



# White Mountain Montessori School

Learning for a Lifetime

## *Elementary Class Parent Handbook*

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### **Attendance:**

Please arrive on time. Both drop-off and pick-up will be at the main campus. Before-care begins at 7:30am at the main campus and goes until 8:15am. The students will be able to play outside from 8:30 – 9am before being escorted over to the elementary classroom. It is important to arrive before 9:00 since each morning meeting starts promptly. Arriving early also allows your child to play and socialize before coming inside to start the school day. Thank you for helping your child establish a morning routine so they are ready to start the day.

### **Medications and Illnesses:**

All medication dispersed at school have to have a permission slip filled out and placed in our medication folder. Please keep sick children at home. Children must be fever free and off fever reducing medication for 24 hours before having them come back to school. If your child acquires an illness and is kept at home please call the school and explain your child's illness. It is important to inform the staff of the symptoms and if your child has received treatment so that we can plan accordingly and be on alert for similar symptoms in other students.

### **Snack / Lunch Routine:**

All children should bring a healthy snack in their lunch to be eaten during the morning work cycle each day. No candy or sodas please. Lunch will begin at 12:15 with recess following until 1:15. The students store their lunches in the classroom so be sure to pack an ice pack if you are concerned with spoilage. The microwave will only be available for special events and community cooking. However, a solar oven will be available for students to reheat items. Thank you for your cooperation with the lunch routine.

Once a month we will have a delivery of Samurai Sam's rice bowls. Parents will be notified of these special lunch days on the message board in the lobby and in the weekly newsletter which will be in Friday Folders at the end of each week. Rice bowls will be \$3/bowl with a choice of chicken or vegetables included. Orders and money will be taken one day in advance in order to place the order for the following day.

### **Community Cooking**

We will be welcome and encourage parents to let us know if they are interested in cooking with the class. Parents are welcome to choose the recipes, based on the continent under study. We ask that a list of supplies are submitted to the class at least 1 week prior. Students will be asked to help bring in ingredients and participate in the food preparation. The goal is to expose the children to new foods and teach practical

life cooking skills at the same time. This is a great opportunity to fulfill volunteer hours and work with small group of students within the kitchen area.

### **Weather and Clothing**

Please be sure to dress your child in layered clothing on cold days. Heavy jackets are great, but it is helpful to have intermediate layers to shed down if needed. All coats will be stored on hooks within the classroom. During wet weather the class will be asked to remove their shoes before entering the classrooms to avoid the buildup of mud and dirt on the floors. For this reason, feel free to send your child with simple slippers to use within the classroom.

Students run and play on wood chips, walk on hiking trails on p.e. days, and are often outside on campus with various outdoor activities. Sandals, flip flops, or open toe shoes can cause injury and are often hazardous during p.e. or on the playground.  
Please send your child with tennis shoes on a daily basis.

### **Snow Days**

Please call the school voicemail (367-1201) for info on school closure or delays due to weather and/or road conditions. Once a decision has been made announcements will be on local radio and tv stations, the school website (whitemountainmontessori.org) and on the message machine at school. It is also understood that if weather is questionable and parents feel uncomfortable traveling then student absence or tardies will be “excused” as well.

### **Birthdays**

Let us know in advance if your child is celebrating a birthday. We can celebrate in class at 2:30 and share a treat. Parents are invited to attend if available and special acknowledgments for the birthday boy or girl are made from each person in class. Healthy treats are especially appreciated. If your child has food allergies please bring a supply of snacks/treats to be used during these celebrations.

### **Show and Share**

On Fridays we will have “show and share” in the classroom. To promote public speaking and social skills this is open to all students in the class every Thursday afternoon. Books, awards, handmade items, artwork, family photos, and creative writing are all encouraged. No toys please. Please give one week notice from a parent/grandparent before bringing in any pets from home. This will allow us extra time to prepare and to plan for students who may have pet allergies.

### **Parent Workshop**

We are always open to having parents/grandparents who have a special passion for a unique hobby or interest to present/teach to the class. Workshops can include

(but aren't limited to) science, anatomy, wood-working, botany, zoology, cooking, astronomy, or any other unique field of study. This is a great way to volunteer your time at school and help teach the students something fun and different.

### **Items From Home**

No electronic devices or toys are allowed at school. However, play equipment such as soft balls and jump ropes are encouraged. Please encourage your child to bring a hat and wear it at recess. Inside the building the student will be asked to remove their hat or beanie. Lastly, due to limited hook space in classrooms please do not have your child bring a backpack to school (except for swim days, skiing, and other field trips). In order to avoid clutter and better utilize our space students will use a school binder to help keep homework and other school items organized and together.

### **Field Trips and Walking Trips**

We will be taking numerous field trips this year including some out of town as well. Swimming will take place twice each month until mid-November. On the Wednesday afternoons that we are not swimming our goal is to walk to Mountain Meadow Park using the Big Springs trail for p.e. activities and games (weather permitting). Skiing will take place after the holiday break on full day Fridays. Drivers will be needed for these trips and a copy of driver's license and current insurance on file is necessary before a parent/grandparent can drive students. We thank you in advance for making these great trips possible!!

