2025–2026
Family Handbook

A guide for our school community

"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

— Maria Montessori

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Edited June 2025

Welcome!

We would like to welcome our returning families and new families to Pocatello Valley Montessori School. We look forward to our partnership together this upcoming school year to ensure your student's success.

About Pocatello Valley Montessori School

Pocatello Valley Montessori School (PVMS) is a non-profit 501c(3) founded in 2014, located in the former Roosevelt building at 240 E Maple Street, Pocatello, Idaho. PVMS started with just two small classrooms and has grown in both size and community. PVMS now offers programs for students 18 months through 6th grade.

Pocatello Valley Montessori School Mission and Vision

Pocatello Valley Montessori School is committed to providing each student with a progressive education in

o rder to educate the whole child in the developing self confidence, initiative, independence and persistence;

and nurturing an inner sense of order while embracing each student's abilities and interests to create an environment of mutual respect and cooperation.

We aim to nurture each child's natural curiosity and desire to learn in order to foster independence, critical thinking skills, whole-child development, and academic advancement.

What is Montessori?

Montessori is an educational system designed to aid children in the development of intelligence and independence. The system was developed in the early 1900's by Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian educator and physician. Dr. Montessori felt that the goal of early childhood education should be to cultivate the natural desire to learn.

Thousands of schools throughout the world use the Montessori Method of education. Montessori educators create classroom environments that meet the needs of children and easily accessible learning materials. Children learn through activities involving exploration, manipulation, order, repetition, abstraction, and communication.

Montessori education encourages intellect, independence, self reliance, and clear judgment by allowing children to direct and control their own education. Each classroom functions as a mini-community, promoting learning and development. Teachers provide individual attention and instruction, helping each child progress at their own rate. Each day is designed to be challenging, well integrated, and satisfying. Lessons are prepared respecting the role that the child plays in their own development.

The Montessori Method seeks to develop a child's whole personality by allowing initiative and independent choice in intellectual endeavors. Children learn fundamental social skills through participation in the classroom community.

Overview of Montessori Philosophy

A Montessori classroom is a multi-age setting in which children learn cooperatively, and through observation

o f each other. Maria Montessori observed and noted that even very young children have exceptional powers

o f concentration, and learn in a manner that is unique to their age and interest. Younger children are excited

to "see what is coming" as they observe older children work. Older children reinforce their knowledge as they

share it with younger children. Everyone learns to take responsibility for themselves, the group, and the classroom environment.

Montessori educators create rich, ordered classroom environments so that every child feels safe, secure, challenged and respected. They guide each child through Montessori materials based on observations of the child's interest and period of

readiness. The Montessori Method is oriented toward the experience of learning so that children learn how to learn, thus becoming lifelong learners.

Code of Conduct - Retention, Suspension, Expulsion

PVMS operates under the understanding that all members including parents/caregivers, students, family, and friends are all responsible for upholding the standards of our community. We have provided the schools Code of Conduct in order to provide clarity of PVMS's expectations.

- Parents/Guardians, students, visitors and staff must work together in a cooperative and friendly way to benefit our children.
- The entire school community, including administrators, teachers, students, parents, and friends are responsible for modeling appropriate behavior, helping to maintain the order and neatness of the school environment, and reporting any violations of guidelines or safety concerns to the Head of School.
- All school/classroom rules will be followed to ensure consistency and help the children understand them.
- You will convey to the children a supportive attitude toward education and school. ● Everyone should be treated with mutual respect. Acts of violence, threats of violence, emotional or sexual harassment, and verbal or written abuse directed toward any will not be prohibited. PVMS cannot and will not tolerate any irresponsible and dangerous behavior, acts of violence, threats of violence, emotional or sexual harassment or verbal abuse directed toward anyone.
- You will set a good example in your own speech and behavior to demonstrate respect toward all parents, students, visitors, and staff.
- Concerns should be first brought to your child's teacher, and then if needed the Head of School. This is important for healthy communications and problem resolution.

All students, family members, and staff members at PVMS have the right to feel peaceful and safe. In order to support a peaceful and safe environment the following behaviors will not be tolerated:

- Disruptive behavior and or harassment of any kind which damages or interferes with the operations of any area of the school or damages school property.
- Using loud, threatening or offensive language, cursing or displaying temper.
- Any abusive, harassing or threatening email or text/ voicemail/ phone message or other written communication.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students, visitors, parents or staff at the school. This includes, but is not limited to: in person or via any digital forum such as Facebook, or other social media sites and business directory listings. Do not use a picture of another child, parent or staff without their permission in social media or any other kind of media.
- Any emotional abuse, physical aggression, intimidation or threatening behaviors of any type towards another adult or child.
- Approaching someone else's child or another parent in order to discuss with them or chastise them because of the actions of one child towards another child.
- Smoking, vaping, drinking, or use of illegal substances on PVMS property.
- It is illegal and forbidden to bring a weapon to school or on PVMS grounds

Admissions

Acceptance into Pocatello Valley Montessori School is given with much thought and care. Our responsibility is to ensure that each child accepted and enrolled at PVMS has an opportunity to reach their fullest potential so they can flourish in the environment spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually.

Non-Discrimination Policy - Inclusion of Children with Diverse Ability

Pocatello Valley Montessori School is an equal opportunity establishment. We do not discriminate based on race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Pocatello Valley Montessori School welcomes children of all abilities. We work with parents to provide a safe, nurturing learning environment for each child. We will work with each family to support any services needed to enrich the student's development and learning experience while attending PVMS.

Returning Families

Families with students currently enrolled in PVMS can begin the re-enrollment process on February 1st for the following summer and school year session. Currently enrolled students will have until the last day of February to complete the enrollment contract and pay any difference in Enrollment Deposits before their spot is forfeited.

In the event there are concerns about the success of a current student at PVMS a meeting will be held with the Head of School, current Lead Teacher, and a Lead Teacher of the next academic level if applicable to determine if PVMS is a good fit for the student.

Toddler and Primary Admissions

Application process:

Applications are accepted from new families each year beginning on March 1st for the following summer and school year sessions. It is suggested you start the application process early as programs fill quickly.

1. Schedule a Tour: You can schedule a tour online or by calling the school office. Tours are generally scheduled between 9:00am and 2:00pm Monday-Friday. Expect the tour to last approximately 30 minutes. Other times may be arranged if necessary.

