

Welcome Parents and Students!

We are so glad to have you as a part of our Kindergarten family. This classroom will provide your child with a warm and nurturing environment, in which he/she is respected, can feel safe, and have fun while learning. To make your child's transition as smooth as possible, we would like to familiarize you with our classroom and teachers.

My name is Mrs. Kelly Kieselbach and I will be your child's teacher this year. I hold a B.A. in education from the University of Michigan and an M.A. in special education from Eastern Michigan University. I have been a teacher since 1991. I live in Belleville with my husband, Bill and my son, Charlie who is 4 years old. Ms. Laura is the assistant teacher who completed her Montessori training through the North American Montessori College. She has a variety of teaching experiences here at our school. She is a proud mom of two daughters who attended CMA from Kindergarten through 6th grade.

Your child's environment is based on the work of Maria Montessori. The Montessori method provides opportunities to enrich your child's emotional, social, physical and intellectual development through hands-on teaching materials. As adults, we need to respect the child's need to concentrate on his or her work, so when entering, exiting or visiting the classroom please try to remain as quiet and unobtrusive as possible. This calm environment offers your child the greatest opportunity to take advantage of the world of discovery in our classroom.

We have established ground rules in our classroom in order to provide your child with a safe learning environment. Here are a few of them that you can start to work on at home:

1. Walk with slow, quiet feet
2. Speak with a soft voice
3. Interrupt politely by placing a silent hand on the teacher's shoulder
4. Use manner words at all times

We are asking that children leave toys at home. We cannot be held responsible for these items being lost, stolen or broken. You will be notified of scheduled Show and Tell days in advance.

A monthly snack sign-up sheet will be posted on outside our classroom door. We ask that you provide a healthy snack with 100% juice with cups and napkins for 26 children.

If you have any questions or information to share with us, please feel free to do so. Again we welcome you and your child to the world of discovery that awaits you!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kelly K.

A few notes regarding the beginning of the school year:

- The first two weeks of the school year are taken very slow. We work hard on establishing our classroom routine and practice all the ground rules. During these two weeks, teachers are also busy assessing children in order to plan their individual academic lessons.
- Montessori classrooms offer hands-on, concrete materials that enhance learning. Therefore, you will not see many “traditional” types of work coming home, such as dittoes or workbooks.
- In a Montessori classroom, each child progresses at his or her own rate. Some children will read in kindergarten, others may not be developmentally ready. That is ok! Some children aren't ready to read well into their sixth year. The Montessori philosophy allows for this individuality and meets the needs of all children, regardless of where they are.
- If your child is going to be absent, please be sure to call the classroom at 734-284-5600 ext 122. If you do not call, the absence will be considered unexcused. Also please notify the classroom if someone else is going to pick up your child. We are NOT allowed to release any child to an adult that is not on your emergency card without your express permission. This is for the safety of all our children.

Some children have a hard time dropping off at the beginning of the school year. They want to go home or have their parents stay in the classroom. I would encourage all parents to drop off in a firm but loving manner. Lingering in the classroom with an upset child only prolongs the situation. Our classroom door opens at 7:40 AM and school begins at 7:50 AM! Please drop your child off at the door NO LATER than this. Lifelong habits begin in kindergarten so let's all try to set a good example by being on time for school.

Parent Orientation/Meet The Teacher Day will be scheduled on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 6:00 PM, in our classroom #122. This will be the week before school starts. Please bring the following school supplies at this time:

- 6 Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 container Clorox wipes
- 2 boxes of crayons (16 count or more)
- 1 box of tissues
- 2 rolls paper towels
- 1 package colored construction paper
- 1 **BATH towel** for rest time (**NOTHING** larger, please) in a 2 gallon Ziploc bag
- 3 Pocket Folders **WITHOUT** the metal fasteners in the following colors:
 - 1 yellow
 - 1 red
 - 1 green

Getting to know _____ through your eyes...

Your child's name

We will be spending a great deal of time with your child throughout the school year and we're sure we'll get to know them very well. Until then, we'd like you to take a moment to fill out this survey so that we will have enough insight to be able to understand your child and give them the kind of environment they will need to be successful!

1. *My child's strengths are:*

2. *My child struggles with:*

3. *My personal goals for my child this year are:*

4. *Does your child have any fears or insecurities we should know about?*

5. *Is there anything else that would help us better understand your child's moods, attitudes, feelings or anything you simply feel we should know?*

* **Are there ANY allergies or illnesses we should know about?**
