



Mission

Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School Mission

CCMPCS's mission is to build a community in which students, parents and staff work together to educate the "whole child," the sum of the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual parts. We will implement a Montessori based curriculum to give students the hands-on tools they need to be active learners both in and outside the classroom. By offering English with Spanish enrichment or dual-language Spanish instruction to all students, we will provide a unique opportunity for students to learn a second language at an early age and develop multicultural awareness.

Principals Message



We are wrapping up an extraordinary year. It is typical to reflect on everything that has happened over the past year and all the special time we spent together. This year has been a doosie for sure! There truly have been bright spots, they are just different than what we are used to reflecting on. Our staff have risen and gone above and beyond expectations with every new adjustment to schedules and delivery models and have worked to make meaningful connections with students and families in this ever changing instructional environment. The entire family unit has been involved in each child's education on a different level than they had been previously and have risen to the occasion beautifully. There have been struggles for sure and we truly don't know how this year will effect us in the coming months or years, but what we do know is that we have consistently worked together for the benefit of our children and will continue to do so. We will be patient with each other and show support along the way. We will focus on gains and successes and the joy of being together again.



Time continues to pass as evidenced by the "Upcoming Events". Orientation will be happening soon for new primary students. Our annual Eighth Grade Celebration is quickly approaching. This is the close of a chapter we will not forget. We have sorely missed the time we would have spent with our students this year. The eighth grade students who will be leaving us were in kindergarten when CCM opened. There are many words I could use to describe them; independent, caring, creative, supportive, inquisitive, athletic, musical, artistic, out of the box thinkers are only a few descriptors for this amazing group. We had looked forward to this class providing exceptional leadership to our school community. They will take their combined skills with them as they move to high school and we will be watching as they move do amazing things in this world!

Then on to next year! Please pay close attention to the various start dates for students. Kindergarten will be starting early this year and we continue to have our P3 students join us a few days after the older students. Our annual Open House will be August 16th. This is a time for children to bring all school supplies and meet their teachers. Please come at the assigned grade level time to help with parking as well as congestion in the classrooms. It is clear that connections with students and between students will be the first, and most critical, on the agenda in August and throughout the year.

I would like to humbly thank each and every one of the CCM Community for the tireless efforts made to support each other over the last year (and a couple months). Please take some time to reflect as we move forward together. Have a fabulous summer! See you IN PERSON in August!

Marilyn Horan,

Principal

Upcoming Events

6.9 New Primary Student **Orientation**

6.9 CCM Facilities **Meeting** @ 6:30

6.9 CCM GC **Meeting** @ 7:00

6.10 8th Grade Celebration @ The SkyStage @ 6:00pm

6.16 Early dismissal @ 12:00

6.17 Last Day for Students - Dismissal @ 2:00

8.9 First Day for Kindergarten

8.16 Early Dismissal for Kindergarten @ 12:00

8.16 Open House

8.18 First Day for P4-8th Grade

8.30 First Day for P3 Students



August 16th

Please bring all school supplies and meet the teachers!

1:00-1:20 K, 1, 4

1:30-1:50 P4, 2, 5

2:00-2:20 New P4, 3, 6, 7

2:30-3:00 P3, 8

Montessori Moment

Life is not interrupted

We can all agree that the last year, almost a year and a half, was challenging. So much has been accomplished, so much remains unresolved and so much—so many—have been lost. It's hard not to see this as a moment for reflection.

Responsibilities were interrupted. Social norms were interrupted. Our daily schedules were interrupted. Our diets. Our commerce. Our sleep. Our communities. Interrupted.

But life was not interrupted.

Our children are still growing, eager and challenging and joyful and kind. They're still asking questions. They're still watching us to learn how to orient themselves in the world. They're still absorbing every moment, every new word and new observation, every stress they see us manage, every small gesture from neighbor to neighbor to remind us all that we're here, just inside the door.

Life is not interrupted.

