



MCHL News



Montessori Children's House of Loudoun

October 2020

OFFICE NEWS



We have exciting news to share!

MCHL now offers "Curbside Contactless (GPS) Sign-In/Out" with ProCare (child management software) which will allow parents to check their children in/out via an app on their phone. An email was sent to all of our families this month asking you to download the app.

Please install the app and sign your child in and out each day from your vehicle. If you are experiencing difficulties, please let us know. This app will only work when you are in the MCHL parking lot. As always, please adhere to the speed limit in our parking lot and refrain from using your phone while your car is in motion.

IMPORTANT HEALTH NEWS



All children over the age of 2 are required to wear a mask at arrival and dismissal. **Please provide at least two "child-sized" masks that fit your child's face properly.** Your child will not be required to wear a mask for the entire day, their teacher will determine when it is appropriate to remove their masks.

Thank you for calling the office to report when your child is ill. Please remember that your child must be free of any symptoms (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or debilitating cough) for a full 48 hours before s/he can return to school. If you bring your child back to school too soon, the staff is required to ask you to take him/her home. We appreciate your cooperation.

Children who are too ill to go outside for recess should remain home until they are well enough to go out. The children go outside every day, weather permitting. If your child needs to remain indoors during recess, you must submit a note from his/her pediatrician.

WHAT IS MONTESSORI?

The programs at MCHL are designed to meet the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive needs of each child. Children are encouraged to develop good work habits and share in the responsibility of their learning. They work at their own pace and on their own level with gentle guidance from dedicated teachers. The Montessori materials are designed to appeal to the child's natural desire to learn. They are divided into the following areas:

Practical Life – Activities in this area are designed to give children opportunities to practice the skills necessary for everyday life. Children get great satisfaction in the simple tasks that allow them to pour, spoon, scrub and sweep. Not only is the child working towards independence, but the activities help in developing concentration, coordination and a sense of order. Children are taught how to care for their own environment and are given lessons in grace and courtesy.

Sensorial – The sensorial materials provide the children with opportunities to explore colors, shapes, smells and sounds. Children learn best when allowed to touch, feel, hold, smell, listen and taste. These materials are designed to refine the senses while also preparing the child for further learning in math and language.

Language – The verbal skills of the young are stimulated every moment at MCHL through conversation and exposure to high quality children's books. Reading and writing are intimately connected and integrated strategies are offered to ensure success. The tracing of sandpaper letters provides the tactile, phonetic foundation for later reading. A variety of fun and enriching activities are available to facilitate the child's emerging writing skills, beginning with the early scribbling stage to keeping a daily journal.

Mathematics – A basic tenet of Montessori education is that understanding is often a matter of seeing and touching. Special equipment helps the child to absorb abstract concepts through the use of concrete materials. A broad spectrum of activities in the room allows one child to count sets of five or six buttons while next to him a child is adding four digit numbers through the use of manipulatives.

Culture – Art and Music activities are an integral part of the curriculum and available to the children every day. Lessons in geography are enriched through songs, crafts, and guest speakers from the region being studied.

In future issues you will read about different types of Montessori materials, methods and enrichment programs available at MCHL.



DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

Parents are asked to monitor their children when they are entering or exiting their vehicles. Several cars have been damaged in our parking lot. If you or your child accidentally hit another car, please let us know.

Children enrolled in our MCHL Club, Early Childhood and Toddler Program are required to enter through the Main Entrance. Infants can continue to use the entrance located on West Church Road.

Parents should not park directly in front of the building. We are asking you to enter through the metal gate located at the Handicap Parking area. We are requesting families to remain at least 6 feet apart at all times.

Your child's teacher will meet you at the door and perform a "Daily Health Observation". This includes taking your child's temperature and checking for any signs of illness. If your child has a temperature of 100.4° or higher, they will not be able to join us for the day. We will also be checking their temperature periodically during the day.

At dismissal, if you arrive at a time that is not a regular dismissal time (12:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00 or 6:00), please call the office when you are in the parking lot. **Families are asked to wait in your car until you see your child at the door.** You can exit your car (please wear a mask) when you see your child at the door. Do not leave any unattended children in your car and turn off the ignition. Please be considerate of others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY PROCEDURES RELATED TO ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL



1. **The traffic flow at MCHL is one-way only, clockwise around the building.**
2. **There is NO PARKING in front of the building.** Parents are asked to be considerate and park in the outer parking spaces. Please observe the safety rules in our parking lot. Parents are required to supervise their children during arrival and dismissal at MCHL.
3. Please be **ON TIME** for dismissal. Children have difficulty waiting. Late arrivals can upset the children. It is imperative you pick up your children at their designated contract time.
4. Please refrain from talking on your cell phone during drop-off and pick-up. **MCHL is a no cell phone zone.**



MCHL PROGRAMS

MCHL CLUB

MCHL has opened a new program for Elementary students. Our new “MCHL Club” will be for children in first to fifth grade.

The children in the MCHL Club will have a teacher to supervise/help them with their Loudoun/Fairfax County Public School “distance learning” lessons. The mornings will be set aside for schoolwork. The afternoons will be filled with enrichment programs.

Limited openings are available at this time; please let us know if you would like to enroll your child.

KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten Program is a full-day program from 8:30 – 3:00. This program covers and exceeds the Loudoun and Fairfax county curriculum. There are 17 students enrolled this year.

The morning work time is spent in a mixed-aged class. The materials in the classroom are designed to challenge and motivate the broad spectrum of children in each class. The curriculum offers the children a rich variety that includes Language Arts, Math, Geography and Science.

