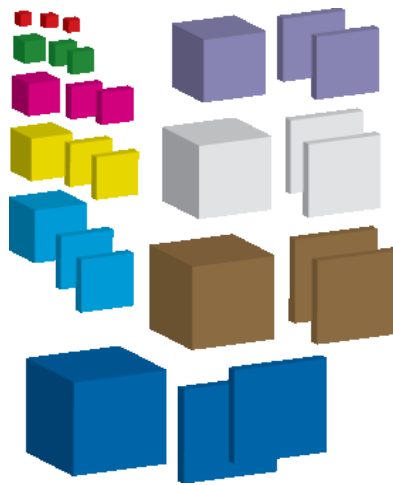


EUREKA CLASS PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION



4th, 5th, and 6th Grades

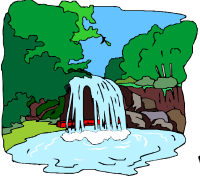
California Montessori Project,

Capitol Campus

2011-2012

Teachers—Melanie Driskill & Jesse Givens

Dear Parents and Students,



Welcome to the new school year. We are all looking forward to an exciting year full of new adventures and discoveries. We have planned many different activities for this year, which will serve to stimulate your child's imagination.

In our classroom, we strive to create an atmosphere where the children feel comfortable in taking chances and risks, which are always springboards for learning. Our ultimate goal is to see your child reach his or her full potential.

We cannot do this alone. To be fully successful, students need not only support from their teachers, but from their parents or guardians as well. This means showing an interest in what they do in school, taking a few minutes to go over their homework, or listening to them read a story from their reading book. These actions show your child how highly you value education. It also shows them that teachers and parents are partners in their education.

Above all, please know that our door is always open. If you feel the need to speak to us concerning your child, please do not hesitate to contact us. Good communication between the school and the home is important. You can send a note to us, call the office to leave a message, stop by the classroom, or email. Anything that concerns you about your child could affect his or her ability to learn and therefore affects us as well.

We have put together a handbook of information to help you and your child become familiar with the expectations for the school year. Please take a day or two to read through this information, then sign the last page and return. On the Friday of the first week of school, we will check to see if each student has turned this in.

Just to give you some information about Ms. Melanie's background:

This is my 13th year as a Montessori teacher. I have a BA in Liberal Studies from CSUS, my clear California Teaching Credential from National University, my 6-12 Montessori certification from MTC of San Diego, and have most recently completed the Master's study courses in Curriculum and Instruction from CSU, Fresno. I have taught Montessori in grades 1st-6th, both in the private and public sector, and taught the 9-12 program (grades 4th-6th) at the Montessori Teacher's College of Sacramento to new teachers for 7 years.

I enjoy my personal time with my husband and my 4-year-old, Hailey. We spent the summer moving into the new classroom and having fun visiting places: the zoo, the swimming pool, Lake Tahoe, and Grammy and Grandpa's in Nevada City.

I'm looking forward to an exciting year with the class and building a close community. Thank you for your help in getting this year off to a great start!

Teacher Contact Information

Melanie Driskill School Telephone (916) 325-0910 <http://www.cacmp.org> email mdriskill@cacmp.org

POSSIBLE SCHEDULE OF THE DAY



8:30 Class Meeting

Work Time

Math Concepts
Reading//SRA
Vocabulary
PE
Accelerated Reader & Math

Language
Cultural—Science & History
Spelling
Library
Student Planners

Writing Traits
Geometry
Cursive
Rosetta Stone
Snack

11:45 Clean up

12:00 Lunch/Recess

1:00 SSR, Technology, and Reading Skills

1:30 Science Investigation, Social Studies, & World
Studies Rotation

2:30 Care of the Environment

2:45 Announcements & Student Planners

3:00 Dismissal

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Class Number

Each student will be assigned a "class number." The numbers are written on some assignments in order to maintain privacy when volunteers are helping teacher with student papers. This number will also be used for organizational reasons: textbook responsibilities, literature book responsibilities, and creative ways for the teacher to integrate math during dismissal time.

