



CORNERSTONE

MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1611 Ames Avenue ♦ St. Paul, MN 55106

651-774-5000 Phone

651-298-0039 Fax

www.cornerstone-elementary.org

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Dear Cornerstone Families,

We are so excited to welcome you to the 2020-2021 academic year at Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School! For new families, this packet contains important information about beginning school at Cornerstone and, for returning families, an excellent review.

This year will be different from any other we have experienced at Cornerstone. I encourage you to read through the Parent Handbooks, which will be available to you at our Back to School Fair, as well as the Safe Learning Plan. These documents provide a detailed summary of our response to Covid-19, as well as the guidelines and policies that ensure our community is safe, healthy, and taken care of during this stressful time.

Communication

Communication is an essential part of our work with your family here at Cornerstone. Good communication between parents and the teachers gives your child consistency between home and school, which builds security and confidence. We welcome your questions and involvement! We are a team in the education of your child. Each lead guide has an email address and cell phone number, either of which you can use to contact your child's teacher directly. These phone numbers and email addresses can be found in the Parent Program Handbook and the Safe Learning Plan. Please note that school staff may not respond outside of school hours.

Via our website and NotifyMe you will receive weekly news updates to keep you informed of everything happening at Cornerstone!

Items to Bring

For children who are learning on-site, the following items are needed, in addition to the school supplies listed on a separate sheet in this packet:

- Indoor shoes: Please help your child select a pair of closed-toe shoes that are comfortable and secure. We ask that you refrain from purchasing shoes with excessive decorations, particularly with characters and/or lights. Please label these shoes with your child's name.
- An extra set of clothes: Children occasionally get wet or dirty during the course of the day. Please send extra items (tops, bottoms, underwear and socks) in a large, zip-locked bag so that they may be easily stored. Please be sure to label your child's clothing with their

initials or name. If clothing becomes wet during the day, we will launder it here unless you prefer otherwise.

Please plan to bring these items for children of all ages. Even older children need to change their clothes sometimes!

- **Face masks:** All CMES children are required to wear a mask when indoors, unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with Cornerstone administration. Please provide your child with a clean face mask each day. Additional masks will be available on-site for children who do not have one.

In order to avoid contamination in our facility, please avoid sending your child with anything other than clothing and lunches.

School Calendar

Enclosed in this packet is a school calendar for 2020-2021, as well as a list of our parent partnership/parent education events. We strongly encourage you to note important dates, including parent-teacher conferences, teacher in-service days, and parent events, in your personal calendars now. The parent events are wonderful opportunities to learn more about the Montessori pedagogy and the work your children are doing, and to connect with the community as a whole. Please note they will primarily be held on Zoom this year. We will send additional reminders in the days leading up to all school-related activities.

Back to School Fair

We look forward to seeing *all families* on **Wednesday, September 2, sometime between 2:00 and 6:00 at Cornerstone for the Back to School Fair!** The Back to School Fair is an opportunity to meet staff and administration, turn in required paperwork, and receive a flu shot. We ask that you also bring any technology you may be using for distance learning, so that we can get you set up with the necessary applications and troubleshoot as needed. This year only one adult may attend with their child; all individuals entering the building must wear a face mask. Sign-ups will be required in advance: please visit myconferencetime.com/mtcm to register for your 30-minute slot.

Parents/guardians new to Cornerstone are invited to also attend a Zoom orientation on Tuesday, September 1, 5:30-6:30. This session will introduce you to the Montessori program, as well as to the logistics of day to day life here at Cornerstone.

Enjoy the waning days of your summer! Please reach out at any time with questions – we are excited to see you online in September!



Alyssa Schwartz
Head of School