2. Submit Application: Complete the online application and submit the $50.00 non-refundable application fee. 3. Entrance Interview: A meeting with the Head of School and Assistant. Expect this session to last approximately 20 minutes. Please bring any questions you may have.

4. Application Review: It is our goal to ensure that PVMS is a good match for each child and each family applying. The Head of School will make the final decision on enrollment into all programs. All students accepted are enrolled on a 6-week trial basis. If during this 6-week period PVMS is not found to be a good fit by either PVMS Head of School or the students family withdrawal can be made.

5. Completing Enrollment: Upon acceptance the family will have 10 business days to complete the enrollment packet sent via Transparent Classroom, including the tuition agreement and submit the Enrollment Deposit. Enrollment will not be considered completed until the enrollment packet is submitted along with the Enrollment Deposit.

6. New Family Orientation: Meeting with the Head of School to finalize paperwork, answer any questions you may have, and go over all school policies and procedures.

Elementary Admissions

Application process:

Applications are accepted from new families each year beginning on March 1st for the following summer and school year sessions. It is suggested you start the application process early as programs fill quickly.

1. Schedule a Tour: You can schedule a tour online or by calling the school office. Tours are generally scheduled between 9:00am and 2:00pm Monday-Friday. Expect the tour to last approximately 30 minutes. Other times may be arranged if necessary.

2. Submit Application: Complete the online application and submit the $50.00 non-refundable application fee. 3. Entrance Interview: A meeting with the Head of School and Assistant. Expect this session to be approximately 20 minutes. Please bring any questions you may have.

4. Have your child's current school complete and return the Student Evaluation form.

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7. New Family Orientation: Meeting with the Head of School to finalize paperwork, answer any questions you may have, and go over all school policies and procedures.

Waiting Pool

If a student applies for a program that is full, or if a child is not yet old enough to attend, they will be placed in the waiting pool for that program. Children will be pulled from the Waiting Pool based on program needs, student/staff ratio, and considering previous Montessori experience. If all factors are equal, preference will be given to a student who has other siblings enrolled in our programs. Our waiting pool resets annually on March 1st when open enrollment begins. If you are still interested in enrolling your child at PVMS, you will need to re-apply when open enrollment begins. The application fee will be waived for those individuals who were on the waiting list who have previously applied.

Withdrawal Policy

Family Request—PVMS requires a 30-day written notice to withdraw from all programs. An Enrollment Contract Amendment Request form is available through the office and must be received 30 days prior to end o f enrollment. The entire tuition payment remains in effect until the Head of School grants release from the contract in writing. Enrollment fees are non- refundable.

School Request—PVMS may, and at its sole discretion, discontinue a student's enrollment at any time if it is determined that:

- Student or parent/guardian violates the PVMS Code of Conduct.
- Student's academic needs are not being met
- Student's behavior consistently has a negative impact on classmates or the learning environment.
- Students or parents/guardians repeatedly fail to follow rules and/or policies.

Programs

Toddler Classes (18-approx 3 years old) The toddler classroom is a well-prepared classroom of bright natural materials aimed to stimulate young brains to explore and learn about their environment. At this age, children are introduced to the Montessori concepts

o f respect, order, concentration, and coordination through work and social interactions. Toilet training is a

significant milestone of this period.

Primary Class (3-6 years old) The primary classrooms are beautifully prepared, keeping in mind the child's emotional, social, physical, and intellectual development. Each child is given the freedom to make choices and discoveries for themselves using well prepared materials. The materials found in these classrooms are scientifically designed to engage the child and develop their understanding of language, math, social studies, science, zoology, botany, music, and art. Our students gain the tools for abstract reasoning, communication, a basis of creative imagination, and self-directed learning.

Lower Elementary (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade Equivalent) Students in this program work both individually and cooperatively. The student's teacher carefully formulates an individual learning plan for each student and helps guide them throughout the learning process, while giving students the freedom and choice in their journey for knowledge. The students are first introduced to concepts through concrete hands-on materials; and progressively work their way to understanding of the abstract concepts. They do not just learn basic skills; but also, how to apply these skills to expand their knowledge. Students continue to build on their knowledge from subjects introduced in the primary classroom; while beginning to explore history, cultural studies, geography, environmental studies, and practical life studies.

Upper Elementary (4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Equivalent) Upper Elementary is included in future expansion plans. The task of the Montessori School during the grade school years is to assist the child in his own development. Lessons are taught that reinforce and expand on previous years from Primary through Lower Elementary with greater emphasis on abstract thinking. Before and After Care Before and After Care is provided for families who need full-time care. It is available for one hour before school, starting at 7:30 am and up to three hours after school, until 6:00 pm. Before and after care will be available on an as needed basis (at least four children must be enrolled for the program to be available).

Assessments and Standardized Testing - Developmental Monitoring

Assessment is an integral part of a Montessori setting and is viewed as a means to support continued learning and development. Assessments help us fulfill our mission. The skill sets achieved and knowledge gained in each discipline are all essential milestones along a child's educational journey. Assessments are not the end of the educational journey, but a means of guiding our children in their development to become lifelong learners.

In a Montessori school, assessment is woven into the fabric of instruction. Assessment occurs in many ways, including:

- The Montessori Three Period Lesson;
  - o 1st: A gift from the guide, "These shapes are congruent."
  - o 2nd: Show me, "Show me the congruent shapes."
  - o 3rd: Recall, "What are these shapes called?"
- The control of error built into the materials;
- Isolation of difficulty in lesson sequence that allows the adult and child to assess understanding of

complex processes from the ground up;

- Observation of the child at work and review of the child's work;
  - o Questioning & answering
  - o Verbalizing processes in one's work
  - o Involving children in the assessment of their own work, "What seems to be missing here?" ●

Recalling and applying acquired knowledge to new concepts, consistently done due to the interrelated approach of Montessori;

- Peer and self-checking and editing of work;
- Students applying gained knowledge and skills to teach other students;
- Regular teacher/student conferences for elementary students, helping them make and own the choices

in their educational process;

- Use of work portfolios;
- Quizzes and test-like experiences both teacher and student-produced;
- Project work culminating in presentations, dioramas, class materials, etc.
- Grade Equivalent Language and Mathematical Assessments;
- and
- Standardized testing.

