

Lake Fern Montessori Academy
Parent Orientation 2010-2011
3rd-5th Grades

Teacher: Tavin N. Manley

Overview:

The purpose of the upper level third through fifth grade classroom is to prepare our students for the next grade they will be entering and Jr. High School. The classroom setting will consist of both traditional and multimedia approaches to learning. Students will be expected to strive for excellence in both academic and social development. Students are encouraged to play a large role in their own education and will have the opportunity to select research projects and activities designed to develop a love of learning. The three governing tenants for personal development are as follows: accountability, sacrificial respect, and self control. These principals are designed to develop positive interpersonal skills and the discipline necessary to pursue higher education.

Computers:

Computers will be used extensively at various times during the course of the school year. Ethics and sound judgment are expected in the use of these machines.

Cyber Bullying- There is zero tolerance for any instance where computers are used to humiliate, intimidate, harass, or acquire the personal information of others. Any instances will result in a mandatory meeting between the students involved, their parents, and school officials.

All students will be required to sign a Computer/Internet User Agreement.

Other Electronics:

Other electrical devices (cell phones, MP3 players, video games, etc.) are prohibited. Any device found on a student's person or in their possessions will be confiscated by the teacher and not returned until it is claimed by the student's parent.

Curriculum:

Our class covers a broad range of curriculum areas. These include math, reading, grammar, vocabulary, written expression, science, social studies, and spelling. During written expression, students will learn how to prepare papers in rough draft form, self-evaluate, evaluate others, and use evaluations to prepare a finalized paper. Grading for writing will be based on two primary factors: the proper evaluation of other students and timed writing tests.

In science and social studies/history we will not be using textbooks. Instead we will be using current event magazines, comprehensive videos, note outlines, and other multi-media sources to present and process the material. School attendance will be crucial in the success of students in these classes because of the outlines and participatory nature of the lessons.

For the Math portion of our curriculum, we will be using the Saxon math curriculum.

AR Points:

All students will be required to read at least 20 points in AR reading per semester. Points are accumulated by reading books and taking quizzes on each book. Books chosen are based on each student's individual Lexile score determined at the beginning of the year and retested at various intervals. **IT IS EACH STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ACQUIRE THEIR AR BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY. They may read their books during the times that they finish their work early or during other designated reading times. Not completing the required amount of points per semester will affect their reading grade for the semester.**

Scholastic:

We use Scholastic books as the primary source of obtaining our literature. Any purchases, especially in September, help us to accumulate points to purchase materials. Need any early Christmas or birthday presents? There are gift certificates available for \$10 that are worth \$20 in scholastic products.

Special Classes and Achievement Badges:

Special classes will be taught one or two times per week and will include computer literacy, performing arts (music, drama, and dance), Spanish, P.E, Art and other subject areas. These classes are not "graded" per se, but participation is mandatory and will be reflected in the behavioral section of the report card.

Homework:

Students are responsible for any work they do not complete in class and will need to take these assignments home for completion. Occasionally, additional assignments such as research projects will be given as homework as well. Sufficient notice will be given so that students will have plenty of time to accomplish these assignments. It is also a good idea to practice spelling words, reading, and math on a weekly basis. The rule of thumb for homework is about fifteen minutes per grade level per night, and much more than that can be counterproductive. It is a good idea to establish a homework routine with your child. If you notice that your child is having difficulty with an assignment or subject, please let me know so that I am aware of any problems the child may be experiencing. To make homework time a pleasant and productive experience, please see the following suggestions:

- Try to do homework at a regular time each day. A well-rested child is much better at working than a tired one. The earlier he or she can complete homework, the better.
- Complete homework in a well lighted and quiet place free from distractions.
- Keep supplies on hand. (Paper, pencils, erasers, crayons or colored pencils, scissors, and glue.)