Classroom Assignments

Each child will be assigned a weekly work plan. It will list the individual jobs in which he or she will be assigned. These are kept on small clipboards so the children can carry them around the classroom. Every day, we stamp next to the completed jobs. These work plans will be sent home every Monday from the previous week for your review. There is a place for your signature, and we include this as part of the students' homework. Students need to return this by Tuesday. Don't be surprised if your child is not finishing every job for the first few weeks. This is not meant as a punishment; rather, we hope you will positively encourage your child to finish his or her work. We do expect the students to complete all assignments after the normalization period. The following is an example of the work plan we have created:

Work Plan

Name _____ Week of _____

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Math Job	Math Job	Math Job	Math Job	Correct Math and WW
Spelling Job	Spelling Job	Spelling Job	Spelling Job	Spelling Test
Rosetta Stone	K to 8 Job	Cursive Job	Geometry Job	Rosetta Stone
Language Job	Language Job	Literature Job	Language Job	Literature Job
Literature Job	Writing Job	Writing Job	Writing Job	Writing Job
Accelerated Reader	Cultural Job	Cultural Job	Cultural Job	Cultural Job
Accelerated Math	Accelerated Math	Accelerated Math	Accelerated Math	Accelerated Math
Cultural Rotation	Cultural Rotation	Cultural Rotation	Cultural Rotation	FFFF

Student Initials _____

Parent Initials _____

GRADING



Report cards / progress reports are issued every quarter. These report cards reflect the students' performance based on expectations. All homework, tests, quizzes, in-class jobs, projects, and participation are taken into account. CMP has created a new, more objective design that we will explain in detail at our first conference.

PA	MG	PG	PB	NA
Performing Above Grade Level	Mastered Grade Level	Progressing at the Grade Level	Performing Below Grade Level	Not Applicable

E	S	N
Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement

Note—we believe in immediate feedback. So many of our classroom jobs have a built-in control of error, or we will provide a supplemental control. This allows the students to self-correct their work and learn from their mistakes. Tests and quizzes are not set up in this format; rather, they are graded by teacher.



Your child will receive his or her homework assignments every Monday (except for the first week of school and some holidays), and will have assignments due each day. We try to schedule to due dates to allow students to work in time for extra-curricular activities. Here's a possible schedule of due dates:

- *Tuesday: Initialed Work Plan*
- *Friday: Reading Log and Wordly Wise assignment*
- *Daily: Accelerated Math*

Furthermore, research projects will be assigned throughout the year. Some examples I have assigned in the past are: Cereal Box Book Report, All About Me, State or Mission Report, Biography Report

Please help your child to manage his or her time in order to complete the assignments. The homework has been designed for your child to work on his or her own with help from parents when requested. Children of this age, however, often need help from parents in regards to quality when they think no one is watching. We will provide a suggested time management guide; however, we find that the children often need parents to check their work after complete, mostly to ensure quality.

Homework is due on the due date upon arrival. Homework turned in after this time up to 1 day late will be docked 20%. Homework turned in 2 days late will be docked 50%. Homework turned in after 3 or more days late will not be accepted for a grade.

We strive to assign homework that is at your child's level. As we get to know your child, we will adjust homework load accordingly. Your feedback is appreciated. In addition, we hope your child is comfortable enough to discuss homework difficulties with us.

Note—It is a consensus in the educational world that children should work on their nightly homework ten minutes for each year they are old.

Note—We almost never assign homework on the weekend.

