



Dear Sussex Montessori Families,

It is with great excitement and warmth that we welcome you and your family to the opening of Sussex Montessori School! You and your child will be the first class to experience premier Montessori education in Sussex County! You have chosen a very special educational experience for your child; one that is time-tested, child-centered and invites and encourages hands-on learning and exploration. You have chosen to share your child with us and as a school community, we take that responsibility very seriously.

Maria Montessori often spoke of the importance of keenly knowing each child as an individual and adapting their educational practice to their unique learning style. Our dedicated and well-trained staff of teachers are prepared to meet your child wherever they are and to guide them to where they need to be, building a strong sense of independence, confidence, and motivation along the way. Whether your child is coming to us in the hybrid model or remotely, our commitment is to provide the very best Montessori education and experience. Lessons will be individual, small, and large group and will be offered both live and recorded for ease of family scheduling. All recorded lessons will be uploaded to each teacher's individual web page on the SMS website for easy access. Related Arts live sessions will be on Wednesdays with follow-up recorded lessons uploaded weekly.

You will be hearing from your child's teacher in the next few weeks. Your child's teacher will be calling to introduce themselves to you and will set up a personal zoom call to "meet" your child face to face. During this time together, your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions you and your child may have. This will be a time to get to know each other, and to talk about all the exciting things that are awaiting them! You will also be receiving a colored index card with your child's name, teacher's name and bus hub location written on it. (The color of the index card will indicate to us, and to the bus drivers, just exactly what bus your child should be riding.) Please make sure your child is wearing this every time they come to school for the first two weeks. Additionally, you will receive your child's schedule and information about where to find the links to recorded lessons before the opening of school. The school calendar can be found on the school website (www.sussexmontessoricharter.com). Our **Open House** will be virtual this year and is scheduled for September 23, 2020 at 6:30 PM for grades K-1 and September 30, 2020 at 6:30 for grades 2 and 3. Please check your email for an upcoming zoom link from Elaine Mulford.

As a school, we are committed to the health and well-being of every child and teacher in our care. As such, we have contracted with an outstanding cleaning crew who will help keep our campus well stocked with hand-washing soap and hand sanitizer and keep our classrooms and surrounding areas sanitized and regularly cleaned. We will be vigilant as a staff and model for our children good, healthy responsible habits. We will all be wearing masks, will wash our hands frequently, and when possible, take our learning outdoors. Our children will be wearing masks to keep themselves and each other safe. We will provide each child with a green lanyard with a clip-on for their mask. Please find in your packet, three (3) forms from our nurse Jennifer Passwaters. Please fill these out and send them to school with your child on the first day of school. If you are remote, please either drop them off at campus, or put them in the mail to us. (24960 Dairy Lane, Seaford, DE 19973)

The supply list for each child is listed here: <https://sussexmontessoricharter.com/school-supplies/>. Pencil boxes will be waiting for your child in their cubby at school. If you can provide your own supplies, please have your child bring them on their first day of school. Our wonderful, caring community has been regularly dropping off supplies at the barn so that no child will be without the tools they need. We will make sure every child is taken care of and has what they need. When your child is engaged in remote learning, (whether hybrid or fully remote), we strongly suggest that you provide your child with the same set of supplies and a dedicated work area. As best you can, avoid interrupting your child when they are working. It is important that they be given uninterrupted

“thinking time”. We are working to build focus and stamina. Please encourage your child to keep this special work area neat, organized, and clean. For those who are choosing hybrid learning, and/or when our remote learners

choose to return to the classroom, **we ask that you provide your child with a pair of indoor shoes to be left at school.** This will help to keep our classrooms neat and clean.

Buses and Car Riders: Bus hubs and times are posted here: <https://sussexmontessoricharter.com/bus-routes/> Please remember that a responsible adult is required to stay with the child awaiting the arrival of the bus in the morning and must meet the child at the bus hub at the end of the day.

Car riders, please pull in the driveway and veer to the **LEFT**. Drop off and pick up for car riders is in front of the Carriage House. **Please do NOT get out of your car;** staff will be waiting next to the Carriage House (behind the farmhouse and directly across from the barn) to help your child exit the car. Please make sure you and your child are wearing masks when dropping off and picking up your child. Have your child behind the driver seat on the left side of the car to ensure a safe exit. We ask that you put your child’s name on a large piece of paper in bold letters on the dashboard for pick up at the end of the day. Morning drop off begins at 7:45. **The school day begins at 8:15 and ends at 3:30.** Once your child is safely in the hands of a staff member, you may **proceed to the left** and follow behind the new quads and back out to the driveway to exit. Please be patient as we navigate car line these first few weeks. All staff will be outside to assist with directions and will be wearing bright orange vests.

Breakfast and Lunch: Your child may bring a packed lunch or sign up to buy breakfast and/or lunch at school. The menu will be posted on the school website. Please set up an account to pay online at: <https://www.k12paymentcenter.com/>. If you need to pay in cash, please, be prepared to pay the exact amount. Teachers do not keep cash in the classrooms. Costs are as follows:

Breakfast: \$1.60	Reduced Cost: .25
Lunch: \$2.75	Reduced Cost: .40

You will be notified in writing of your free or reduced status. If you did NOT fill out a Free and Reduced Lunch form yet, please find the attached form and return to our School Nurse (Jennifer Passwaters) as soon as possible.

We have contracted with School Messenger who will help us to provide important school updates, any emergency messages or just general information via text, email, and phone. You will be invited to participate so please watch for that email invitation coming soon!

A few of our teachers are interested in forming a **running club** for Sussex Montessori students. This will be an after-school club that will teach stretching, stamina, and healthy habits. Be on the look-out for more information inviting your child to join! This will be open to 1st – 3rd graders. Parents will need to pick their children up on campus after each club meeting.

Dear families, despite these challenging times, we as a school are dedicated to ensuring that your child has a safe, engaging, happy, wonderful, growing school experience! We cannot wait to work in partnership with you as together we watch your child soar! Please know we are here for you. We are only a phone call away.

“A child who has become master of his acts through long and repeated exercises, and who has been encouraged by the pleasant and interesting activities in which he has been engaged, is a child filled with health and joy and remarkable for his calmness and discipline.”

Maria Montessori—The Discovery of the Child

Fondly,

Lisa Coldiron
Head of School