

Lake Fern Montessori Academy
Parent Orientation 2009-2010
K-2 Grades

Teacher: Mrs. Tyka Price
Assistants: Mrs. Deb and Mrs. Jill

Classroom Organization and Philosophy:

The primary classroom is a multi-aged classroom serving children in kindergarten, first, and second grades. The class is based on the Montessori philosophy and structured using interesting and relevant topics, lessons, and materials. Students are valued as individuals and the curriculum is delivered according to a student's learning styles and the multiple intelligence theory.

Curriculum:

We feel that the "whole child" should be appreciated and therefore multiple areas are taught within the classroom environment. Students are taught phonics, reading comprehension, reading fluency, math (including basic operations, geometry, time, money, graphing, etc), science, history, geography, social studies, health, humanities, art, music, drama, physical education, social skills, Spanish, and sign language. The curriculum is delivered through the use of traditional work books, shelf work activities, experiments, and special projects. Children play a vital role in their own education, and although teachers dispense specific assignments, children choose much of the work they do on a daily basis. Students have the opportunity to work independently and in large and small groups every day. One-on-one instruction is provided on an extremely frequent basis.

Special Classes:

Special classes will be taught each afternoon and will include performing arts (music, drama, dance), Sign Language, Spanish, P.E, and Art.

Day	Special Activity
Monday	Performing Arts
Tuesday	Spanish
Wednesday	P.E.
Thursday	Sign Language
Friday	Arts/ Crafts and P.E.

Homework:

Children will be given homework projects each month and these are available at our website www.LakeFernMontessori.com . These activities should be fun and educational and may require research. These activities will be presented in class by the children, so it is a good idea to have children practice presenting them before they are turned in. 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 counter productive. 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 she can complete homework, the better.
- Complete homework in a well lighted and quiet place free from distractions. (It is very difficult to do homework with the TV. on)
- Keep supplies on hand. (Paper, pencils, erasers, crayons or colored pencils, scissors, and glue.)

Assessment:

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways including class work, special projects, individual assessment activities and tests. Spelling, literature, and vocabulary tests will be given each week. Words are available at the Lake Fern Montessori Academy website for the year. Other tests such as grammar, math, etc. will be given throughout the year as appropriate.

Reinforcement System:

Students are taught and encouraged to use many “life skills” during their class day and we feel they are important to their growing into productive adults. These life skills include: responsibility, respect, honesty, trustworthiness, compassion, fairness, citizenship, perseverance, and self-discipline. Grace and courtesies are emphasized in class and are rewarded. Students are given stickers daily for demonstrating these life skills. They may then redeem them on Fridays for prizes. If you have toys and trinkets lying around the house that you are no longer in need of, please feel free to donate them to our class treasure box. Behavior cards will go home daily and will be scored on a 0 to 5 basis for different behaviors demonstrated in class. A marble jar will be used for whole class awards to encourage class participation and cooperation.

Uniforms:

The elementary uniforms consist of solid navy, forest green, or white 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. Shirts must be a solid color and may not have prints or designs on them. Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be at least fingertip in length and skirts and dresses must have shorts underneath. 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 Hannah Montana), skulls or objectionable objects, or slogans on the clothing. Shirts with the Lake Fern logo are available for purchase.

Field Trips:

The elementary classes will be taking field trips to a variety of places this year. Sign up 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. A permission form is located in the foyer to be filled out for each child. Also, a copy of our field trip schedule is available on-line.

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. Please say "goodbyes" in the foyer and send students into class to put their own lunch boxes and back packs away. Also, class starts promptly at 8:30. Please have children at school on time, since it is disruptive for students to come in late.

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. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know.

Class Schedule:

Time	K-2 nd
8:30-9:00	Gathering
9:00-12:00	Independent work/ small group lessons
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Recess
1:00-1:45	Special Activity
1:45-3:00	Centers/ Shelf work
3:00-3:30	Class jobs/ closing gathering
3:30	Dismissal