During the afternoon, the Kindergarten students are divided into 2 groups each taught by Montessori certified teachers. A group lesson is presented followed by an independent work time. This helps to prepare the Kindergartners to make the transition to a more traditional style classroom when they enter First grade.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Early Childhood classroom is designed to meet the developmental needs of children between the ages of 3 and 6. These preschool and kindergarten age children are what Maria Montessori called the “first plane of development” – the stage in a young child’s life characterized by a need for order, concrete thinking, sensitive periods for learning and great strides in emotional, physical and cognitive development. During this time, children learn at their own rate, and it’s common for knowledge to be acquired in bursts with plateaus in between.

Early Childhood students are learning through their senses, but they are no longer simply absorbing the environment as they did as toddlers. Each child follows a different learning trajectory, and moves along the developmental continuum through individualized lessons. Our teachers adapt and modify the curriculum to ensure access for all students, regardless of their skill or ability level.

Independence is crucial for children in the Early Childhood Program. When students are able to button their coats for the first time, write their names without help, sequence numbers to 100 or read a book all by themselves, their confidence grows.

They develop an enthusiasm for learning. Once they are able to do for themselves, they are capable of doing for others.

TODDLER

The Toddler classroom has been designed for our younger children to have a positive first experience at school. Our primary

concern is that your children feel safe and happy by meeting their physical, emotional, social and intellectual needs.

One of the first needs for toddlers is the need for order. Toddlers like to know that there is a place for everything and that everything belongs in its place. Toddlers do best with consistent, repetitive and predictable routines. The classes have established routines that allow plenty of time for the children to explore the room and materials independently, to spend time together at circle with songs, books, conversations and presentation of new work, to have snack and to play outside. Some of the children also have lunch and nap as part of their daily routine.

The classrooms have shelves for Practical Life, Art, Music, Language, Math, Sensorial and also an area for Movement. Toddlers are always moving, so we provide a changing selection of ways for them to challenge themselves as part of their curriculum. The Practical Life shelves are the most appealing to the children because they offer materials that promote independence in their everyday tasks – pouring, spooning, carrying, food preparation, taking care of their clothing and using simple tools. The Language and Math shelves have introductory materials for the exploration of sounds and numbers and constant opportunities to learn and use new vocabulary. The Art work allows them to use paints, crayons, scissors and glue – always with the emphasis on the process rather than the product.

Toddlers are trying to make sense of their world. Socializing with a group of their peers is a very new thing to most of them. The adults are aware that children learn most by experiencing, so we model the behavior and types of respectful interactions that we wish to emphasize and have the children imitate.

Toddlers are so interested in exploring their world. The Montessori teachers are there to love them, guide them and support their efforts at mastering their environment, thus building their confidence and independence.

INFANT

The Infant program serves children from the age of 6 weeks until the age of 18 months. The program is designed to duplicate the loving care and gentle stimulation that an infant needs to grow and develop to his or her full potential. Flexible scheduling allows each child to eat, sleep, or play according to his or her own natural timetable.

The ratio of children to adults is never more than three to one with each child being assigned to a “primary care giver” who monitors that child’s schedule and communicates through the “daily report sheet”.

Our infant care goal is to provide warm loving care just as you would if you were with your child during the day. We firmly believe in the need for open and thorough communication between the caregiver and the home to provide secure, loving care for each child and confidence for each parent.

As your child approaches 18 months of age we will begin arranging visits to a toddler classroom to ease the transition to this new and exciting stage of development. Some children may be ready for the greater social interaction of the toddler program sooner while others may need the security of the infant program longer.

LUNCHROOM NEWS

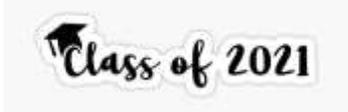
**PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF ANY
FOOD ALLERGIES!**



Due to COVID-19, all food (breakfast, lunch, snack and beverage) must be sent from home.

Please pack nutritious foods for your child. Also, label your child's lunch box on the outside so the staff can find it quickly, and use a thermos or ice pack to keep your child's food at an acceptable temperature. Parents are asked to send their child's lunch ready-to-eat. Do not send in food that requires heating for lunch – Hot Pockets, ravioli, frozen foods, etc. Candy is not permitted at MCHL. Also, please make sure your child has his/her lunch and snacks each day.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



Kindergarten Parents:

Please make every effort to arrive on time.

Class starts at 8:30.

At MCHL, the Kindergartners spend the mornings (8:30 – 11:30) in their mixed age classrooms. During the afternoon, they are divided into 2 groups, each taught by a Montessori certified teacher. Occasionally, they will combine for a team-taught class. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the MCHL Office at (703) 421-1112.

**All Kindergarten students must submit
an updated Health Form.**

*“The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence”
-Dr. Maria Montessori*

PUMPKIN PATCH AT MCHL

Sponsored by the MCHL PTA



On Wednesday, October 14th, the MCHL PTA will create a “Pumpkin Patch” on the playground. There will be enough pumpkins in the patch for each child to pick one!

PICTURE DAY

Sponsored by the MCHL PTA

Due To COVID-19, MCHL is not hiring a company to take individual and class photos. Instead, one of our parents has volunteered to take photos (individual and class) of our students outside at the MCHL Pumpkin Patch on **Tuesday, October 13th**. Please dress your child appropriately because we plan to use the photos in our yearbook. These photos will also be available for purchase; more details will be shared by the MCHL PTA. If you have additional questions, please email the MCHL PTA – hello@mchlpta.org.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES



All holidays are celebrated at MCHL in a child-appropriate way. Your child's teacher will send home more information in their class newsletter.

It is MCHL policy children do not wear or bring costumes to school.