A Note on Standardized Testing At PVMS the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), a nationally-normed standardized assessment, is given in the spring of the elementary 3rd and 6th-grade years. These assessments provide a snapshot overview of a child's performance in language, reading, and math at the time of testing. Test data is combined with the more comprehensive records and knowledge of the students to inform parents and teachers about a child’s academic strengths, areas of challenge and areas for continued learning and development. Additionally, by analyzing accumulated data, looking for trends, these tests assist Pocatello Valley Montessori School in identifying areas of strength and relative-weakness of our program, affirming what we do well and highlighting areas of potential programmatic growth.

Cell Phone and Internet Policy

Cell Phone Policy

The use of personal electronic devices during instructional time is strictly prohibited in all classrooms, unless specifically authorized by the student's teacher or director of the school. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, tablets, e-readers, laptops, or other related electronic devices.

Use of personal electronic devices is a privilege and not a right. Students are required to adhere to requirements outlined in this policy. The director of school is responsible for determining when personal electronic devices may be used, such as before or after school, passing time, lunch or recess.

Any violation of this policy, or use of a personal electronic device which involves illegal activity, disruption of the educational process or climate of the school, causing harm to another individual, bullying, intimidation, threats, sexting, academic dishonesty, violating another individual's privacy, or any

o ther prohibited activity while at school will result in disciplinary action and the loss of the device during

school hours. Devices may be turned over to law enforcement when appropriate. Devices will not be returned to the student until a conference is held with the parent/guardian. Such conference may be held

o ver the phone when necessary.

The use of cameras or audio recording on any type of electronic device is strictly prohibited in the restrooms. Use of cameras or audio recordings are also prohibited in classrooms, unless specifically authorized by the student's teacher. When the use of a camera or audio recording is authorized, students are required to obtain permission before taking a photograph, video or audio recording of any individual, and are required to obtain the individual's permission prior to posting such content to any internet or social media site or app.

Teachers have discretion to allow students to use their personal devices for instructional purposes. When students use a personal device for instructional purposes they shall adhere to the following:

- Ensure that effective and updated antivirus protection is installed

- Only connect to the internet using the school’s network or wifi
- Students shall not bypass internet content filtering by using other wifi or data networks
- Ensure the device is functioning properly
- Ensure the device is fully charged prior to any instructional use
- Ensure the device will not cause disruption or harm to the school’s network or other student devices.
- Students shall be responsible for password protecting their personal devices.

Students are responsible for safeguarding all personal devices. The school shall not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of personal devices. School personnel are not responsible for providing technical support for personal devices.

The requirements outlined in this policy shall not apply if they conflict with a student's 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Internet Policy

The internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world which can give students and teachers access to a variety of rich, educational resources.

The use of the internet, including the World Wide Web, must be in support of education and academic research and consistent with the educational objectives of the school community.

- Investigation of topics being studied in school
- Investigation of opportunities outside of school related to community service,

employment or further education

- Using electronic mail to communicate with other individuals where necessary to improve

educational outcomes

Unacceptable Uses of the Internet

- Searching, viewing or retrieving materials that are not related to school work, community

service, or further education.

- Copying, saving or redistributing copyrighting material (user should assume that all

material is copyrighted unless explicitly noted).

- Subscription of any services or ordering of any goods or services.
- Sharing of the students home address, phone number, or other information.
- Playing games or using other interactive sites unless specifically assigned by a teacher.
- Any activity that violates a school rule or local, state, or federal law.
- Using email to send any material which may be deemed offensive or a way of bullying.

All student use of the internet will be monitored by a teacher. Students may not log their

personal devices into the PVMS internet server. If a student has any questions about whether a specific activity is permitted, he or she should ask a teacher or head of school. If a student accidentally accessed inappropriate material she or he should back out of that information at once, then inform the teacher or head of school.

MISUSE or Violation of the terms of this agreement will result in suspension of a student’s access to the internet. Any action taken by a student which is in violation of a school rule will be subject to the usual disciplinary actions.

Homework

Inside the classroom expectations are rigorous there-for the students are working hard during the specified work period. We do not want to derail the stamina and love of learning they are building in the classroom by overwhelming them with homework.

In general it is asked that you read with your child daily, while encouraging them to participate in family activities at home such as; helping make a meal, playing board games, visiting the library or a museum, writing in a journal, and exploring the outside world.

Depending on your students' age level your child's teacher may request additional homework be completed such as a project or spelling practice, but the teachers do their best to keep this minimal.

All teachers reserve the right to send home incomplete or have your child complete work during “Extras” such as spanish

o r PE if it is deemed necessary for the academic success of your child.

Collection of Tuition and Fees

PVMS utilizes a third-party system to process tuition payments. Tuition may be paid through Tuio via bank draft or credit debit card.

Pay Schedule

- Annually (5%)
- Semi-Annually (3%)
- Monthly

Delinquent Accounts:

- Tuition is due on the 1st of each month. Late fees will be assessed on the 5th of the month if payment has not been received.
- If an account is 30 days past due and a contract/payment plan cannot be made the student will not be allowed to attend.
- If an account is 60 days past due the account will be sent to collections.

Sibling Discount:

First Child: Full Tuition (Highest Tuition) Second Child: 10% Discount Third and subsequent Child: 10% Discount

Late Pick Up Policy Please be on time to pick up your student. If you are five minutes or more late, a late fee of $1.00 per minute up to 15 minutes will be charged. An additional $50.00 will be charged every proceeding 15 minutes.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Idaho Child Care Program: The Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) serves families with children under the age of 13 or over 13 if a child has a disability, providing child care assistance to working families by paying for a portion of child care. The parent’s share is based on the size of the family and the amount of their income.

PVMS is ICCP certified. ICCP covers children under the age of 5 for full day care, Kindergartners for ½ day care, before care, and aftercare; and 1st-6th graders for before and aftercare. If you are interested in ICCP, please apply through the local Health and Welfare Department.

Scholarships: Scholarships are available through PVMS for primary students depending on funding availability. Scholarships cannot be guaranteed. The number and amount of scholarships given each year varies.

Communications

Clear, respectful communication between teachers, staff, and parents ensures a safe environment for all and is paramount to the success of a child.

