



ARBORLAND MONTESSORI INFANT - 8TH GRADE PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents of Classroom 5,

Welcome to our new school year 2024-2025!

I would like to welcome new and returning children and families. My name is Mrs. Sandra Garcia. I have two beautiful daughters, a 14 year old and a 12 year old. I love to travel and explore new places with my daughters. As a mother, I understand we have an unconditional love for our children and a responsibility of helping them to reach their potential. I'm happy to call Arborland Montessori my second home.

My teaching career started at Montebello Gardens Elementary School in 2012. From there I became a Toddler Lead Teacher, Elementary Assistant Teacher, Preschool Lead Teacher, Spanish Teacher and finally a Montessori Lead Teacher after receiving my Montessori Teaching Credential from American Montessori Society. August is always a time of excitement, yet with that comes anxiety and nervousness for many children. We will do our best to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible and to ensure that each child feels loved, respected and safe.

My goal as a teacher is to provide a carefully planned, encouraging environment which will help children to develop within themselves the foundational habits, attitudes, skills and ideas essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and learning. Respect and courtesy are the foundations for everything we do from which each child will soon learn the following important skills:

- The importance of respecting the materials, the teachers and each other
- The importance of helping a friend in need
- How to direct themselves and find their own work
- How to put their work away where they found it
- How to tuck in their chair when they leave the table
- How to tidy up after themselves
- How to walk in the classroom
- And most importantly, how to be independent!

Each child will feel empowered to learn how great it feels to do things on their own! I am here to nurture, support and guide them every day and I am committed to making your child's Montessori experience productive, encouraging and fun!

Class Schedule

*School starts at 8:30 am. Please have your child come on time so there are no interruptions in the classroom routine.

8:30 - 9:00	Drop-off (kiss and goodbye hug)
9:00 - 11:15	Circle time, lessons in Montessori Practical Life, Sensorial, Language Arts, Math, Culture Subjects (Science & Social Science)
11:15 - 11:30	Clean-Up time! Group singing
11:30 - 12:00	Outdoor playtime
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 1:00	Older children read
12:30 - 2:30	Younger children rest
1:00 - 2:45	Montessori Lessons in Practical Life, Sensorial, Language Arts, Math, Culture Subjects (Science & Social Science)
2:45 - 3:00	Circle time, announcements and reminders
3:00	Dismissal

Child's Health

Infections, colds and viruses can spread quickly in a school environment. We require that parents keep their child at home when he/she is ill for a number of reasons. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, please keep the child home since their body needs to rest and recover:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Discharge from eyes or ears
- Dark/green mucus discharge from nose

Child must be free of all illness or symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours.

Supply List

Your child will need their own supplies to use in the classroom. If you have any problems finding these items, please contact me for help.

1. School pencil box case



2. 24 – Count Crayons



3. 12 – Colored Pencils



4. Pencils



5. Glue Sticks



6. Child Size Scissors



7. Eraser



Friday Share Day

Share day is scheduled every Friday. Your child may bring an educational item to share with the class during circle time such as a book, rocks, shells, special discoveries, souvenirs from a trip/vacation or family photos. It helps children improve speaking skills and feel comfortable

talking in front of a group of peers. Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school. We are not responsible for lost or damaged personal items.

Cubby & File Box

A cubby is provided for each child. Please label all of your child's belongings. File folders are for your child's paperwork and some parent communication. Also note that your child may not have work in the folder every day. A great deal of Montessori materials does not require paperwork. Please take into consideration that each child is an individual and every child progresses at his/her own pace.

Clothing

Children should wear simple, sturdy, and washable play clothes that do not restrict participation in activities. Avoid complicated fastenings and suspenders or belts, as the children must be able to take care of their own bathroom needs without the assistance of another person. Children should wear shoes with non-slip soles as they are safer on tile floors and climbing equipment. The children are taken outdoors to play and should be dressed according to the weather. All coats and jackets should be labeled with your child's name in permanent ink.

Change of Clothes

All children need an extra set of clothing left at school. Please label this set of clothing and put in a Ziploc bag with your child's name.

- 2 shirts
- 2 shorts/pants
- 2 pair of socks
- 2 underwear

Nap time

If your child is under 4 years old, please bring a crib sized sheet and a blanket for nap time. Please label all items and place them inside a reusable bag. Every Friday the sheets and blankets will go home to be washed and returned to school the following Monday.

Snack

A snack will be provided for your child during the morning work time. Unless your child stays for childcare, please try to limit snacks brought from home as this may discourage your child from eating their lunch at lunchtime.

Lunch

Hot lunches may be purchased for an additional fee. Our menu is designed to meet or exceed the state required nutrition guidelines and to appeal to children. You may bring a sack lunch, instead of purchasing school lunch, but we do ask that you send nutritious lunch and refrain from sending high sugar content foods. Have your child help select and pack appropriate foods for their lunch. This often leads to them eating better and enjoying it more. We ask that children DO NOT bring peanuts, peanut butter or nut based items because we have children that have severe nut allergies.

Birthdays / Timeline

Birthdays are special and we enjoy celebrating them at school. We practice the favorite Montessori tradition of creating a picture timeline of your child's life. Every birthday child will be honored by participating in the birthday walk where the child carries a model of the earth around the sun (a candle in the center of our circle) for each year of his or her life. We follow up by singing "Happy Birthday" and the child blows the candle out. Montessori birthday celebration time will be at 10:00 am on your child's special day or a day that works best for you. We emphasize healthy eating practices and nutritious foods. We welcome nutritious treats sent to school in honor of your child's special day. **Due to peanut allergies absolutely no products with nuts will be served.** Your child may also commemorate the day by donating a plant, book, educational toys or floor puzzle for the class. School policy asks us not to bring balloons. I would appreciate a reminder and discussion in advance about your plan snack selections.

Teacher Contact Information

We have planned conferences twice yearly, however please be assured that this is not the only time that you can talk to me. I believe that communication is the key to your child's success and to a great parent teacher relationship. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's progress or curriculum please make these concerns known to me. You may reach me by either leaving a note in my mailbox. You may also reach me by e-mail at msgarcia@arborland.com.

Thank you for trusting me with your child. I am looking forward to meeting you and getting to know your children. It is going to be a year full of fun, enjoyable learning and lots of memorable adventures. I can't wait to see what the year has in store for us!

Sincerely,

Ms. Garcia