log. It is very important for your child to keep up with his/ her homework assignments.

Sharing

Your child will have a specific day to share during our morning meeting. Items of interest, such as books, games, pets, or photos from a trip may be brought into the class. We would appreciate a couple days' notice when sharing pets.

Snack

A daily snack time is available during the morning. Your child should bring a small, nutritious snack, such as raisins, a granola bar, fruit, vegetables, etc. It is important to avoid food high in sugar and fat. Candy, gum and soda are not allowed.

Birthdays

Birthdays will most likely be celebrated at the end of the work day. You may send treats to share with the class on his/ her birthday. If needed, please provide plates, napkins, utensils and cups.

Miscellaneous

Please make sure your child takes home daily what he/she brings to school, such as a jacket, lunchbox, umbrella, or dance bag. **Labeling these items will prevent them from going to Lost and Found.**

We will continue to follow safety procedures, such as frequent handwashing, to keep your child healthy. If your child shows any signs of being sick, please keep them home so they can rest.

Corrected work will be sent home with your child regularly. Though every mistake made by the child may not be highlighted, most errors are noted, and children are offered repeat lessons when necessary.

As you know, our primary responsibility is to teach your children. Please be reminded that while school is in session, we must give our 100% undivided attention to the children and will not be able to carry on a conversation with you. However, parent-teacher communication is key. If you need to contact us, we will be available most afternoons. You may call the office, send an email, or leave a message in one of our mailboxes located in the lobby. My cell phone number will be given once the school year begins. Please do not hesitate to call or text in time of need or questions. We will get back to you in a timely manner. Please take the time to read through the school handbook for more information.

We look forward to a meaningful and productive school year; one that will add excitement and a quest for learning to enhance your child's development.

Sincerely,

Ms. Cynthia

Montessori Teacher

mscyntia@arborland.com

Ms. Jordan

Co-Montessori Teacher

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