Email

Email is the school’s primary form of communication. Weekly school updates from your child's teacher, invoices, and other important information is sent to the email addresses listed on each student’s enrollment record. If you are not receiving emails from the school, please contact the office to verify we have your email address correct in our system.

Text Alert System

This system, Transparent Classroom, allows us to send texts to your cell phones when emergencies happen (snow closings, etc.). PVMS Website

We try to direct parents to our website as a constant resource to find any information they might need. Under the “Parent Resources” tab, you will find the school calendar, lunch calendar, and other important forms.

Parent Teacher Conferences at PVMS

A designated parent teacher conference day (no school for students) and is scheduled for the Fall and Spring. These dates are posted on the PVMS calendar. Conferences need to be scheduled on the designated dates and times posted; please make note of conference dates now and plan ahead.

- Families may request additional conferences at any time throughout the year.
- Every effort should be made to include all parents/guardians at one conference.

Communication from Developmental Levels -- Each educational level at PVMS communicates to families in accordance as to what is developmentally appropriate for that level. Therefore, communication will not be the same in content or frequency from the varying levels.

- Teachers may be contacted any time with a voice mailbox or email.
- Teachers may be available for a minute during drop-off or pick-up, but be aware that this is not a

private time. Any communication requiring more time or privacy should be done via phone, email or scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

- Each staff member has an email address (first name @pocatellovalleymontessori.org). A staff directory

is posted on our website.

Office Hours and Phone Calls

- The office is open between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. when school is in session. Messages may be left on

voicemail after hours.

- Visitors are requested to check in the main office and wear a visitors pass while in the building. ●

Staff members have voicemail boxes. Office staff or voice prompt will guide you to staff voicemail. ● Teachers and/or Assistants will not answer their classroom phones during class hours (8:30-3:00). Please contact the office during these hours if you have concerns that need immediate attention.

Student Records

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

- Parents have the right to access their children’s educational records.
- Pocatello Valley Montessori School, although not a federally funded school, follows FERPA guidelines.

Parents have a right to:

- Inspect and review the student's educational records.
- Seek amendment to the student's educational records that the parent believes to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.
- Consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in a student's educational records
- Transfer of records from Pocatello Valley Montessori School to another school can only be completed after a transfer of records request is signed by a parent/guardian and on file in the school office.

Confidentiality Statement For the purpose of confidentiality, PVMS will not share or discuss any information about any child outside of

o ur staff without written consent. Each child's information is kept in their locked confidential file and is available for your review upon request. If you do wish to share your child's information with other professionals, you will be required to sign a written release.

School Calendar

Our calendar is posted under the Parent Resource tab on the school website. We generally follow the District 25 calendar with a few exceptions.

- A year-long calendar is made available in May for the next school year. This calendar is subject to change.

○ It includes: start and end session dates, vacation dates, staff in-service dates, half days, parent-teacher conference dates as well as any school-wide special events.

Attendance

Consistent attendance is the most important component of success in school, including arriving at school on time. Regular, punctual attendance is necessary for your child to receive the full benefit of the Montessori program. Additionally, it is imperative that the school keeps accurate and timely records for safety.

Attendance Policy

- Families should notify the office by 9:00 a.m. if your child is unable to attend school. Please inform the o ffice if your child contracts a contagious disease. More information can be found under the "Health Policies" section.
- After the 6th absence a notice will be sent to parents to correct the issue. After the 10th absence students' enrollment at PVMS will be reviewed.
- Doctors notes/dentists notes will qualify as excused absences.

Late Arrival / Tardy

- A late arrival/tardy is arriving more than 5 minutes after scheduled arrival.
- Any students arriving late must be brought to the office by the adult that is dropping them off and must be signed in. The office staff will bring your child to their classroom.

Arrival and Dismissal

School Hours Before Care 7:30:8:30 8:20 - Arrival for School Day 11:30 - Half Day - AM Student Dismissal 12:00- Half Day - PM Student Arrival 3:00 - Full Day Dismissal Aftercare Option 3:00-6:00

Parking Lot Safety

When dropping off and picking up your student, please use caution. There may be children unescorted by an adult, students going to or coming from recess, etc. Please do not exceed 5 miles per hour. There is one marked entrance on the North side of the parking lot, and one marked exit on the South side. Please use them respectively. A fine will be applied to anyone jeopardizing the safety of our students, staff, and/or parents.

Toddlers We ask families with students in our Toddler Program to park in the parking lot and walk your child to the Toddler Room door. We strongly encourage parents to allow students to walk into the building independently (rather than being carried). As well as allowing them to build their independence by removing their outside clothing and changing their shoes. When walking to the school it is encouraged that you use sidewalks and crosswalks when able. Please hold hands with the students and encourage them to look both ways for moving vehicles.

Primary We ask families with students in our Primary Program to utilize one of the two car lanes in the main parking lot. Parents are asked to remain in the car; a staff member will greet and assist your child. Children are monitored on their way to class. Signing in and out Proceedure In order to stay in compliance with the state of Idaho, all families need to sign your children in and out everyday. Parents will be assigned a PIN at the beginning of the school year that will be used to sign your child in and out using Transparent Classroom. There are tablets in the office and Primary hallway for families to use to sign children in and out. At the end of every month, families will sign a printed copy of their child’s attendance, as per state policies, and this will be kept in the child’s file.

Elementary We ask families with students in our Elementary Program to utilize the car lane along Maple St. You can drop your students off at the West entrance nearest Yellowstone Ave. A staff member will be at the door to greet your child and assist them to class.

Pick-up authorization

- Students will not be released to anyone other than parents, guardians, or individuals on the child’s

authorized pick up list.

- Families may add or delete people from the pick up authorization list throughout the year. Please

inform the office of changes and they will notify staff.

- Written or email communication is required for short notice changes.
- PVMS has the right to ask for identification and refuse release if authorization is not

clear.

- PVMS reserves the right to refuse release of a student to an impaired parent/guardian

o r authorized pick-up person.

Custody Concerns

PVMS is dedicated to the total development of each unique child. We believe that all children need a loving, supportive family. When a family separates, it is especially difficult for the children. Their loyalties are torn as they love and need both parents. The school will be supportive, open, and welcoming to both parents.