POSSIBLE TIME MANAGEMENT HOMEWORK



Don't forget: Homework is due upon arrival.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Weekend
2 pages of Wordly Wise (usually started at school on Monday) <u>(15 minutes)</u>	2 pages of Wordly Wise <u>(15 minutes)</u>	Finish your Wordly Wise (1 page) <u>(10 minutes)</u>		Read for an hour
Math Assignment <u>(20 minutes)</u>	Math Assignment <u>(20 minutes)</u>	Math Assignment <u>(20 minutes)</u>	Math Assignment <u>(20 minutes)</u>	
Have Mom or Dad sign last week's work plan and newsletter <u>(1 minute)</u> Read for 20 minutes	Read for 20 minutes	Read for 20 minutes	Read for 20 minutes	

SNACK AND LUNCH



We allow the children to eat in class, as a Montessori involves a 3-hour, uninterrupted work time for independent jobs. During this time, the students are welcome to move around, eat their snack, and perform some in-class physical exercises.

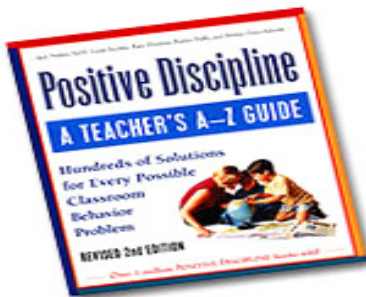
We encourage students to eat their most healthy food at snack time and to save main meals for lunch time. Students may bring their snack into the classroom in the morning and keep it in the designated area. Lunches will stay outside until lunch time. Also, parents dropping off lunches during class time need to drop them off in the office.

Lunch and recess will be from approximately 12:00-1:00.

Birthdays: You may send a special treat as a community snack on your child's birthday. Cake and cookies will be served at the end of the school day. We appreciate birthday treats that are easy to serve, or parents are welcome to come and help.

Children are not to share or trade lunches. This is a health issue because many children have allergies.

DISCIPLINE POLICY



The Eureka teachers and volunteers will follow the California Montessori Project's discipline policy as outlined in the enrollment packet. Furthermore, we will practice positive discipline.

Positive Discipline is best described by Jane Nelsen in her many books. Jane is very well received by school districts, teacher organizations, conferences, and parent education networks throughout the world. Teachers worldwide have had much success with the principles outlined in her books, workshops, and lectures.

My favorite book, *Positive Discipline in the Classroom*, outlines common classroom discipline situations, describes why children might behave as such, and tells how to positively correct the problem.

EUREKA CLASS

FIELD TRIPS 2011-2012

Field trips are an integral part of the Montessori elementary and secondary experience. A trip into the community can provide the information children need to complete a research project or provide the real-life experience that truly demonstrates life skills such as independence and responsibility. All teachers anticipate a 100% attendance rate on all field trips, as they are designed to be the ultimate hands-on experience that Dr. Montessori philosophized. These trips also prepare the students for Montessori middle school, where students complete a variety of intense studies and culminate the experience with an outdoor lab.

As these field trips are costly and the cost of gas and increased tremendously, We are encouraging families to help coordinate safe activities for the students to earn their own money for field trips. We believe that this will enable the children to appreciate the trips, alleviate the cost from parents, and teach them ways to care for others and the environment. Some ideas we have come up with are the following:

collect cans	mow lawns	ask businesses to sponsor you
take in change to Coin Star		have a garage sale
have a lemonade stand		baby sit
wash cars (we could possibly organize a group event)		
take care of an animal		rake leaves
paper route		sell snacks at a sibling's soccer game
tutor a younger child in your neighborhood		

The following are the field trips we have planned for the school year with the month they will occur; we will give you updated information once they are all confirmed:

CSUS Aquatic Center Kayaking--Friday, September 30th

Mustard Seed School--Friday, December 9th

Intel's on the Moon--On-site--Monday, December 12th

Black Chasm Caverns--Thursday, November 10th

Sutter's Fort (4th only)--February 10th

Discovery Space and Science Museum (5th only)--February 10th

Egyptian Rosicrucian Museum (6th only)--February 10th

B Street Theater: Young Thomas Edison--March 26th

Coloma Outdoor Discovery School (4th and 5th only)--June 6th-7th

Mission Springs (6th only)--May 29th-June 1st

OTHER EXCITING EVENTS:



