



CHMS Newsletter

Fall 2019



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

We are so glad to see all of our CHMS friends again!! We had a great fun during summer camp and enjoyed a wide variety of dinosaur and ocean activities. Whatever had you busy for July and August, we hope you enjoyed some time together with family and friends! Thank you to all the families who attended our Ice-Cream Social last week! We enjoyed getting to know some of our new families and hope everyone had fun.

This is the first of three seasonal school newsletters that you will receive this year to keep you informed about upcoming activities. Cinthia will also send email reminders prior to an event to make sure everyone knows all the details, but for now, put these dates in your calendar and keep this newsletter handy as we head into fall. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions, and, of course, keep an eye on the bulletin board for sign-ups. We are excited about starting another fun-filled and learning-packed year! We are a busy school community and we are ready to run!

CALENDAR

Aug 27: Back to School Night 5:30—6:30

Aug 30: Parent Coffee Upstairs 8:30—10:00

Sep 2: Labor Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

Sep 6: Pizza Lunch / Sharing

Sep 27: Staff Meeting - SCHOOL CLOSSES 1:00

Sep 28: Family Pot-Luck Picnic at Temporary Road Park 4:00—6:00

Oct 1: Parent Ed - Outside Speaker on Child Development 5:30—6:30
(Childcare and dinner provided \$10/child)

Oct 2: Specials start

Oct 4: Pizza Lunch / Sharing

Oct 14: Columbus Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

Oct 25: Fall Parent Day and Pot Luck 9:00—12:30 // Staff Meeting SCHOOL CLOSSES at 1:00

Nov 1: Pizza Lunch / Sharing

Nov 4-5: Parent / Teacher Conferences for Preschool and Pre-K Students SCHOOL CLOSED

Nov 26: Thanksgiving Pot-Luck 11:30 / Staff Meeting SCHOOL CLOSSES at 1:00

Nov 27-29: Thanksgiving Break SCHOOL CLOSED



CHILD ACTIVITIES



Time to learn about:

September: Land/Air/Water, Biomes, Living/Non-Living, Early Art, Primary Colors

October: World Map, Vertebrate/Invertebrate, Johannes Vermeer, Secondary Colors

November: North America, The Five Vertebrates, Claude Monet, Warm Colors

Specials: We will be doing Specials on Wednesdays this year, starting October 2. Please see our Specials Calendar for more information about this weekly rotation of activities. Our new teacher, Ms. Tessa, will be offering a combination music/yoga class, and Ms. Arlene will be returning for Spanish. The nature portion of the rotation will be gardening in the fall and spring and nature activities in the winter months on acceptable weather days.

Pizza Days and Sharing: Back by popular demand! The first Friday of each month has been set aside for pizza day with the first one coming on September 6. The cost is \$3 each pizza day, payable in cash only. We encourage you to make it easy on everyone and pay for the whole year. Pick up a card at the sign-in desk explaining all the details, and be sure to put those dates in your calendar so that you can take a break from packing lunch for a day! Sharing Day (or Show and Tell) will be in combination with Pizza Friday. We will connect sharing with our science and geography curriculum topics this year, and Cinthia will post a sign and send out an email with the theme for sharing each month.

Picture Day: Fall photos will be scheduled in the coming weeks. Photos are not mandatory, but it is a nice way to remember your child at Children's House. We will provide more information when plans are finalized. Stay tuned!

Thanksgiving Food Drive: We will again be participating in a food drive for Cornerstones, a local nonprofit organization that promotes self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. In past years we have supported 4 families through our food donations and we are grateful for the opportunity to help serve the community again. You will see more information about this program at the end of October / early November as we prepare to collect the necessary food items to fill the boxes for local families in need.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Pot-Luck Picnic: The Family Pot-Luck Picnic is coming up on Saturday, September 28 from 4:00 to 6:00pm. We have reserved the picnic pavilion at Temporary Road park and hope you will join us for an evening of games and food. The sign up sheet will be going up soon. The picnic is a chance, in the beginning of the year, for parents to get to know each other, kids to play, and everyone to have a fun, laid-back evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

Fall Parent Day and Pot Luck Lunch: Join us on Friday, October 25 from 9:00 to 12:30 for the first of two Parent Days. This is your chance to see what your child does during the day and, most importantly, to receive a lesson or two from your child on their favorite school activities. We'll end the morning with a pot luck lunch and some fun on the playground! School will close at 1:00 that day so that the teachers can have a staff meeting.