Children learn, in early childhood, key lessons that will inform their paths far into the future. Is the world a safe place? On whom here can I rely? What can I control? Think about the newborn infant, who does not yet know the answer to any of these questions, or the two-year-old, who seems to be testing their early hypothesis every day, or the confident six-year-old, who is ready to begin naming the ways in which they plan to fix the world and who they're going to enlist to do it with them. By the time a child grows to elementary and middle school age, they have come to understand, in far more complicated ways than we sometimes give them their due, the environments around them and their roles within those environments.

What are the lessons our children are learning these days? Is the world a safe place? On whom here can I rely? What can I control?

The dangers of the world outside may be more evident to us these days, but, in truth, they have always been there. We can't change the nature of the world, but we can assure children that they have people on whom they can rely in their place in it and that there remain things they can control. They are looking to us, parents and teachers, to see how we respond to these unprecedented, never before, record breaking challenges, to see how they may fit here too.

Children's agency matters all the time, but especially now, when there is so much that seems to be beyond our control. What are the things that they can influence? In what ways can they still be useful and helpful and part of their community? In whom can they rely? It's a time to meet the grief with resilience, to model for children the whole range of complex, authentic human emotions, and to do so within an enacted confidence that we will be through this and that we will find strength and evolution on the other side.

Let's look for the helpers. Look for gratitude, for community, for neighbors holding space and light and hope for each other. Look for the ways in which we can be a part of that as well and make them evident for our children. Each day, we strengthen our minds, we strengthen our bodies, and we strengthen our relationships with others.

Life is not interrupted, and children are still learning.



As we begin the transition to summer, to the upcoming school year, and back to “normal,” let’s remember to be mindful and pay attention to the lessons.

Mrs. Mosquera, Montessori Teacher Specialist

Counselors Corner



Welcome Back to the Counselor Corner!

We are ending the year off strong with our students. The majority of our lessons and conversations with students have been centered around their goals for the summer, the end of the school year, and the beginning of next school year. We are asking our students, How do you want to end this school year? What do you want to accomplish this summer? What do you want to improve in next school year? Finally, How can you make this happen?

So we are asking you too! Looking back at this whole year, what was something you overcame or accomplished? What is something you can say you are proud of? Whether it is small or big, sad or happy, easy or difficult. Find something about this year that made it worth it. Having these types of conversations with students on a daily, weekly, monthly, or even yearly basis, helps students, and adults, learn to reflect not only on what worked, but what went wrong. It allows us to pinpoint where we can grow, or where we might need support.

Often we use an exercise called “the Rose and Thorn”. You may call it something else, but this exercise asks you and the members of your family to each say one positive and one negative about your day. Open up the dinner table or nighttime routine to reflection and growth relating to what is shared. Give it a try!

Lastly, thank you to all the CCM staff, students, and families, for coming together to work through this challenging school year. We can’t wait to see you next year and to continue growing academically, socially, and emotionally!

As always, we offer an abundance of resources to help students and families, with different challenges they face, on our **CCM School Counseling Website**.

Kindly,

Danielle Adams, Counselor

Kathleen McNamara, Counselor

From the Art Room

The Hexagon Project

The Hexagon project is underway. Using the tessellating hexagon as a symbol of interdependence, our school community is coming together to make a large, collaborative artwork to symbolize the obstacles we have overcome together this year.



All grades, **Kindergarten-8th**, are creating drawings that express their understanding of interdependence on two-dimensional hexagons or on three-dimensional hexagonal prisms and displaying them as a single, collaborative artwork.

End-of-the-year Self-Portraits

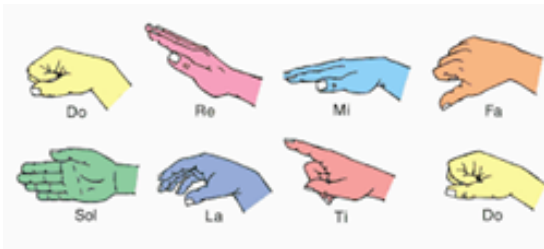
All students are also developing thumbnail sketches for their end-of-the-year self-portraits.

