



SMS Newsletter

August–September 2022

Welcome and Welcome Back! Here we go! We are so excited to be kicking off our first full school year here at Shenandoah Montessori! Welcome to our new families and welcome back to those of you we haven't seen in a while!

We have a busy year ahead of us; let's get started!

Cubby Bags We have purchased canvas tote bags, which we are calling cubby bags, to make it easier for the children to carry their belongings in and out of the classroom.

Cubby bags can take the place of a backpack, and will travel between home and school each day. When children are dismissed, we will help them put their work, leftover snack, and water bottle into their cubby bag to bring home.

The lunch bag shelf has a new location in the coat room. We want to avoid a daily traffic jam in the hallway and hope that this new set-up and the addition of the cubby bags will help streamline the drop-off process for everyone.



Sign In / Sign Out It is a state regulation that all parents must sign their child in and out of our program each day. The sign-in/out book is located on the bookshelf directly in front of the main door.

If your child will be out for an appointment, be picked up by someone else, or you have a planned absence, please be sure to let us know **in writing**. You can write it in the notebook on the sign-in desk or send an email.

If a person other than a parent will be picking up your child on a regular basis, please let us know, **in writing**, that this person has permission to pick up on a flexible schedule.



Temporary Schedule Change We will be continuing a modified “summer schedule” for the next few weeks and will return to our normal school day schedule after Labor Day.

This will allow us to take advantage of the morning shade on the playground until we are through the August heat.

The children will eat morning snack at 9:15 and then we will go outside for about 45 minutes to play. When we come back inside, we will resume our morning work time and have circle time right before our 12:00 dismissal and the start of lunch.

Please try to have your child here by 9:00 so they can eat their snack in the classroom with

Lunch Bags If your child stays for lunch please remember that it is a state requirement that the day's date be clearly marked on the lunch bag. This tells us that the lunch was prepared to be eaten on that day. There is a small basket with a roll of tape and a marker on the lunch bag shelf for this purpose.

The lunch bag shelf has moved and is now located next to the cubbies! We hope this will help keep the hallway less congested in the mornings.



Extra Clothes Please be sure to keep your child's “extra clothes” bag stocked with at least 2 sets of clothes.

Accidents happen!

Help us get your child cleaned up and back to class quickly by ensuring that they have underwear, socks, pants, shirts, and even extra shoes to put on.

The air conditioning can get chilly, especially after nap! It's a good idea to keep a sweatshirt or sweater in your child's coat cubby just in case.



Nap and Rest Time It is a state licensing requirement that children who stay at our program until 3:00 or 5:00 must be given the opportunity to rest or sleep until they are 5 years old. We have nap cots and sheets for all the 3 and 4 year olds who stay past 12:00.

Please be sure to send your child to school each MONDAY with a clean blanket and a small stuffed toy, if they want a stuffy to sleep with. Blankets and toys should be labeled with your child's name — a piece of tape is fine, if you don't want to permanently mark something — and placed in their coat cubby. We will bring everything into the classroom at naptime.

On FRIDAYS the cots and sheets are washed and blankets and toys are sent home to be washed and returned.

We strongly encourage you to send a blanket and toy that do not need to travel home every day, but understand that some children won't rest without their special things.

We give the children at least 30-45 minutes of rest time to allow those who will fall asleep a chance to do so. After that time, children who are not asleep are allowed to put their shoes back on and find a quiet work in the classroom.

Once a child turns 5, they are no longer required to rest, but we still encourage a restful period of 30 minutes where we read chapter books and do quiet work together.



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If you've been with us awhile, we'd really appreciate it if you'd leave a review / recommendation and tell us what you think!



Books! Books! Books! We are on a mission to grow our school library this year! Here's how you can help:

Amazon Wish List We have added a whole bunch of titles to our Amazon wish list and we will continue to do so throughout the year. Each month, as our science and geography topics change, so to do our book needs!

[Click here for our Amazon List](#)

Scholastic Book Club The Scholastic Book Club is a great way to add to your child's library (and ours), without breaking the bank! You can find great books at a great price, and all purchases help us earn **bonus points**, which we can use to buy more books for the school! Win, win!

[Click here for our Scholastic Book Club page](#)

Donations If you have gently used books you'd like to donate, please let us know. Our preference is for fiction and non-fiction related to our science and geography curriculum, but any good quality story books are welcome.



Tuition Payments You will receive an invoice via email for monthly tuition payments. You can pay by check or use the QuickBooks link to pay your tuition online.

Invoices are sent to one parent's email address to avoid confusion or accidentally over paying. If you prefer the invoice be sent to a different email address, please let us know and we will make that change.

Tuition is due by the first of the month, unless noted otherwise.