Thanksgiving: Our annual Thanksgiving Pot-Luck will be on Tuesday, November 26. We will gather upstairs in the Sanctuary for a traditional thanksgiving lunch, complete with turkey and pumpkin pie. Lunch is expected to last from 11:30 to 12:30. School will close at 1:00 for a staff meeting. We will post a sign-up sheet for traditional Thanksgiving fare in the weeks prior. School will be closed from Wednesday, November 27 through Friday, November 29, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

PARENT ACTIVITIES

Parent Coffee: Join us upstairs in the Sanctuary from 8:00—10:00 on Friday, August 30. Stop in after you drop off your child, grab a cup of joe, and meet some new faces.



Parent Education (Sep): Back to School Night will take place on Tuesday, August 27, from 5:30—6:30. You'll learn about how your child spends his or her day and have a chance to sign up for volunteer opportunities and ask your questions. Please join us!

Parent Education (Oct): Our next Parent Night of the year will be held on Tuesday, October 1, from 5:30—6:30. We will have an outside speaker on child development. Look for more information coming soon.

Childcare for Parent Education Events: Childcare will be available for Parent Nights for \$10 per child. This fee will go directly to the teaching staff who have agreed to spend their time with the children so that parents can feel more comfortable about attending. Children and adults will be offered pizza for dinner and the children will watch a movie while the parents attend the meeting.

Progress Reports and Parent/Teacher Conferences: We send out progress reports periodically during the school year. The first will go out at the end of October. Progress reports are a way to gauge your child's development in different social, emotional, and behavioral areas. We hope that they will be helpful and provide a little insight into how your child spends his or her day at school. On Monday, November 4 and Tuesday, November 5 we will have Parent/Teacher Conferences for the parents of preschool and pre-kindergarten children. This is a chance for us to sit together and discuss your child's progress thus far. School will be closed for those two days to accommodate the many conferences that need to take place. Childcare will be available for your conference time only. Kindergarten progress reports and conferences will be held in January. This gives us more time to work with the kindergarten children and assess their progress before we have our meeting.

Ways to Volunteer: Each month we will post a sign-up sheet listing the opportunities for parents to volunteer their time. We have seen firsthand the impact that volunteering has on both the parents and the children and we want to continue to offer these opportunities to you. Volunteering is one of the best ways to get to know the children and teachers in your child's classroom. The children enjoy seeing parents helping out at school and the teachers really appreciate the extra hands.



Website: A lot of work has been done to update our website in recent months. Please [go to the website](#) and check it out! One of the new sections is the blog. We hope you have [signed up](#) to receive notice of when a new blog is up. They vary from practical information about child rearing, educational offerings on child development and Montessori philosophy, and other things we do at school, such as gardening and The Virtues. The best way to get a peek inside our daily life here at school is through our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, so be sure to follow us @chmsreston. If you post on social media about events happening at school or refer to us in your posts, please use #chmsreston or tag us in your posts, so we can reply. We have a busy year planned, so be sure to stay connected so you don't miss any of the fun!

FROM THE OFFICE

Parking Reminders: Safety first! Please be sure to monitor your child's activity in the parking lot. Maintain low speed at all times, and never leave a child unattended in a vehicle. Please do not park in the reserved parking spaces, the handicapped spaces, on the yellow curb, or any other "do not park" designated areas for any amount of time. Our parking spaces are the first bank of spaces on the left as you enter the driveway and any space past the two sections designated for church personnel. Church personnel come and go all through the day and they expect their designated spaces to be available. Please respect the posted parking signs and help us maintain goodwill between our school and the church. Thank you!

Footwear Reminder: Closed shoes are the safest option for playing on our playground. Children should refrain from wearing loose shoes, sandals that will allow mulch inside, or shoes that provide little or no traction. Crocs and flip flops are not allowed.



Cubby Bags and Backpacks: New children should have received a "cubby bag," the school branded tote bag which should be used to transport your child's work from school each day. Returning students that need a new bag can pick one up at the table by the office. Please ask Cinthia to label it. Backpacks, which you provide, can stay at school during the week, but should go home on Fridays, and should contain a complete change of clothes for your child.

Lunch bags and Utensils: New students should have also received a lunch bag and plastic utensils for use at school. Returning students can pick up replacements if needed at the table by the office.