- PVMS will remain neutral in conflicts between parents.
- School records, conferences, meeting information, educational materials and similar

items are available to both parents.

- Best practice supports asking parents/guardians to schedule joint conferences with the

teacher, but accommodations can be made for separate conferences if needed.

- Parents, regardless of the custody arrangement, are entitled to information about the activities of the

school and access to certain records. These records include: medical, dental and school records, day care provider's records, and notification of meetings regarding the child's education.

- Billing information is made available to any person who has signed the financial contract.
- The school will not limit a parent's access to his/her child unless there is a court order on file in the

child's records at the school limiting or specifying particular conditions for a parent's access to the child.

Health Guidelines and Illness Policies

We urge sound judgment in determining whether your child is healthy enough to go to school. This is essential in minimizing exposure to contagious diseases for the whole school community. Your child should be healthy enough to participate in normal activities, including going outdoors at recess.

Illness

If your child is displaying symptoms/signs of illness they should stay home from school. If your child begins showing signs of illness at school, the student will be separated from the class and a parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up their child. Once contacted you will have 45 minutes to pick up your child from school.

Symptoms of illness include but are not limited to:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Eye inflammation, redness or discharge
- Earache, or discharge from ear
- Excessive persistent cough
- Sore Throat
- Rash
- Excessive thick mucus from nose
- Persistent pain
- Needs of care are greater than staff can provide

Students who have been out due to illness need to be fever free without medication (i.e. Tylenol) for 24 hours or when a physician states that the child is no longer contagious before returning to school.

Communicable Disease-- If a child is thought to have or has been diagnosed with a communicable disease (pink eye, chicken pox, strep throat, etc.) PVMS must be notified immediately. Exposure to a communicable disease is reported to the school community via email. PVMS will follow the guidelines set forth from the South Eastern Idaho Health Department in regards to when a student shall be required to stay home from school and when they may return.

Accident/Injury--

All Pocatello Valley Montessori School staff is First Aid and CPR trained and certified. We have a basic first aid kit to treat minor cuts, scratches and insect bites. In the case of a medical emergency, parents will be notified immediately by telephone. In the event a parent cannot be reached, emergency contact person(s) will be called. In serious emergency situations, where medical attention is required, the child will be transported to the nearest hospital via ambulance. If a parent is unavailable, a teacher or other staff member will accompany the child in the ambulance. The parent(s) will be responsible for payment of any medical and/or ambulance expenses incurred as a result of the emergency.

Allergies -- It is required when enrolling at PVMS that the school receives written documentation of any known allergy. If allergy is life-threatening please provide the following:

- Physician identification of allergen(s)
- Physicians prescribed treatment that non-medical professionals can administer.

Medications -- The following steps are required for the school to administer medications. No medication orally or topically can be administered without written consent of parent/guardian.

Medication Administration Policy

All medication must have the proper written permissions submitted to PVMS prior to any administration of said medication to a student. All medications must have a prescribed label provided by the pharmacy--most pharmacies can split the medication into two containers to have one for home and one for the school.

- All medication must be kept in the office, excluding life saving medication that needs to be kept close to the child at all times.
- PVMS will not administer medication to treat symptoms of illness such as fever reducer and other similar medications. If your child has symptoms of illness they should stay home.
- No medications including cough drops, vitamins, etc should be stored in a students backpack.

If children bring medication (including dietary or herbal supplements) to school, it will be confiscated and the parent will be notified and the medication will be returned to the parents. Adverse Reaction to Prescribed Medication If your child has a reaction to medication dispensed at school, you will be notified immediately. If medical help is needed, an ambulance will be called.

Immunizations

According to Idaho State Law, (IDAPA 16.02.15) to enter or transfer into public or private schools, all children in preschool and grades K-12 must meet immunization requirements as outlined by the Department of Health and Welfare. Proof of required immunizations must be on file at the school at the time of enrollment. Copies o f all updated immunizations after registration are also required. If your child has received immunizations in Idaho, our IRIS account will reflect that, and we do not need additional proof. Parents who decline immunization due to medical reasons. religious reasons, or strong personal objection must complete the required Immunization Exemption Form available on the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare website: http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Health/Immunizations/IIP/School_Exemption_Form_English.pdf.

Sexual Abuse and Molestation Prevention Policy

All staff and volunteers are mandated by law to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect. Abuse may be physical, emotional, or sexual. Neglect is the failure, refusal, or inability, for reasons other than poverty, to provide necessary care, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care. Staff and volunteers who report in good faith are immune from civil or criminal liability. To prevent child abuse and neglect, this program:

1) Trains staff to avoid one-staff-one-child situations if at all possible. If scheduling requires one adult to be alone with one child, the parent is informed at pick-up.

2) Designs our classrooms to avoid hidden and secluded areas.

3) Make sure interactions between children and staff can be observed and interrupted.

4) Uses proper names for body parts.

5) Never initiates affection without invitation from this may include body language (a child with arms wide

o pen for a hug), or an appropriate request: “Would you like a hug?”

6) Tell children that if they have questions about someone’s behavior, the best thing they can do is ask about it.

7) Explains that secrets can be harmful.

8) Trains staff in sexual abuse and neglect recognition and prevention.

9) Requires a background check for all staff.

10) Develops positive, non-judgemental relationships with parents.

11) Is alert to signs of stress in parents and struggles in the parent-child interaction.

12) Communicates regularly with parents concerning a children’s progress.

13) Provides education including offering tips for specific challenges.

14) Provides opportunities for parents to become involved in their child’s care.

15) Provides information about community resources.

16) Model developmentally appropriate practices by allowing the parent observational opportunities to see their child interact with child care staff.

17) Provides an atmosphere for parents to share their experiences and develop support systems.

18) Reaches out to grandparents and other extended family members that are involved in a child’s development.

Nutrition Guidelines

As a physician, Dr. Montessori believed in the importance of good nutrition to a child’s development. Modern brain and nutrition research supports the link between mind and body. What your child eats for breakfast and lunch affects her entire day. We encourage you to send an ice pack and food from the basic food groups:

- Protein
- Bread or grain
- Vegetable
- Fruit or 100% fruit juice
- Dairy

We prefer milk, water, or 100% fruit juice in lunchboxes.

**For additional ideas please see the “Nutritional Food Choices Handout” Bags of candy, soda, and coffee will be confiscated and sent home with your child at the end of the day.

