August 23, 2018

Dear Montessori Families,

We hope you are having an enjoyable summer break! Classroom letters have been sent out and you should be receiving them shortly, so please keep an eye out for them.

As most of you may know, as of July 1, the Model and Montessori programs were officially separated. Both programs now run independently of the other, with separate principals, staff and budget. In order to accommodate both programs, there are some changes that had to be made in our operation.

As you are aware, this school year we will be operating with a shortage of Montessori assistants due to APS budget constraints. We plan to make up for the shortage as follows: All Primary Montessori (PM) classrooms will have an assistant for the full day. The Lower Elementary Montessori (LEM) classes will have an assistant for most of the day with a guaranteed assistant in place during the 3-hour work block. The Upper Elementary Montessori (UEM) will always have an assistant during their 3-hour work block.

All Montessori students will be eating lunch in their classrooms. Students who purchase school lunch will still be able to do so. Students who purchase breakfast in the morning will be able to eat in the cafeteria if they choose to. Instead of recess immediately following lunch for all classes, there will be two opportunities for recess that will be assigned according to the teacher’s schedule. Some students will have recess immediately after lunch, at 12:30PM, while the others will be attending their specials. Then the reverse will happen and those students who were in specials will take their recess at 1:30PM while the other students go to specials.

One last change to note is the location of the Montessori main office. We will now be located in a relocatable placed to the right of the school, near the cafeteria. Our new address is 3500A 23rd Street South, Arlington, VA 22206. Our new main number is 703-228-8871 and our new Attendance Line is 703-228-2037. Ms. Karina Valdez will still remain located in the Drew Model main office so parents should still go there to sign their children in or out of school.

We know these are big changes that will take some adjusting to, and we ask for your patience as the students and staff learn to navigate our new routines. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at our August 30th Open House, from 8:30AM – 10AM.

Sincerely,

Catharina Genove

Principal