Records Check: If anything changed over the summer that needs to be updated in your child's folder, please do it ASAP. This could include phone numbers, addresses, insurance information, emergency contacts, or health information.

Scholastic Orders: Be sure to check out the table in front of the office when you see the Scholastic Books flyers go out! Scholastic has fantastic bargains with high quality books available to purchase at low prices. There will be instructions on how to place your order through the school's account. We receive credit from each purchase, which we use to buy books and other supplies. The majority of the books in the school's library have come from Scholastic!



Lip Balm: If you want your child to keep a tube of lip balm at school that he or she may use on their own during the colder months, please send one in, labeled, to your child's teachers. There is a small basket in each classroom where we keep lip balm so that it is visible and can be easily monitored by the teachers. Lip balm should NEVER be kept in a child's cubby or backpack. You do not need to fill out a medication form to keep lip balm in the classroom.

Halloween Costumes: Our school policy on Halloween costumes is that, although they are fun for trick or treating and neighborhood parades, they do not belong at school. We will, of course, be doing some Halloween activities, such as scrubbing and carving a pumpkin, but we ask that you please DO NOT send your child to school in his or her costume. Thank you for your cooperation.

Referrals Welcome: If you recommend our school to a friend or colleague that leads to the registration of their child, for either this school year or next, we will give you a \$100 Visa gift card! That could be a fun evening out for your family, on us! If you do recommend us to a new family, be sure to tell them to mention your name to us or tell us yourself! We have spaces remaining for this year that we'd like to fill, so please keep us in mind when talking with friends, family, or neighbors who might still be looking for a great program for their child.

Ticks on the Playground: Ticks are a reality when you “live in the woods” as we do here. The best defense against them is diligence in checking your child each night. Deer ticks, which carry Lyme disease, are very tiny. Please be sure to spray your child with insect repellent before coming to school. You may also send in a hat to wear on the playground.

School Security: The main entrance for the school is the upstairs side door with the ramp. Please use this as your primary entrance AND exit from school and refrain from entering the church lobby. You can also leave school via the playground gate, but be sure to close the gate behind you. Please do NOT allow people you don't know to enter the building. We know that it seems rude not to hold the door open, but you can direct prospective parents coming for a tour, delivery people, and anyone else to the front entrance of the church where they can ring the doorbell and speak to someone in the office first.

Montessori Catalog: Each year one of the Montessori catalogs we use on a regular basis, called For Small Hands from Montessori Services, has a program for parents to order from the catalog prior to the holidays. Many families have found this a great way to “Montessorize” their lives with some of the concepts we use here and have even shared the catalog with grandparents and other family members. While we do receive credit for your purchases, which gives us money to spend on materials for the classrooms, this is not why we offer the program to you. Rather, we think the link we can create between how we do things here at school and how you do things at home is invaluable. This is an excellent resource for unique toys, games, and books. Be sure to take a look! If you do decide to order from the For Small Hands catalog, please place the order directly from the catalog. We have already printed the school's customer number on the order form. Have fun finding some great gifts to make your home a Montessori Home! Check out the free download “Montessori at Home” on the front page of our website.

HANDY INFORMATION FOR YOU TO KNOW:

School Phone Number: 703-481-6678

School Fax Number: 703-689-9926

School's Tax ID Number: 65-1169584

The Sunrise Room Teachers (the larger classroom)

Keturah Collins: Owner and Director of CHMS and Montessori Teacher

Kari Kilcullen: Montessori Teacher

Tessa Luther: Morning Assistant Teacher

Ruth Vilchez: Afternoon Assistant Teacher

The Sunset Room Teachers (the smaller classroom)

Helena Crick: Assistant Director and Lead Montessori Teacher

Asma Usmani: Montessori Teacher

Additional Staff:

Music Teacher: Tessa Luther

Spanish Teacher: Arlene Vargas

Office Manager: Cinthia Drake

Media Specialist: Karen Disney



Tuition Rates	
Part Day Preschool	\$ 815
Part Day Preschool with lunch	\$ 915
School day Preschool	\$1140
Full Day Preschool	\$1310
School Day Pre-K or Kindergarten	\$1200
Full Day Pre-K or Kindergarten	\$1420
Schedule changes	\$10 an hour
Late fee (after 5:30)	\$1 a minute