Water Bottles

Please send a water bottle with your child to be used in the classroom. Water bottles will be sent home on Fridays to be washed. Please return them on Mondays.

Snacks and Lunches

Part time students will need to bring a snack with them each day, full time students will need to bring snacks and lunch. We encourage you to send your child with nutritional lunch foods from the four basic food groups. Please be sure to send your child including: drinks, napkins, and silverware (if needed). Milk is available for $0.50 at school. Milk punch cards are available ($5.00 for 10 milk cartons). If your child's lunch contains items which need to stay cool, please include an ice pack in your child's lunchbox as we do not have room to refrigerate lunch boxes. Remember to label your child's lunchbox and any containers used for lunch. Catered Lunches: Lunches can also be purchased through our catered lunch program. The monthly Lunch Menu and order form is available on the school website under the parent resource tab.

Security and Safety

The safety and welfare of children, teachers, and families is our number one priority.

Locked Doors.

- Exterior doors are locked at all times. (except for during arrival and dismissal when staff is present)
- All parents/guardians, guests and staff entering and exiting the building are asked to use the side door
- Doors and parking lots are monitored by cameras.

Security System

The building is under 24 hour video monitoring. The building is locked during the school day between drop-off and pick-up hours. Background checks are required for any volunteer who will be alone with children and/or spend more than 12 hours a month on school grounds. At volunteer's expense, background checks are provided by the Police Department for a fee and are effective for a one-year period.

Outdoor Policy -- Students will be outdoors for recess as weather permits. PVMS follows the following guidelines.

Children need fresh air, sunshine, and gross motor movement activities out of doors. During inclement weather we uphold a policy of maintaining physical comfort ability as well as physical safety from the elements. This includes ensuring children are dressed appropriately for the outdoors and watched diligently for any signs of negative effects of the weather including overheating, excessive sun exposure, and severe cold.

Children will not go outside or come in immediately when there is a high level of air pollution, thunder is heard or lightning is seen, or the weather is too severe.

We must encourage children to wear weather appropriate clothing.

The clothing and weather policy is as follows:

- Below 13° with the wind chill factor.

○ Children may not go outside

- 13° to 30° with the windchill factor

○ Children may be outside wearing weather appropriate clothing. The time outside may be adjusted based

o n teacher observation and good judgment.

○ Time outside should not exceed 20 minutes.

- 30° to 89° with windchill or humidity factor

○ Children may be outside wearing weather appropriate clothing. ○ At the first sign of the first child being in distress from the heat, the whole group must come inside ○ Water should be available at all times.

- 90° to 100° with the humidity factor

○ Children may be outside wearing weather appropriate clothing. The time outside may be adjusted based

o n teacher observation and good judgment.

○ Time outside should not exceed 20 minutes. ○ At the first sign of the first child being in distress from the heat, the whole group must come inside ○ Water should be available at all times.

● Children must bring appropriate clothing for weather conditions. During cold months be

sure to send mittens/gloves, boots, snow pants, hat and a warm coat.

● PVMS monitors all weather conditions (wind, approaching storms, air quality, etc) to determine

o utdoor safety before having outdoor recess.

Severe Weather-- Due to PVMS location in a semi-rural area, we generally follow SD25 for school closures. You will be notified via email or text in the event of a school closure.

Supervision in School

In class and at lunch, staff members should be vigilant of students behind them. When possible staff should stand or sit so that they have a good view of the room. Assistants need to be especially mindful of this when the teacher is giving a lesson. While the teacher is giving a lesson, assistants should handle the needs of the children. During recess time, staff members should stand separately in order to best supervise the play area. Staff members are supervising the play area and keeping an eye on any area that could be a potential hiding place. The staff will blow a 5, 3, and 1 minute warning whistle to indicate that the recess time is almost over.

Safety Drills : The following drills will be practices throughout the school year

- Fire Drills - Monthly
- Evacuation Drills - Semi-Annually
- Lock Down and Hide: Annually
- Lock Down and Teach: Annually

Possession of Firearms and Dangerous Weapons on School Grounds

-It shall be unlawful and is a misdemeanor for any person to possess a firearm or other deadly or dangerous weapon while on the property of a school or in those portions of any building, stadium or other structure on school grounds which, at the time of the violation, were being used for an activity sponsored by or through a school in this state or while riding school provided transportation.-

It is a forfeiture for a person to knowingly possess a firearm (concealed or otherwise) at a place that the person knows or has reasonable cause to believe is within 1,000 feet of the grounds of a school. Wis. Stat. §

948. 605(2)(a).

Safe Sleep Practices

1) Caregivers will be in direct observation of toddlers and preschoolers by sight and sound during sleep, while

going to sleep, and waking up.

2) Individual cots will be provided for each child who spends more than 4 hours a day at PVMS.

3) Cots must be placed away from window blinds and draperies.

4) Cots must be placed 3 feet apart

5) Sleeping surfaces cannot touch the sleeping surface of another child.

6) Pads are used of washable material, and must be cleaned and sanitized daily.

7) All bedding must be stored separate from other bedding and sent home weekly to be cleaned

Smoking and Alcohol Use Policy Per state mandate, the use of tobacco, in any form, is prohibited in the school building and on school grounds. The use of illegal drugs and controlled substances is prohibited in the school building and on school

grounds. Alcohol is not to be consumed on the premises when school is in session. Events that include alcohol must be approved by the Head of School and must be conducted in accordance with Wisconsin liquor laws.

Parking Lot Safety

When dropping off and picking up your student, please use caution. There may be children unescorted by an adult, students going to or coming from recess, etc. Please do not exceed 5 miles per hour. There is one marked entrance on the North side of the parking lot, and one marked exit on the South side. Please use them respectively. A fine will be applied to anyone jeopardizing the safety of our students, staff, and/or parents.

Discipline and Behavior Management

Pocatello Valley Montessori School supports each student's development as a whole, well-rounded, articulate, caring human beings. Our goal is to help each student attain the independence and self-confidence needed to become self-disciplined. The Montessori staff provides a community with structure and order that aids students in developing self-discipline. Behavior is based on cooperation, logical and natural consequences, fairness, consistency and the belief that all people have the ability to look at themselves honestly, and to change and grow. Pocatello Valley Montessori School's common goal is the creation of a supportive educational environment where enthusiasm for learning is fostered. There are certain rights, responsibilities, and consequences that contribute to that environment.