Open office hours are Monday-Friday, 2:15-3:00.

"All art requires courage" - Anne Tucker

Lisa Reed, Art Teacher

Music Notes



Kindergarten classes are continuing to practice *tempo* with the "Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks" using rhythm sticks and their feet to keep the beat when it changes. Students are also preparing for Lower Elementary by learning solfeggio hand signs while they sing intervals using so, mi, and la (soon to be the entire major scale) and recognizing long and short sounds in rhythm patterns. By the end of the school year they will be writing and reading music!

Lower Elementary students have started the treble clef study, focusing first on space notes. Line notes will be next, as well as learning a three-part round, Fish and Chips. We have just finished studying verse and refrain form using "De Colores."



Upper Elementary students are expanding their study of sixteenth notes to include eighth note combinations and syncopated rhythms. We are also expanding our melody playing on both recorder and virtual piano to include 8 and 16 measure selections.

Middle School

General Music: students are finishing up Afro Cuban and Latino Jazz by learning complicated double bell patterns such as agogo, maracatu, and maculele. Students are being very creative using metal and plastic water bottles, cans, mugs, and utensils.

Drama: students are finalizing performances for a virtual recording.

Ensemble: students are also in the recording stage for "Take 5."



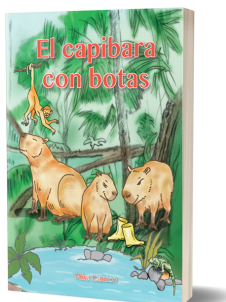
FCPS HONORS CHORUS: Congratulations to Anika Poteat for representing Carroll Creek in this year's virtual 5th grade Honors Chorus!

Mary Lou Reynolds, Music Teacher

Spanish Spoken Here

¡Hola familias de CCM! This past school year will go down for me personally as one of challenge, growth, and celebrations. Even with the challenges and changes of virtual and hybrid learning, it has been a wonderful year in Spanish and I can thank your children for that. As we wrap up the year, here is what your children can look forward to:

Spanish 1 – We will have a brief Grammar in Context unit to help solidify some of the grammar concepts they have studied throughout the school year, but we will keep it light and brief. We will end the year with an exploration of foods from various Spanish speaking countries and use language we have learned to describe our preferences and which foods we would like to try. Students will complete a final reading, listening, and writing proficiency to determine their end-of-year proficiency placement. They have already completed a speaking proficiency placement in early May. The goal for the end of Spanish 1 is to be at a proficiency level of Novice High and have an overall course grade of C or better to advance to Spanish 2 next year. If your child has not met these requirements, I will contact you with further details.



Upper Elementary Spanish – UE students will finish up their novel study of the Spanish language chapter book *El Capibara Con Botas*. In addition to completing comprehension checks at the end of each chapter to show their understanding of the grammar, vocabulary, and events, students will also be able to choose from a final project menu to showcase what they have learned about one of story's settings (Amazon rainforest, Galapagos Islands, and Quito, Ecuador), an animal featured in the story, an ecological problem mentioned in the story, or how they connect to themes in the story

Please let me know if you have any questions about your child's Spanish progress. Thank you for your support of Spanish at CCM and have a wonderful summer!

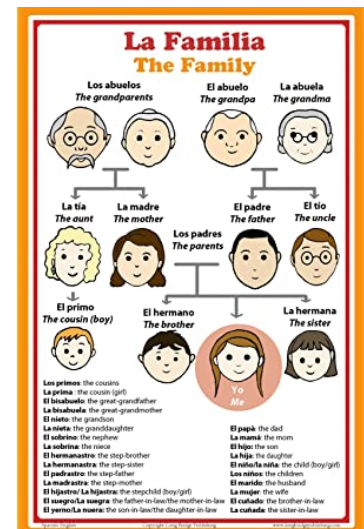
CCM Spanish Teacher



Spanish 2 Group

Primary (Pre-K and Kinder) Group

My kinder friends will finish learning/review the family members' name in Spanish. They also learned how to sign the names in Spanish. For the next three weeks, students will be learning about the parts of the house and will listen to two stories. Also, students will continue practicing their greeting; and will continue dancing to their favorite class songs.



