



The Montessori Academy of Arlington

LOWER ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM ORIENTATION AND GUIDELINES





CLASS SCHEDULE

Students may enter the classroom after 8:20 a.m. If your child will be arriving before 8:20 a.m., please see the Business Office for an Extended Day contract. Students arriving before 8:20 a.m. will be sent to Extended Day (charges will be applied).

Please make every effort to have your child at school on time. Attendance is taken at 8:40. Arriving with time to catch their breath and settle in sets a better tone for the children's day than rushing in late and flustered. In addition, it is important for the children to bring themselves to class.

An important milestone in their growing

independence is saying good-bye to parents at the door to extended care or in the car line. We impress upon the children the importance of coming in and beginning work immediately. This process is facilitated if they have said their good-byes before entering the classroom.

Afternoon carline begins at 3:15 p.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Any students not picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be sent to Extended Day (charges will be applied).

CHILDREN'S BELONGINGS

Please make sure that your child's name is on all of their belongings. Everything from lunch boxes and food containers to water bottles and jackets needs to be labeled so that lost items can be returned. Name Bubbles is a great source for labels that hold up well through daily use. **Please bring a change of clothes, indoor shoes with soles, and rubber boots and a raincoat for rainy weather.**

FITNESS EDUCATION

The children will have F.E. outside every day that the weather permits. It is very important for them to be dressed appropriately for fitness activities, including running shoes, and have a water bottle that they can take to class with them everyday. Please make sure the bottle is labeled with your child's name and filled with cold water at the start of the day. If necessary, water bottles can be refilled on the way to F.E.



MEAL GUIDELINES

Snacks

Our classroom snack schedule is included on our classroom calendar. Please post the calendar in a prominent place to help you remember your child's days. When choosing snacks, please select foods that will give the children a healthy boost of energy to get through their morning. Please look for foods that contain easily-identified ingredients. Fresh fruits, cheeses, Greek yogurt (not GoGurt) or oatmeal with fruit and honey, bagels and cream cheese, and plain popcorn would be good choices. Please avoid sugary (including yogurt tubes) and excessively salty snacks like chips as they cannot be served and will be returned to you. Also, as the children will share responsibility for setting up snack for their classmates, please prep snacks by pre-cutting any items that are not already in individual servings. Large whole fruits, like pineapples and cantaloupes, require knife use by an adult and will need to be portioned before delivery for snack in our class.



Lunch

When planning lunches, please consider good nutritional guidelines. **High-sugar foods and drinks should be avoided for daily lunches. Additionally, flavored yogurt tubes and fruit-flavored "juice" drinks will not be allowed for meals or snacks.**

SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATION

Take-Home Envelopes

We will send home envelopes on Mondays. They will contain work plans, completed work from the previous week and correspondence. Additionally, First Levels may have handwriting practice for homework as we begin learning cursive this year. Please keep the completed work and **sign and return** the work plans in the envelope on Tuesday morning.

Homework Reimagined

First Levels: We would like you to carve out some time in your daily routine to curl up with a good book and read with your child. This may look different depending on the day and the family. We encourage you to select books you and your child are interested in and can enjoy together.

Second and Third Levels: You may have heard about the Makerspace Movement, where, by providing space, resources, and time to let a child's creativity thrive, children discover, invent, and learn through *making*. We would like learning to continue beyond the classroom by having your child become a Montessori Maker at home. The children can research and explore any cultural area (Geography, History, Botany, or Zoology) or the continent currently being studied and *make* something that illustrates or represents their findings. Each classroom will provide an opportunity weekly for the children to share their work with their classmates, though it is not required. In the spring session, however, these Makers' Moments will be required for Third Levels on a monthly basis in preparation for the transition to Upper Elementary.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are celebrated on the first Friday of each month at 2:30 p.m. Parents are always welcome to share in their child's special time. Each child participating in that month's celebration will have the chance to walk around the Sun and have the birthday song sung to them.

For many children, an important part of their birthday celebration is the sharing of a special treat with their friends. As the TMA community moves toward healthier nutritional choices, we invite you to use your creativity in deciding what to share with the class. A few ideas are:

- Bring a book that your child could read as a part of the celebration and then donate to our classroom library.
- Bring a fruit snack, like kabobs, to share.
- Bring a snack that represents your child's cultural heritage.

We will send out an email reminder of the coming month's birthday celebrations. During months with multiple birthdays, parents may want to coordinate their efforts to combine birthday celebrations.

Volunteers

Parent volunteers make all the difference in our classrooms! Please consider this an open invitation for you to share who you are, what you know, and what you do with our classroom this year. We all have special skills and interests, and yours are welcome and appreciated by both the children and myself.

Observations

Parents are welcome to observe the children at work any time. Please check the TMA [Family Guide](#) for information about observation guidelines and contact me to make arrangements. Additionally, we ask that you wait six to eight weeks for the classroom to find its rhythm before scheduling observations. This allows us to establish a work routine that you will appreciate as you watch the students during work periods.