Behavior at PVMS is based on a positive attitude toward children, awareness of the developmental psychology

o f children, and the unique ability to view and address each child's needs as an individual. Students are taught

that PVMS is a peaceful school based on mutual respect and care for the community. Teachers model appropriate behaviors and teach students problem-solving skills and conflict resolution strategies. The goal is to help children arrive at inner discipline through concentrated work. The child is assisted in developing the skills necessary to control his own actions to develop self-discipline. Natural and or logical consequences are used as a means of helping the child in order to develop inner limits. Teachers explain the reason for the limits

o r rules to be sure children understand the need for them, and strive to create an environment to promote

learning, where children feel safe and secure. Peace Curriculum: Peaceful interaction is inherent within the Montessori philosophy. We use the Peace Curriculum to teach students to be skilled peacemakers. Students learn that their behavior can affect others in both positive and negative ways. We help children practice skills that demonstrate compassion, affirmation of

o thers, active listening, respectfulness, and peaceful conflict resolution.

PVMS encourages students to respect differences. This is done while fostering an environment free from bullying and intimidation, whether physical, social, emotional, or verbal. The school's focus, based on Montessori Pedagogy is on preventative measures for such behaviors, by teaching children how to:

- Be caring and courteous
- Cooperate with others
- Deal with angry feelings
- Stand up for themselves without being aggressive
- Respect and celebrate the unique qualities of others
- Make appropriate behavior and academic choices

Teachers at all age levels provide lessons in-appropriate behaviors through direct instruction, modeling, and reminders. Teachers support and help children in solving their own problems. Clear guidelines are based on three major propositions:

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Respect for the environment

The staff at PVMS will

- Work with the children to develop reasonable classroom ground rules.
- Make rules clear to all students.
- Explain the standards for behavior through group meetings (circle time), modeling and dialog. ●

Report and record school discipline problems to the Head of School and family using the School Discipline Referral form Our approach to discipline is based on empowerment, mutual respect, and trust. Corporal punishment is prohibited. Methods of discipline or interactions that frighten, demean, or humiliate a child are prohibited. Our ground rules are designed to foster a co-operative learning community. They are meant to reinforce respect for others, for the classroom materials and furnishings, and for the community as a whole. The following list includes our fundamental guidelines that help the children learn how to work in their classroom.

- Treat others with kindness.
- Use quiet voices in the classroom.
- Care for our classroom and class materials.
- Use a mat for working on the floor.

When any student at PVMS finds it difficult to meet the school's expectation of positive conduct, every effort will be made to bring the student, family, and staff together to achieve a solution.

Toddler Specific Discipline

Our toddler age children are experimenting with and exploring their limits, expectations, and personal boundaries as they relate, in some cases for the first time, with children their own age. It is not uncommon to see behaviors such as biting, hitting, and pushing. These behaviors are not necessarily acts of aggression but can stem from a variety of reasons, including frustration and the inability to communicate verbally, physical motor and sensory needs for biting, chewing, and cause and effect exploration. We approach these issues by encouraging appropriate behaviors (using simple words, i.e. "that hurts" or "please stop"), providing appropriate avenues for biting/chewing, and using redirection. While this type of behavior in toddlers is developmentally common, repeated hitting and biting can jeopardize

o ur ability to maintain learning environments that are safe, both physically and emotionally, for all of our

children. As such, we will call on your partnership to support your child and the rest of the class environment during what can be a difficult, but temporary time. This partnership will include open, direct communication about these types of behaviors occurring at home and at school, employing common strategies and vocabulary to support your child, and perhaps even ending the day early for a child who is repeatedly hitting or biting. In the event that you are called to pick-up your child early, please know that it is only after many strategies have been utilized in the class, and is done so in support of all our students, including your child, and without any association of shame or guilt. We understand that even though this behavior is temporary, these can be

difficult moments for families and toddlers who are biting or being bitten, and we appreciate your partnership.

Parent Involvement

Respecting School and Staff: PVMS only functions when we act as a community. Mutual respect between parents and staff is critical to this community. Please treat our school, staff, and other parents with kindness and empathy in all interactions both in person and on other platforms (i.e. social media). Classroom Observations--Montessori education is based on the art of observation. We encourage parents/guardians or other family members to observe. We ask that you wait to observe your child's classroom until 6 weeks of school. After this time our classrooms have started to reach a state of "normalization" and it is less disruptive. Please schedule your observation with your child's teacher and check in at the office.

Basics of an Observation:

- An adult-sized chair will be available for you to sit upon entering the room. This seat will provide a

good view for observing the entire classroom.

- Children may say hello or ask what you are doing. Continue to observe after a quick smile or hello. A gentle reminder to go back to their work may be expressed.
- Please stay seated during your observation.
- An observation guide to help you make the most of your visit will be provided.
- Questions should be written on an observation guide and the teacher will get back to you.
- You are welcome to observe for approximately 20 minutes.

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Family Service Hours-- It is recognized that tuition alone is insufficient to fund all expenses aimed at providing excellent educational environments. Thus additional support – in time and money – is necessary to offer our high quality of education and services. Being a trustee- governed/non-profit school, the team approach where “everyone pitches in” is the only way to keep costs down and educational excellence soaring. Family Service Hour requirements are:

- Each family must fulfill a minimum of 10 hours for part-time students and 20 hours for full time students of unpaid service each school year.
- Extended family members can complete service hours on behalf of an enrolled family. ● Service can be done in a variety of ways at school, home, or by donation of goods. Emails and weekly update newsletter often lists volunteer opportunities.
- Volunteering to help at school events and attending PTO meetings count toward hours. ● Parents/guardians are responsible for tracking service hours through our online service form ● Service hours must be completed by the last school day in April to be counted for the current school year.
- Families who do not meet the required service hours by the last school day in April or choose to OPT-Out must “buy out” the balance of those hours.
- “Buy out” rate is $20.00 per remaining service hours. Parents/guardians will receive a separate invoice for any balance due.