Lower Elementary Group

LE students just finish the story #8 “Pobre Enzo” where they learned and practice the parts of the body. For the next three weeks, students will have their fourth Movie talk “Oktapodi” and will finish up the school year having a Summer song fest. Where they will vote for the favorite class song of 2021.

Lower Elementary Advance Spanish Group

LE advance Spanish group will finally finish working and reading the last three episodes of “La piñata de Renata”.

Happy Father's Day!

Have everyone a wonderful summer! Thank you for all you love and support. CCM has been the best journey of my professional and personal life.

Love you all!

Zuleima Lopez, Spanish Teacher



Physical Education

Primary and Lower Elementary have been working on striking with a short-handled implement over this past month. What is an implement you say?! An implement is a tool that is not part of your body, so in this case it could be a tennis racquet, ping-pong paddle, or a badminton racquet. Our goals for this unit are to learn to strike (hit) an object with a paddle sending it upward and/or forward and to learn to strike with a paddle showing body control and equipment control. Students have been practicing with lollipop paddles as you can see pictured below, while using light-weight plastic balls and beanbags as hitting objects. Students have had the opportunity to practice self-control with the paddle, working with a partner using the paddle, and striking towards various targets using the paddle.

Upper Elementary students have also been working hard learning to master the skill of striking with a short-handled implement. UE students have had similar objectives and goals as LE and Primary listed above except we try some more challenging activities that promote control of the paddle, mainly activities that involve more movement with a partner. Upper Elementary and Middle School have also completed their spring fitness tests! Every year we complete these tests once in the fall and once in the spring so that hopefully our students can see where they have improved or where they need improvement. Students should be familiar with the four fitness components that these tests are centered around: cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility.



Brian Hickman, PE Teacher

Tidbits From Our GC

GC Connect: May 2021 Anna Spencer - GC Parent Representative & Involvement & Communications Chair

In March, the GC introduced GC Connect, a new space for your Governing Council (GC) to introduce ourselves. It seems especially important now that many of us have not seen each other in real life for over a year.

Hello, I am Anna Spencer from Colombia and I lived in other countries in Latin America. My kids are Hollen in 7th grade and Caroline in 1st grade. I learned English since pre k so it helped me to be bilingual and I wanted to give that opportunity to my kids. I joined the group of founding families to help all of our kids get that advantage in life.

I am in the GC as chair of Involvement and Communication. I love being a part of it because I learn what is happening in the school and find out how I can help. If you feel the same way you can always contact us or come to our monthly virtual meetings. My CCM email is **aspencer@carrollcreekmontessori.org**.

Anna Spencer
CCM Governing Council (GC) Parent Representative
Involvement & Communications Chair
aspencer@carrollcreekmontessori.org

Submitting Volunteer Hours for CCM through ParentSquare:

Each year CCM submits a tally of volunteer hours to FCPS. This information is also reported to the FCPS Board of Education during annual reports and submitted during grant and facilities loan application processes. While this year's volunteer opportunities were significantly reduced because of the pandemic, it is still important to record the volunteer time that was served. We understand that these volunteer hours for the 2020-2021 school year will almost exclusively be attendance and follow up work for CCM GC and MMCI BOT meetings and committees.

If you have completed volunteer work for CCM between May 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021, please submit your time through ParentSquare.

ParentSquare will allow you to enter time now for any volunteering that occurred this school year.

Click here [pdf version](#) or [Google slide version](#) for Step by step instructions (with screen shots) for submitting volunteer time in ParentSquare.

Any questions, contact Carrie Jean Rathmell at gcchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org

