

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you and your child to Creative Montessori Academy and especially to room 104. It is our objective to make this school year an exciting and enriching learning experience for your child. We feel it is important that you are informed and involved in what your child is learning, therefore, I am providing you with a brief curriculum for the year. It is not a complete, detailed copy of our program and will be interpreted differently by each child, however it will give you a reference for the information your child shares with you.

Geography: Emphasis:

Earth and its parts: interior, exterior, atmosphere, land and water forms
Mapping and graphing: maps of simple layouts, graphs to record data
Solar System, mountains, erosion

History: Emphasis:

Exercises to develop the concept of time, time lines, calendar activities, Needs of People, Clock of Eras

Biology: Emphasis:

Classification exercises, organic, inorganic, plant, animal, mineral
Botany: parts of the tree, roots, flowers, leaf, seed dispersion
Zoology: external and internal parts of animals, vertebrates and invertebrate

Math and Language: Math and language experiences will vary for each child depending on interest and readiness levels.

Birthdays will be celebrated in the classroom. I will schedule a time with you. Please provide a healthy treat, drinks and paper products for 28. A list of acceptable treats is attached. Please do not send in party invitations unless you are inviting the entire class. When some children are invited and others are not, feelings are hurt. **Invitations will not be sent home with the class mail.** Children with summer birthdays will celebrate in the spring.

Homework: Daily homework assignments will begin the week of September 20th. All children are expected to turn in every homework assignment on time, complete, correct and neat. It is important that you help your child manage his/her time to complete the work. Provide a quiet place and the necessary materials to complete the work. Homework helps your child gain responsibility, develop time management skills and it reinforces classroom learning. After reviewing the work with your child please sign every assignment so that I know you find the work acceptable. Do not sign incomplete or messy work; your child will believe that that is acceptable. Have him/her redo the work if it is not his best. It is important that we have the same expectations for this and every classroom procedure. The students need to see us as a team working together for his/her best interest. If you have a concern over the homework policy, see me at once.

Discipline: We use the **Love and Logic** approach as a basis for our discipline program. Every child deserves the right to be safe, respected and to learn. Our classroom and school rules have been developed to help ensure these rights. No student will be allowed to prevent the learning of others or to negatively affect another's self-esteem. We hold to a zero tolerance rule concerning physical aggression and inappropriate language. Please review the school rules, in the student handbook, with your child.

Independence: The best gift you and we can give your child is the ability to function independently. Independence is a strength that we must help your child develop. Please remember that your child is growing up and that is exactly what is supposed to happen. To encourage this growth, do not carry your child or his/her belongings down the hall, please leave your child at the door and allow him to enter the room, meet his/her friends and prepare for the day. Help your child grow up, to become a strong, independent individual.

Supplies: All of you should have received a copy of the supply list. It is posted on the CMA website at creative-montessori.com or see me for a copy. Please make sure that the supplies are in class by this Friday. **Do not write your child's name on the supplies. Many of the supplies will be used community style.**

Morning Snack: The children will have snack every morning. Each student is responsible for bringing his/her own snack, drink, silverware and napkin. If you send in applesauce, pudding or other foods that need a spoon, please provide one. We do not have spoons available. Make sure to provide a nutritious snack. The children eat lunch at 12:00 noon, they need a good breakfast and snack to get through the morning.

School Hours: The classroom door will be opened at 7:40 a.m. **Class begins at 7:50 a.m.** Please make sure that your child arrives in class on time. When they are late, they will miss instructions and they also feel embarrassed to walk in late. Teach your child the importance of being prompt. I will open the door at 3:00 p.m. for dismissal. All children remaining in the classroom at 3:15 p.m. will be taken to the day care area. If your child will be late or will be leaving early for an appointment, please send in a note. If your child will be absent, please call the classroom before 7:30 a.m. at (734) 284-5600 ext 104 to leave a message. The children will not be released to anyone that we don't know or who is not on the emergency card. Should you need to call during the day, please leave a message and we will return your call when we are available.

There will be a Parent Orientation this Wednesday, Sept. 8th, watch for more information. It is very important that at least one parent attends the orientation. Especially new parents. We will discuss expectations, our daily routine, homework and more.

Whether you are a returning family or a new family, Karen and I are so glad that you are joining our classroom family this year. Our room is ready, our curriculum is in place and we have planned many exciting activities. It is important that your child be happy, stimulated and learning in our classroom. If there is anything you would like to share with us about your child or if you have concerns, please see me right away. You know your child the best and we need your input to help him/her learn and adjust to this new adventure. Working together, we can create an environment that will be positive for all of us.

Acceptable BirthdayTreats

We generally celebrate birthdays at the end of the day. The children have had lunch and are usually not very hungry. It is such a waste of money to send in a big snack. Sam's cupcakes are good but most of the cupcake is thrown away. Not only that but they are very sweet, messy and not at all nutritious. Here are some good, healthy suggestions:

Homemade healthy muffins
Popsicles
Fresh fruit
Fresh vegetables

Yogurt cups
Cheese and crackers
Milk
Juice boxes

With the prevalence of childhood obesity, and so many health related issues, it is important that we pay attention to what the children are eating in school.

CMA has a policy concerning snacks brought to school please refer to the Parent Manual.

Thanks for your support.

Vicki and Karen

Room 104 Supply List

Please provide the following supplies for your child **on the first day of school**. Children find it very exciting to shop for school supplies, make this a fun family event. Explain to your child that school is his/her work and the supplies are the tools needed for this job. **Please do not put your child's name on any of the supplies. Some of the supplies will be combined in community containers.** Ink pens and mechanical pencils are not used in lower elementary. Your child will bring home all of his/her work in a plastic or vinyl folder. (see below) Backpacks are not necessary, however if you choose to provide your child with a backpack, please make sure it is small and **does not have wheels**.

Please provide the following supplies:

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| 1 large box of colored pencils (sharpened) | 1 (24) box yellow #2 pencils (sharpened) |
| 3 large glue sticks (no liquid glue) | 9 vinyl pocket folders with paper fastener
(3 red, 3 blue and 3 green) |
| 1 box washable markers | 1 package of computer paper |
| 3 hand driven pencil sharpeners | 1 large antibacterial hand cleaner |
| “Fiskar”brand scissors | 1 vinyl coated folder for homework and mail |
| 5 Zip-Lock bags (gallon) | 1 box of tissue |
| 1 Composition Book | 1 small, plastic or vinyl pencil bag |
| 1 100 page spiral notebook | 1 roll of paper towels |
| 1 box of tissues | 1 vinyl, 1 inch, 3 ring binder (1 st graders and new students) |
| 1 box band aids | |
| 1 container of Clorox wipes | |

If your child has difficulty holding a pencil, please send in “Chunky Pencils”, available at Erasers and Crayons in Southgate.

Thank You,

Mrs. Lochner and Mrs. Kaminski
Room 104