

SEPTEMBER

Montessori School of Sonoma

Important Dates:

Aug 28th - Sept 4th:
School Closed -
Teacher Work Week

Sept 5th:
First Day of School!

October 4th:
Picture Day!

October 9th:
School Closed -
Teacher Work Day

October 12th:
Open House



“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn.”

~ Maria Montessori

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are looking forward to a year of growth and development with your children! To help facilitate a great start to the year, please read through our newsletter.

School Communication:

If your child will be out from school, please be sure to call or email to let us know! We can be reached at info@montessorisonoma.com or 996-2422. We would appreciate if you would refrain from contacting the teachers directly. Also, please be sure to sign your child IN and OUT on the clipboard every day. The state requires a full legal signature. We ask that only grown-ups write on the sign in sheets.

School Wide Reminders:

Sunscreen: Please apply sunscreen to your child(ren) before coming to school. We can re-apply in the afternoons. If you have a specific sunscreen that you would like for us to use for your child, please send some to school clearly labeled with their name.

Primary Pick Up: You may walk down the hall to pick up your child from the playground between 3 and 4pm. Please help your child collect and carry their things down the hall. We ask that you are respectful of this time as the teachers are still monitoring the children on the yard. A park after school is a better space for socializing.

Drop Off Procedures

Primary Students: Please drop off your child at the front door between 8 and 9am. You will be greeted by a teacher or staff member who will walk your child down the hall and help them to find their cubby.

Toddler Students: Please drop off your child at the toddler gate. You will be greeted by a teacher who will help your child find their cubby.

Infant Students: Please bring your child to the exterior infant classroom door. You will be greeted by a teacher.

MSS Staff

Director: Cathy Vaughn

Assistant Director: Sarah

Infant Teacher: Katherine

Toddler Teachers: Christine & Vivian

Primary Teachers: Barbara Pappas & Rachel

Enrichment Teachers: Danielle, Lucie & Lindi

Teacher Support: Cara

Be sure to follow us on:

[Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support our school every time you shop, at no cost to you. You can either visit www.smile.amazon.com and search "Montessori School of Sonoma". Or [click here](#) to visit our personal link. Thank You!

Infant Corner:

Welcome to our new Infant Families! We are so excited to watch all our new friendships form. As we transition this month there may be more emotional drop off and pick ups, but this is to be expected. We find it best to keep drop off short and loving - a smile and goodbye. Of course the teachers will love to hear any special info about your child at this time as well. Such as any change in eating, sleeping, mood etc. We will be sharing the same info with you at the end of their day.

The children learn our routine quickly and anticipating what's next helps with their sense of security. Our daily schedule can be flexible to the needs of the group, but for the most part it is set:



8:00am-9:00am - Childcare hour inside the classroom

9:00am-12:00pm - Class (all children here)

9:30 am - We provide morning snack

10-11am - Outside yard time

11:15am - Lunch (you provide, we can heat up food if needed)

12pm - Pick up or Nap time begins

12-2:30pm - Nap time, ideally no pick ups during this time to allow for all to sleep

4:00pm - School closes



We will have snack again when the kids wake up from nap, which is usually leftovers from their lunch. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Let the fun begin!

Katherine

Toddler Corner:

Welcome to our Toddler Class at Montessori School of Sonoma. We are very excited and happy to begin a new school year. Here are a few details and suggestions that will facilitate a smooth start.

- **Diapers - Please No Pull Ups:** If your child wears diapers, please bring a package on the first day of school. These will be kept in our Toddler bathroom on a shelf with your child's name on it. We will request more as needed.
- **Extra Clothes:** Please bring a full set of clothes for your child. Each child is provided a bag in our class for their extra clothes. Please be sure to label each item.
- **Name:** Please clearly put your child's name on their lunchbox, water bottle, sweaters, jackets, hats, etc.

It is sometimes difficult for a parent to separate from their child, just as it may be for the child to separate from their parent. Please say goodbye at the gate and let your child know by who and when they will be picked up. If your child cries, let them know that you understand how they feel and that you'll be back soon. Leave without hesitating. Children usually will not continue to cry for more than a few minutes. If there is a problem, we will call you.

The classroom is a community and the ground rules are introduced to keep order, clarify expectations, give the child limits/boundaries and keep everyone safe. The ground rules such as walking, carrying an activity with two hands, rolling up a rug, pushing in chairs, cleaning up after oneself, not disturbing others while working, help provide order, cleanliness, and a safe place to be. The child is able to move freely, which as Maria Montessori says, allows for independence, coordination, order and concentration which leads to a high self-esteem and self-confidence; as well as, self-control and patience. Finally the ground rules teach social responsibility in that we do not do anything that hurts ourselves, others, or the environment.



Each month we will include the lyrics to a song we are singing in the Newsletter. Here is our first song:

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, together, together,

The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

'Cause your friends are my friends, and my friends are your friends.

The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

The more we get together, together, together,

The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

There's Andi and Audrey, and Desmond and Elsie.

There's Evie and Hudson, and Layne and Lucca.

There's Lucy and Ryan and Skylar and Sloane.

There's Tavish and Vivian and Christine and all our friends.

The more we get together the happier we'll be.