### **Class Rules**

We emphasize character-building both inside and outside the classroom. To remind the class what is expected each day the children recite the pledge of allegiance along with the positive rules which are: respect, kindness, honesty, hard work, and awareness. These are referred to as the "Positive Rules" because they remind children how they should behave rather than focusing on how they shouldn't.

All children will be expected to practice these virtues and will be given plenty of opportunities to acknowledge each other for their positive characteristics and strength of character. Help us support the development of these life skills by discussing these virtues at home, in the community, and in everyday living. Good sportsmanship will also be emphasized with games and p.e. activities. In our opinion, the positive rules are the most important things we will be teaching your children on a daily basis.

### **Homework and Daily Reading**

Homework is often the most difficult part of school to juggle. Schedules are so different from family to family. Our opinion is that it is best to give students and families the opportunity to choose the best time to complete their homework. Knowing that our older students will eventually be transitioning into a traditional classroom soon it is also

important to prepare them for traditional workbooks that help link state standards with our Montessori curriculum. Each child will have one full week to complete each subject. Please refer to the homework schedule at the top of the next page.....

The following is a weekly schedule for the normal homework routine:

Monday: Practical Life Discussion (no written assignment)

Tuesday: Math workbook due

Wednesday: Reading and writing homework due

Thursday: Spelling workbook due

Friday: Spelling quiz in the morning (when skiing on Fridays quiz will be on Thursdays)

**\*\* The exception to this homework schedule will be when book projects or other special projects are due. We will be sure to let your child know when the schedule changes. We will also post it within the Friday Newsletter and on the lobby announcement board.**

**\*\* It is essential that every student reads at least 20 minutes each night. Advanced readers should read independently and check in after with an adult to discuss what they read. Younger readers should be reading out loud to an adult. **Daily reading is the most important element of preparing each child for success.****

### **Unit Studies**

We will follow the Montessori philosophy regarding an integrated curriculum. Each semester the students will study a particular continent. Our main focus will be each continent's cultural uniqueness (art, music, traditions, etc.), it's geography, and the basic human needs of its people. We will also be studying its animals, ecology, biomes, etc. We will be integrating all parts of the curriculum for each of these unit studies (creative writing, science, art, music, and even math concepts within the class).

If any parent or family member has traveled or has extensive knowledge in any of these areas we would be interested in having you visit for a class presentation. Any souvenirs, coins, or crafts from other countries are always a welcome treat and we would like to have your child share them at school on Thursday afternoons.

### **Book Fair Fundraising**

We will also host several school book fairs throughout the school year to help support the needs of our school and to encourage reading at home. Your support of these book fairs directly helps the students receive valuable teaching resources in the classroom as well. Thanks for making reading an everyday event for your child and encouraging a love for it through the support of new books at home and in the class.

### **Parent Volunteers**

The school requires each family to donate 18 hours of volunteer time per student. These hours can be earned by listening to readers in the morning, cutting/laminating

learning materials, helping with community cooking, driving for field trips, or even teaching a unique workshop that you as a parent are passionate about. Please be sure to log your volunteers hours within the log book in the front lobby area of the school.

### **Parent / Teacher Communication**

We use several different ways to ensure reliable parent-teacher communication each week. These include:

- Friday Newsletters – sent home in binders each week (please post in visible area at home to refer to frequently each week); permission slips and fliers are also placed inside binders at end of each week.
- Elementary Message Board – posted on white board above sign-in/out binder in lobby with a calendar of events.
- Colored Parent Boxes (hanging folders for elem. families) – located in lobby area of main campus (contains paperwork and documents for school records, also used for parent to parent messages, invitations, etc.).
- Teacher/Parent Conversations – best time to meet with teachers would be immediately before (8:30-9am) or after school (3-3:30pm).
- Email – great way to communicate reminders to both teacher and parents for upcoming events. Please be sure the school has your most used email address.  
Mr. Nolan (Adam) – [anolan@whitemountainmontessori.org](mailto:anolan@whitemountainmontessori.org)  
Mr. N (Steve) – [snolan@whitemountainmontessori.org](mailto:snolan@whitemountainmontessori.org)
- Parent – Teacher Conferences – twice each year in early November and mid-April (see calendar for specific dates). Feel free to contact us if you would like to schedule a conference at another time.

### **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**

A parent run organization has been created that works closely with all WMMS teachers to help support the needs of the students. In the past the PTO has helped purchase playground equipment and cultural items for classroom study. Your support and involvement are critical towards helping this organization reach its goals each year. The meetings times will vary to accommodate different schedules. Please see postings in lobby area for PTO meeting times.

### **School Board**

The board of directors for WMMS meets monthly to discuss school events, fundraisers, and school finances. Members of the board of directors can include parents, teachers, and community members. All parents of WMMS students are considered share holders for our organization and are giving voting privileges towards the election of board officers.

- Please consider attending PTO and/or school board meetings to help support your child's education at WMMS. If you cannot attend due to a scheduling conflict but still want to be involved please let us know so we can keep you updated on opportunities to help out.
- THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME TO HELP MAKE OUR SCHOOL THE BEST IT CAN BE!!