



# ARBORLAND MONTESSORI INFANT - 8TH GRADE PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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July 2024

Hello Classroom G Families!

Welcome to Room G Upper Elementary 2024-2025!

I'm Mrs. Hernandez and I am so happy to be your Upper Elementary teacher this year. This will be my third year as an Upper Elementary Lead. My educational background includes a Montessori Teaching Credential, a valid Clear California Credential, as well as a Master's Degree in Multicultural Education. I fell in love with Montessori Education while working with Lower Elementary for eight years with Ms. Cynthia. I cannot be more excited to start our new 2024 year together.

My life at home is filled with excitement. I have been married for 35 years this year. I have three wonderful adult children, Victor (32), Sarah (30), and Lisa (25). I am blessed to have one grandson, Dean, who will be 10 soon, and one granddaughter Rosie, who will be here by early October. I have three dogs and two cats who keep me busy at home. I completely enjoy my personal time with my family and our pets. I also love to learn and love to see my students learn.

I know August is exciting and filled with a bit of anxiety and nervousness. I will do my best to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible and that each and every student feels loved, respected, and safe.

My goal is to provide a carefully planned, stimulating environment which will help our classroom in continuing to develop the foundational habits, attitudes, skills, and ideas essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and learning. Each child will feel empowered to know how great it feels to learn independently. My aim is to nurture, support, and guide them every day, and I'm committed to making your child's Montessori experience productive, stimulating, and fun!

Our communication is imperative to your child's quality education. I understand that we meet formally for Parent/Teacher conferences to discuss your child's progress, but my hope is that our communication and collaboration will be regular before our formal meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime during the school year with questions or concerns regarding your child's education. Please email me your questions or concerns. My email address is

[mshernandez@arborland.com](mailto:mshernandez@arborland.com). Please make sure to send me an email so I have your contact information. I also encourage you to email me when you have questions or to let me know what is going on so I can be supportive. Please allow 24 hours for a response for emails as I try to look at them at the end of the day. Telephone messages to the office are good for more immediate concerns, as Ms. Martinez can notify me almost immediately. Please share your concerns with me regardless big or small so that I can help resolve them as soon as possible.

Our upper elementary curriculum includes Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Science, P.E., Spanish, Chinese, Art, Technology, and Music. This year, we will focus on Physical Science, U.S. History, and Africa for International Culture Day. We're going to have fun learning and performing!

As of the last school year, we have been using Jupiter Ed as an additional tool for Parent-Teacher Communication. It is designed to show your child's progress on assignments and learning. Google Classroom is how I send information and communicate with students and parents weekly. I send out all of our class information, homework, and I post our classroom photos on Google Classroom. This provides you with our classroom events, accomplishments, and a safe way to view our classroom photos.

Due to our technology curriculum, we need the students to bring in their personal technology device **every day**. (It *must have a physical keyboard*). The devices will be used as academic learning tools and with teacher permission only. ***Please disable messaging apps, as these may distract your child during class.*** Also, non-academic games are not allowed at any time. Students will be using their devices for curriculum work, test practice, typing programs, presentations, writing curriculum, and research. Please allow for your child to have access to Gmail, Canva, Blooket, Typingclub, and have access to Google Docs, Slides, and Forms.

For students who do not have a Gmail account, we highly suggest a professional format "[firstname.lastname@gmail.com](mailto:firstname.lastname@gmail.com)" style email address. This will become more important as students move through our program and we learned that it is easier to start using a professional email address earlier, rather than last minute. All of their assignments are required to be submitted to me via their Gmail account. It is best to have them memorize their passwords or have a sticky note attached to their device.

Our homework policy is based on reinforcing work being done in the class. This policy will be explained to students in class and to parents in more detail during Parent's Night. Thirty minutes of reading is allocated for homework every day. You are encouraged to show interest, listen to your child read, and make sure their homework is completed. As part of our classroom economy, if the students do not have **your signature daily**, they do not receive credit for reading. I specifically align our homework with daily work to ensure high competence.

Class will begin at 8:20 am every day. Please ensure your child arrives on time to get the very best start to the day. When a child arrives late, he/she misses vital information and directions for the day. It disrupts the latecomer as well as the lesson in progress.

We celebrate Birthdays in our classroom by bringing treats to share. Please remember that no candy, gum, nuts or soda is allowed at school. Please do not hesitate to check with me if you are not sure what to bring. There are students with allergies, so please check in.

Students will have snack time in the morning. Please send a snack for your child, as the school **does not** provide snacks. They are growing so big so fast and they get so hungry in our classroom. Please provide them with a healthy snack to ensure consistent energy throughout the day.

### Supply List

- I will create and hand out our Classroom 2024-2025 Student Planner our first week together. It will be signed by parent's daily and will be used to better communicate our classroom's daily schedule, activities, and special events.
- Laptop and Charger (needed **daily with access**)
- 6 Composition Notebooks College Ruled (Labeled: Reading/Homework, Spanish, Chinese, History/Science/Geography, Morning Work/Writing, Geometry/Fractions). Do not purchase spiral notebooks as they fall apart and children lose important notes.
- 2 graph paper Composition Books (Labeled: Math)
- Box of 24 sharpened Pencils (pencils disappear as if they are being eaten)
- 3x5 Index Cards (quantity needed \*200 for homework)
- 2 packages of unscented baby wipes (for safe desk cleaning)
- 1 Clipboard (for floor work)
- Two 1-inch Binders (for History and Chinese)
- Two black sharpies
- Colored pen (for correcting)
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Three large Glue Sticks
- 5 two-pocket folders (Plastic with three prongs - 1 for each subject below)
  - Unfinished work
  - Art
  - Spanish
  - Chinese
  - Music

\*\*\* Art supplies will be determined by the art teacher

Please ensure that your child has sufficient supplies, but also that your student will not be distracted by their supplies. We urgently request the basic supplies outlined above to be sent on the first day of school.

Cell phones: If you feel the need to let your child have a cell phone there are certain rules that apply, and please discuss these with your child. **No usage of phones without the teacher's permission.** The phone must stay in their backpack. Incoming calls are not permitted, and the phone must be switched to off or airplane mode while at school. If these rules are not followed, the phone will be turned into the Front Office for the parent or guardian to pick up.

I wish to keep your students healthy and safe. That being said, please kindly see the following guidelines:

1. Students must stay home if they are ill, which includes vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, runny-nose, etc
2. Students who are not feeling well should be resting at home

In turn, the following are what we are doing in the classroom for the student's safety:

1. Washing hands frequently with soap
2. Regularly cleaning tables after each meal
3. Respecting personal boundaries

I hope I have touched on all major points, but you are requested to look through the school handbook (available on our website [www.arborland.com](http://www.arborland.com) under "Parent's Corner" → "Resources") for further information.

I look forward to meeting all my new students and welcoming my returning students in a few weeks. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hernandez  
Upper Elementary Montessori Teacher  
[mshernandez@arborland.com](mailto:mshernandez@arborland.com)