- August: 24th--Back-to-School Night at 6pm
- September: 21st--International Day of Peace
30th--CSUS Aquatic Center field trip (date tentative)
- October: 29th--Harvest Festival
- December: 9th--Mustard Seed Field Trip (date tentative)
12th--On-site Discovery Space and Science Presentation
15th--Continent Party
- February: 10th--4th graders to Sutter's Fort
10th--5th graders to Rendezvous with Comet Halley
10th--6th graders to the Egyptian Museum
15th--Watch-Me-Work Night
- March: 26th B Street Theater Field Trip
30th Science Fair
- April: 27th--Earth Day
- May: 3rd--Name that Internal Organ Play
- June: 1st Eureka Banquet

Curriculum Overview

Mathematics and Geometry

Multiplication and Division
 Fractions, Decimals, and Percents
 Ratios and Proportions
 Squaring and Cubing Numbers
 Square Root
 Algebra Concepts
 Binomial³
 Trinomial³
 Cube Root
 Base Systems
 Mortensen Algebra
 Line and Angles
 Perimeter and Area of Polygons
 Area of a Circle
 Volume
 Accelerated Math abstract math skills

Language

Functions of Words
 Advanced Word Study
 Logical Analysis (sentence diagramming)
 Transitive/Intransitive Verbs
 Linking/Helping Verbs
 Infinitives
 Gerunds
 Participles
 Verb Mood
 Verb Tenses
 Compound Sentences
 Complex Sentences
 Compound-Complex Sentences

Reading, Writing, Vocabulary, and Spelling

6+1 Writing Traits
Wordly Wise Vocabulary
 Spelling Textbook
 Cursive Handwriting (D'Nealian or Italic)
 SRA Reading Laboratory
 Book Reports
 Literature Circles based on chapter books
 Accelerated Reader
 Poetry Reading and Recitation

Science

4th Grade
 Life Science
 Kingdoms of Life
 Plant and Animal Cells
 Cell City
 The Great River
 Comparative Systems
 Cycles

5th Grade

Physical Science
 Nitrogen Cycle
 Carbon Cycle
 Water Cycle
 Chemistry Topics
 Matterville

6th Grade

Earth Science
 Mapping Skills
 Plate Tectonics
 Volcanism
 The Sun
 Ecology

History/Social Studies

4th California History
 5th United States History
 6th Ancient Civilizations

Other

The Montessori method and non-competitive atmosphere encourages students to be self-directed and independent. Within their studies, many areas of learning are integrated which enables student learning to be unlimited.

For example, computers are used with many independent research jobs. Students create various presentations to accompany their work.

K to 8 Technology and Enrichment Program

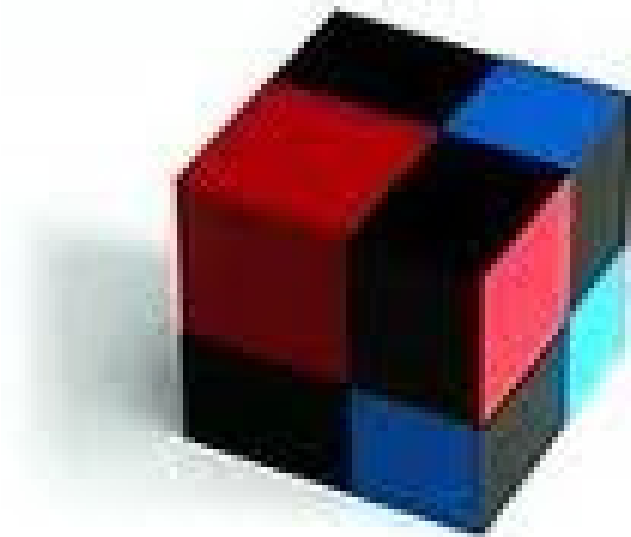
Rosetta Stone Foreign Language

Visual and Performing Arts Topics



Classroom Handbook

Acknowledgement



By signing below, you are telling us that you have read and discussed the classroom handbook with your child.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____