Assessment and Grading:

Tests will be given weekly in class. Vocabulary and Spelling tests will be given on Thursdays. Science, Social Studies, language/writing, and Literature will be administered on Fridays or Monday's depending on the week and the curriculum. Math and written expression assessments will be given after the completion of specific lessons are complete and days will vary according to a variety of factors including length of chapter size and difficulty of the lessons. Students will be notified in advance as to upcoming tests.

The grading scale will be as followed:

90-100:	A
80-89:	B
70-79:	C
60-69:	D
59 and below:	F

Uniforms:

The elementary uniforms consist of white, navy blue, or forest green solid-colored shirts and kaki, black, or navy blue pants, shorts, and skirts. Jeans and jean shorts may be worn as long as there is no other color, pattern, or design on them. Any shorts worn must be at least finger-tip length. Students may dress down on Fridays only, and wear any color, pattern, design, etc. as long as there are not characters (including real people like Hulk Hogan and Hannah Montana), skulls or other offensive material, or slogans on the clothing. Shirts with the LFMA logo can be purchased from the staff here at school. In addition, no hanging jewelry is permitted. This includes bracelets, necklaces, and hanging/large earrings. Small earrings and studs for pierced ears are permitted. Any violations will result in a call to the parents to bring a change of clothes.

Field Trips:

The upper level classes will be taking field trips to a variety of places this year. There will be three field trips that coincide with the three grading periods of Mrs. Price and Mrs. Manley's classes. Signup sheets will be placed in the foyer before each field trip and parents are asked to sign up to drive. If you are interested in driving for any of the fieldtrips this year, please bring a copy of your driver's license and proof of insurance to keep on file. Also, a permission form has been placed in the foyer and needs to be signed.

Attendance:

Please make sure to be at school every day possible. We certainly understand illness and don't want a truly sick child at school, but feel it is imperative that students arrive on time and attend classes regularly to get the most out of their education. Because of the way science and social studies are being taught this

year and also because there will be participation grades for each subject, it is critical that students do not miss any more school than is absolutely necessary. Also, class starts promptly at 8:30 and assignments will be given immediately. Please have children at school on time, since it is disruptive for students to come in late. If possible, it is preferred for students to come in about ten minutes early so they can get a few minutes of exercise prior to the start of class.

Medication:

Students are prohibited to carry any form of medication on their person. This includes both prescription and non-prescription drugs, including seemingly innocuous items such as cough drops and vitamins. All medications should be given to a staff member, preferably the student’s teacher. Please provide written instructions for administering the medication(s). Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary actions up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Sign In/ Sign Out Policy:

Students ARE PERMITTED to sign themselves in, but NOT ALLOWED to sign out. Only parents or those authorized to pick your students may sign a child out. This is done for safety and accountability purposes.

Volunteers

We have an open door policy at school and volunteers are encouraged. There are many opportunities to volunteer including in class, field trips, and even take home work. In addition, we are trying to set yearly “goals” of things we’d like to see done. This year we would like to work on building outside activities for all grade levels. This includes developing the playground for the younger students and constructing a basketball area for the older students. If you have any expertise in areas such as construction, working with concrete, etc., your help would be invaluable. In addition, if you have any materials that you would like to contribute, it would be greatly appreciated. We would like to see at least 10 hours of volunteer time per family. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know.

Class Schedule:

8:30-8:45	Welcome!
8:45-9:30	Science/Social Studies
9:30-10:00	Literature
10:00-10:30	Group1- Math & Language Arts Lesson Group 2 &Group 3-free work period
10:30-11:00	Group2-Math & Language Arts Lesson Group 1 &Group 3-free work period
11:00-11:30	Group 3-Math & Language Arts Lesson Group 1 & Group 2-free work period
11:30-12:00	Free work period
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Recess
1:00-1:30	Vocabulary/Spelling
1:30-2:15	Specials (3 days per week)/shelf work(2 days per week)
2:15-3:00	Writing
3:00-3:30	Clean-up & Closing