

Dear New and Returning Parents and Guardians:

I am excited to inform you that your child will be a student in my upper elementary classroom for 2010-2011 at MPA. Also, I am pleased to let you know that Cindy Snell will be returning as my assistant. She and I have enjoyed working together and this will be our fourth year at MPA as a teaching team.

In addition to teaching using the Montessori methodology and curriculum, I love to integrate all of the subjects through semester-long studies. This year, we will be focusing on studying Africa and Ancient Egypt the first part of the year. We have planned to see the King Tut exhibit at the Denver Art Museum in December. Children will be doing an individual research project on an African country using PowerPoint. In the second part of the year we will shift our focus to US history. We will focus on colonial life and the American Revolution. Each year our class puts on a musical theatrical production. And if that were not enough excitement, we will also transform our room into a 1700's colonial market town for the day.

One of the most common questions I get asked each year is about my homework policy. You can expect your child to have approximately 40-60 minutes of nightly homework. In addition to reading nightly and keeping a formal graded reading log, your child can expect to complete nightly math homework, study for weekly spelling/vocabulary tests, complete weekly language packets, and make corrections of classroom work mistakes. Children will have long-term and short-term research projects, as well. These may require outside trips to your public library.

We will use individual planners to monitor work completed and organize assignments. Your child will receive an official planner the first day of school. Parents/Guardians will be expected to initial the planner daily and review homework nightly. We will also use the planner for written communication (i.e. notes about early pick up, play dates, scheduled absences, etc.)

Your child will be expected to complete daily classroom assignments independently, accurately, and efficiently. Children not completing their work will be required to complete it at home in addition to their nightly/weekly homework assignments. Children missing school will be required to complete classroom work at home upon returning to the classroom. We do not provide make-up work in advance. In addition to the CSAP test, your children will be formally assessed in math, language, and spelling/vocabulary weekly with periodic tests in writing, science, and social studies. I use a percentage and traditional A-F grading scale for tests.

It is important to arrive in the classroom on time. Our time is precious and I like to use each moment we have; therefore, I begin instruction at 8am. Your child will receive a tardy slip at the office if he or she arrives in the classroom at 8:11 am or later. We use an atomic radio clock to keep time (it is as accurate as a cell phone). Excessive tardy arrivals are disruptive to the entire classroom and especially to your child's learning. Children arriving in the classroom after 8:00 a.m. are responsible for making up any missed work. We may use recess time to allow children to make up assignments missed due to absences or tardies. After the first day of school, we expect that all children will be dropped off at car line in the morning and should be able to walk to the classroom independently without assistance.

During the school year, I will send a weekly newsletter via e-mail. I also send occasional reminders and updates to keep you informed of all events and activities. Please keep me informed of any changes to your e-mail address, as this will be our primary form of communication. In addition to our specials' schedule, I post a paper copy of the newsletter outside the classroom.

For additional information about the school year, all parents (new and returning) should expect to attend Back-to-School night on September 2nd at 6:30pm in room 205. You can learn more about my teaching style and me that evening. In addition, each family will be responsible for one supply item for the classroom. You will have the opportunity to select an item that evening. Families not in attendance will be assigned items not chosen. I will also have a sign-up sheet for volunteer opportunities. If you have any questions about the supply list (provided at registration or on the website).

It is usual for children new to upper elementary to be excited and a little nervous about changing levels. If you feel that your child (or you☺) would benefit from meeting with me briefly the week before school starts, please do not hesitate to contact me to set up a time where you can stop by for an informal visit. E-mail works the best! Teachers have a lot of required meetings that first week, so definitely do not stop by without contacting me first to find a time when I will be available to meet.

To my returning families, I am so excited to continue our most amazing journey. This year promises to be as magical as last!

Mrs. Tanya

#	Required Personal Use - Please have labeled first day of school	
2	large glue sticks (labeled)	
1	composition notebook (new, bound, hardback, any color)	
1	5-Subject spiral notebook: new, wide ruled, any color	
1*	set highlighter pens (1 yellow, 1 pink, 1 blue, 1 green)	
1*	Red poly-plastic 3 pronged two pocket folder (RED FOLDER for homework)	
1*	Blue poly-plastic 3 pronged two pocket folder (BLUE FOLDER for class work)	
1*	USB flash drive (1 or 2 GB) (on lanyard or key chain w/name labeled)	
1*	white (only) 2 inch three-ring binder	
1*	zippered pencil pouch: any color, must be SOFT ~nylon, plastic, or cloth	
1*	pair of scissors which fits inside pencil pouch	
1*	eraser and/or pencil cap erasers (keep some at home to replace throughout year)	
1*	handheld pencil sharpener (may need to replace during the year)	
1*	6 inch ruler with both centimeters and inches (must fit in pencil pouch)	
1*	protractor for measuring angles (CLEAR is easiest for children to read!)	

*items can be re-used from previous year(s)

#	Required Classroom Use - do NOT label	
24	#2 pencils Ticonderoga or Eagle brand only brands that children can sharpen easily	
1	package 24 Crayola colored pencils (Crayola brand only)	
1	package thick markers Crayola Classic Colors (Crayola brand only)	
1	package thin markers Crayola Classic Colors (Crayola brand only)	
1	box of tissue -no lotion please (small "cube" sized preferred)	
2	packages of ruled white index note cards	
1	package loose notebook filler paper wide-ruled	
1	package loose graph paper filler paper	

	SPECIFIC GRADES BRING for Classroom Use - do NOT label	
Fourth grade	1 ream plain white copy paper 2 large glue sticks	
Fifth grade	1 ream solid colored copy paper (bright or pastel colors for publishing area- can have multiple colors in ream)	
Sixth grade	2 containers Clorox Wipes 2 pads POST-IT notes (solid, any color)	
ALL grades	Each family will be responsible for providing a classroom supply item. List will be available at Back-to-School Night (September 2) to select item. Families not in attendance will have item assigned.	