Parent Teacher Organization

The PTO is an organization whose main purpose is to support Pocatello Valley Montessori in its goal to create an optimal Montessori environment for its children by:

- Building and maintaining a strong sense of community
- Promoting volunteerism both within and beyond the school community
- Supporting and aiding the faculty and administration in their activities
- Raising and dispersing funds for needs of the school community
- Providing parents with educational resources

Please help us achieve these goals by serving in PTO and at school.

Family Certification

Because Montessori education encompasses an attitude and approach to life and learning, it is beneficial for parents to understand Montessori methods. Implementing some of these approaches encourages children to link home and school life. This includes promoting creativity, self-guided play, curiosity, and positive discipline. To foster this link, Pocatello Valley Montessori School offers a Montessori Family Certification. It is a simple and meaningful way that promotes implementing Montessori methods. It also provides support for parents as your children navigate early childhood and beyond.

Certification Steps

1. Join PVMS'S PTO: Joining PTO is easy and offers opportunities to get involved with what your child is doing in the classroom. The PTO Facebook page is also a great resource of the latest information! (PVMS Parent TeacherOrganization)

2. Attend PTO Meetings: Attend at least 4 PTO meetings throughout the year (these are counted towards your "service hours"). We value your input about school events. PTO meetings are also a great way to meet other parents and build a strong school community.

3. Read a book from the Montessori library and share your thoughts: See Head of School to check out a book that will help support Montessori methods and/or positive parenting. Share your takeaway--either at a PTO meeting or on the PTO Facebook page!

Once you complete these steps, you will be PVMS Family Certified and will be recognized for your efforts and support. Your family will be added to our Montessori Family Certification Wall & will be rewarded with PVMS

Special Activities

Field Trips During the course of the school year, field trips may be taken to local areas of interest in coordination with an area being studied in class or to take advantage of special community events. The purpose of field trips is to enhance learning and all field trips are age-appropriate. Parents will be notified in advance of an upcoming trip as well as any associated fees and may volunteer to chaperone or drive.

When riding in a private vehicle, all children must be in appropriate car seats and seat belts during travel. On field trip days, be sure to leave your child's car seat at the school when you drop off your child. The car seat must be clearly labeled with your child's name. If a child does not have a signed permission slip and a car seat, they will not be allowed to attend the field trip that day. Volunteer drivers must fill out the Field Trip Driver Information Form and submit proof of a valid driver's license, registration, and automobile insurance to the front desk before they will be allowed to transport children. The school's insurance does not cover field trip volunteers and vehicles. When a parent volunteers to drive, he o r she is also agreeing to act as a chaperone for the children they are transporting for the duration of the field trip.

Clothing and Toys

PVMS supports independence in each child. You can also do this at home by allowing the student to choose their own clothing each day fosters independence, and we encourage you to allow your child to do so. We enjoy the creative combinations that children sometimes select, and celebrate their unique sense of style. Help your child select clothing that allows her to move freely, engage in all activities, and manage the restroom. Sneakers or soft leather shoes are most appropriate for the classroom. In order to create a distraction-free learning environment, we encourage families to choose clothing and lunch boxes that are free of commercial characters. All primary children are required to have a change of clothing including underwear in case of an accident or a spill. Toddlers are required to have a change of clothes, and may need multiple changes of clothing while developing toilet independence. Your child's teacher will let you know if additional clothes are needed. Please do not allow your child to bring toys or electronics to school. Any items deemed to fall within these categories or that become disruptive to the class will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.

Toilet Independence for Toddlers

One important developmental milestone for the toddler age is that of toileting independence. Like all areas of development, toileting independence progresses at varying rates for children and requires nurturing support both at school and at home. To facilitate effective collaboration between the parents and the teachers, below are indicators for toileting readiness:

1. Shows interest in toilet training
2. Dislikes dirty diapers
3. Has dry diapers for at least two hours during the day
4. Can sit still and coordinate movements
5. Can follow three or four steps directions
6. Has begun to dress and undress himself
7. Can verbalize when she needs to go

If your child is showing some of these indicators, they may be ready. Please discuss with your child's teacher how to begin the toilet training process. Diaper Policy for Toddlers Children using diapers need to bring them clearly labeled with the child's name. Please send 4-6 diapers daily (labeled with your child's name) in the child's backpack. Your teacher will notify you if more supplies are

needed. Parents requesting use of skin ointment after diaper changing must provide a PVMS Permission to Give Medication Form (located at the end of this booklet) with the tube of ointment labeled with the child's name. If PVMS has to provide diapers for your child there will be a charge of $0.50 per diaper. Cloth diapers may be used. Parents should supply and label a diaper pail. Used cloth diapers must be picked up with the diaper bag each day. Teachers and parents will discuss independent toileting as soon as the child signals readiness. If a child has more than two accidents in a day they will need to wear a diaper or pull up for the remainder

o f the day. The classroom teacher will continue to take them to the toilet regularly to encourage toilet independence.

Toilet Independence for Primary

Children enrolled in the Primary classrooms and above must be fully toilet-independent before attending school . Toilet independent children: 1

- No longer wear diapers (disposable or cloth) or disposable underwear (pull-ups). ●

Can tell the teacher when they need to go to the bathroom, and does so consistently. ● Can attend to their own hygiene. Accidents Accidents happen. Accidents by definition, are unusual incidents which happen infrequently. If a child has multiple accidents in a relatively short period of time, a teacher and Head of School will meet with parents to explore

strategies to resolve the issue. If the child continues to have excessive accidents even after multiple strategies have been tried, PVMS may ask you to:

- Withdraw your child from school and place his or her name at the top of our waiting list for the next semester. Deposit and tuition fees already paid are non-refundable; however, if your child is placed in a class at a later date, tuition already paid will be applied.
- Pay half tuition to hold your child's spot (for up to two months) until toilet independence has been reestablished.

In Conclusion

We encourage our parents to refer back to this handbook or to call our office with questions concerning our policies and procedures. We are excited to welcome you to our school, and hope you find enjoyment in the community we have created. We encourage you to participate in school functions, the parent teacher o rganization, and other community events, learn more about the Montessori method of education, Maria Montessori, and how to implement Montessori practices in your home. We have many helpful resources available. Thank you for taking the time to read our Family Handbook. We know this will help us all to have a great experience together.

1 Children with a documented medical or developmental disability that inhibits or prevents toilet training are exempt from this requirement.