Toddler Teachers,

Christine and Vivian



Primary Corner:

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023/2024 School Year! Rachel and I are excited to meet your children as we kick off the year with a focus on oneself: 'Me, I, Mine, Myself' represents an important developmental mile stone. While all students share freely about themselves each individual is beginning to move from the self to the community. This sense of belonging is of utmost importance and it will provide the foundation for our grace and courtesy, our respectful interactions, and our joyful and generous experiences together.

Care - Share - Help - Listen: When we apply those four qualities we are a good friend. This reference point helps all of us to contribute to our community and it provides a foundation for conflict resolution and discussions. Your child might talk to you about this at home.

Circle Time: We start promptly at 9:00 am every morning. This is the first time of the day when we all come together and set the mood. During those 20 minutes we sing and dance a lot. Out of respect to all children present we don't allow interruptions. If your child arrives late they will join the group at the beginning of our first work time at about 9:20am.



Sharing: Friday is sharing day. We have set themes for each month: September - family pictures, October - nature items such as seeds, leaves, rocks, November - books (non commercial such as Disney), December - items representing family traditions such as ornaments, candles, etc. With 24 students and 4 or 5 Fridays per month we appreciate if your child brings 1 share per month.

The following components will help your child to easily transition into our school setting as well as becoming a role model among their peer group:

- All accessories stay at home or in the car. Our experience has shown that those items either distract, get broken or lost, are inappropriate for play, or give cause for competitive relations.
- Hair should be tied in braids or a ponytail in order for the child to see the materials and their own hands.
- Shoes need to be shoes that stay on the feet and can be taken on and off independently. If a child can tie their own shoestrings they may wear those shoes to school.
- Each child needs an extra set of clothing in a ziplock bag. If soiled clothes come home please send a fresh set the next day. All clothing needs to fit well and the child will dress and undress themselves. Thus, baggy sweatpants are great for school.

Birthday celebrations: Please provide a photo from birth and each additional year. For example, if your child turns 5 years old they will have 6 pictures to share and to place on their timeline.



Rachel and I are devoted and experienced Montessori teachers who are committed to giving your children a rich experience in our Primary classroom. To be part of their growth and to trust in the child is by far the most exciting and rewarding aspect of being a Montessori teacher. We thank you for your partnership in this journey.

With loving kindness,
Barbara and Rachel

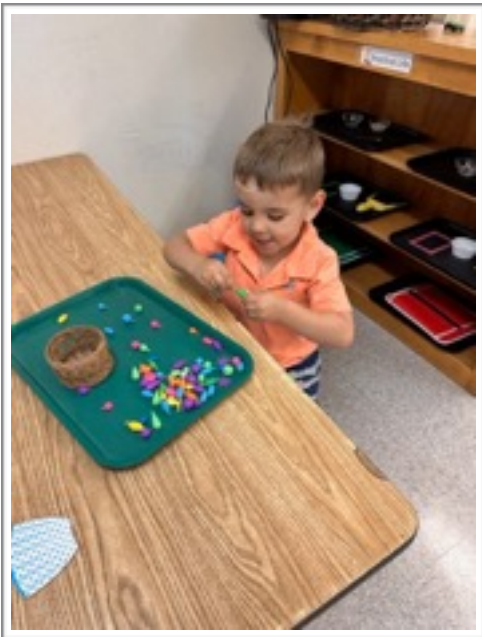
Childcare Enrichment Corner:

Dear Childcare Enrichment Families,

We are very excited to begin a new school year with your children. While providing care for your full day students, we will align with the Primary themes, to compliment the work the children do in the Montessori classroom. While getting to know our new and returning students we will begin the year with the theme "all about me." Our classroom work, art projects and activities will all focus on this theme. Some projects will include creating self and family portraits, and an all about me book.



We will begin our author of the month curriculum with Mo Willems. His books feature stories that are all about friendships, playing with your friends, and empathy.



Our daily schedule is as follows:

8:00-9:15 - drop off outside

9:15-9:30 - circle

9:30-10:40 - Project/Work Time

10:40-11:00 - story time

11:00-11:30 - Lunch

11:30-12:30 - outside play

12:30 groups switch classrooms

12:45-3:00 - Nap

1:00-1:15 -circle

1:15-2:40-Project/Work Time





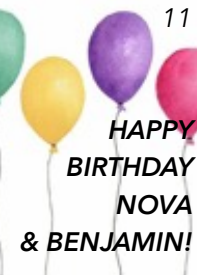

2:40- 3:00 - Story time

3:00-4:00 - Outside/pick up

Our project/work time changes daily. On Mondays we spend this time in the sandbox while the weather is nice. Tuesdays is cooking class, on Wednesdays we do writing, and Thursday and Fridays are spent doing art and hands on projects. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Thank you, Ms. Danielle, Ms. Lindi and Ms. Lucie

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
3  HAPPY BIRTHDAY MILES & SEBASTIAN!	4 SCHOOL CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHRISTINE!	5  FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL HAPPY BIRTHDAY RYAN!	6	7	8	9  HAPPY BIRTHDAY NELLIE!
10  HAPPY BIRTHDAY HUDSON C.!	11  HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOVA & BENJAMIN!	12	13	14	15	16
17	18  HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIKKO & SARAH!	19	20	21  HAPPY BIRTHDAY ATHENA, & RUE!	22	23
24  HAPPY BIRTHDAY ESME!	25	26	27	28	29	30