



Mission

Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School Mision

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.

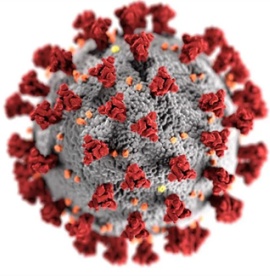
Principals Message

October is the month we historically take a breath and reflect upon where we are as a school community. This is the typical time of year when what we call "normalization" can be seen across all levels. Normalization is what Maria Montessori would say happens when children and adults are settled into a routine and feel comfortable with the expectations, responsibilities and environment as a whole. October is usually about a month into the school year, but this year we are already two months into everyone being in the building together for the first time in close to two years. This week has been the ultimate test of our "normalization", but it is evident that we are close to being that normalized Montessori community we of which we are accustomed. October is when we also typically begin school tours for prospective families. Tours will not be happening until at least January as an effort to continue to maintain a safe learning environment for our students and staff. Please continue to share with family and friends about our school as the lottery opens in January.



LE, UE and Middle School classes have all taken field trips. While this seems so very "normal" for us, as I was sharing about them with Dr. Lippy, our FCPS Director, our students are some of the very few students who are benefiting from experiences outside the school on trips such as these. We will continue to provide these learning opportunities for our students because the walls of a building should not be a limiting factor of our learning. Thank you for your support as we expand our horizons!

Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences continue to be a success. It took some patience and persistence to make some connections, but it paid off in the end. I am so glad we were able to offer virtual and in-person conferences to allow families to choose what worked best for them. If you have feedback that you have not already shared, please don't hesitate to send an email to your child's teacher or myself.



The FCPS Board of Education recently changed their policy concerning quarantining. We, as an FCPS school, will be following this new policy:

*Using the data and feedback from stakeholders, the Board of Education of Frederick County passed a motion on Wednesday evening that will modify our procedures for identifying close contacts and quarantining students. Students will only be identified as a close contact of another student who has tested positive if they are **unmasked** within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more. The identification of close contacts with adults will remain the same. Schools will continue to notify families if a positive case has occurred in their child's classroom.*

CCM has not had a confirmed case of COVID to this point due to the efforts of families, students and staff. Thank you for your vigilance!

Our counselors shared information in their section of the newsletter concerning TikTok.

Please have a conversation with your child(ren) about things that are viewed on social media and how to be respectful to our school. While we have not experienced some of the extreme replications that some schools have, we have had students remove whole rolls of toilet paper from their holders and put them in the trash multiple times in addition to writing on the bathroom walls. While this is an annoyance, it also creates additional work for our custodians and leaves our beautiful school in a not so beautiful condition.

We would appreciate your support through family discussions. Several years ago we had a local law enforcement officer speak to parents about what to look for as their children are using social media. We will be sharing information about another upcoming session soon.



There is also vital information about governance elections which will be happening in November. If you have not become involved in our school yet, this is a time to learn more about how our school operates and lend your support in a meaningful way. Please read the GC section to learn how you can help!

Marilyn Horan, Principal

Upcoming Events

- 10.20 Earthquake Drill
- 10.26 No School Teacher Work Day
- 10.27 4:00-8:00 Fundraiser - Chipotle
- 10.27 7:00 MMCI **Meeting**
- 10.29 LE Field Trip - Fort Frederick
- 10.29 UE Field Trip - Carroll Creek Park
- 11.3 6:00 CCM Facilities **Meeting**
- 11.3 7:00 GC **Meeting**
- 11.11 Picture Retakes
- 11.17 7:00 MMCI Annual Meeting
- 11.18 LE Field Trip - ESSL
- 11.19 LE Field Trip - ESSL (yes, they go two days)



Montessori Moment

*"Let my mind be open and my mouth closed
Remind me the limits of the child's vocabulary are not the limits of the child
she has something to say
Let me give her words when she needs them let me help her to name her world
she as something to say
Let me put aside my own message and instead help her to find her own voice
she has something to say
Listen
she has something to say"*

- Catherine McTamaneay

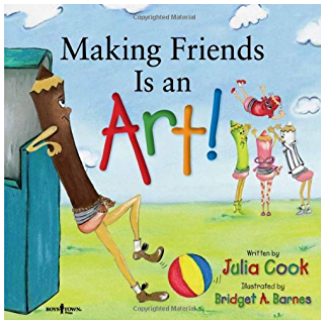
"A Delicate Task: Teaching and Learning on a Montessori Path"

Our staff continues their journey through our book study by Dr. McTamane. Above is one of the poems from a recent chapter, "Communication". This chapter encouraged us to reflect on the basic thought of "naming things" and the importance of shared language. Language is not always accompanied by words, we communicate through our actions and reactions as much, if not more than with our words. Communication with the child, within our selves and with other adults leads to either a mutual understanding or, at times, a misunderstanding. Sometimes a person merely wants to be heard without action while at other times we need support in one way or another. Listening and speaking with intention and compassion for the message is important to all of us. We believe communication is at the core of every aspect of learning no matter what the age of the learner.



Counselors Corner

Wow! Can you believe the first quarter is almost over! Being in person fully for school has been so wonderful for our students and staff. It has also highlighted some of the areas that our students need Social and Emotional support. Mrs. Mac and Mrs. Adams are here to meet those needs.



Lessons:

Students across the world have experienced a time of social isolation. For many Students their only opportunity to practice social skills was with their siblings. Sibling interactions and peer interactions can be very different. What is acceptable between siblings may not be acceptable with peers. Students may practice patience and kindness with peers and seem to lack patience and kindness with siblings. In order to support the continued development of social skills, Primary and Lower Elementary lessons focused on making and keeping friends. In Primary we read the book Peanut Butter and Cupcake by Terry Border. In Lower Elementary we read the book Making Friends is an Art by Julia Cook.

In Upper Elementary we focused on building trust and strengthening communication skills. We used a "circle" model to practice open communication and trust building. Students were paired with a random partner and spent 8 full minutes learning something new about their classmates. Some students commented "this feels awkward." They were completely right, sometimes communicating can feel awkward! We will continue to practice trust building and communication skills.

In Middle School we spent some time reviewing the ways in which School Counselors assist Middle School students. We discussed our three tiers of support and answered a few questions about High School.

Small Groups

The Counselors are in the beginning stages of creating Small Groups. Small groups are a needs based counseling group that targets a specific skill or area of concern. Typically students participate in small groups when their skill deficit or area of concern is impacting them here at school or educationally. If you feel your student needs additional support from the Counselors, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/aKY8ZGs3XnAkJvfv5>



Community Resources:

Is someone in your family experiencing challenges and needs additional support? The Counselors are happy to share community based resources with you.



FYI:

Schools across the nation have been dealing with incidents of stealing. This originates from a "TikTok challenge." While this is not a concern as of yet for CCM, it's important for parents to be aware. You can read more about this "challenge" here:

https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/education/fcps-fighting-tiktok-trend-that-encourages-bathroom-vandalism/article_70bcb85b-bde5-5a3d-8873-065ef7e9efcd.html

Another popular trend is the "Squid Game" which is a Netflix show. Many children have watched this series and are "playing" squid games at school. Again, this has not been a concern here at CCM yet but we wanted parents to be aware. You can read more about this show here: <https://www.common sense media.org/tv-reviews/squid-game>

Danielle Adams, Counselor

Kathleen McNamara, Counselor

From the Art Room



As **Kindergarten-Upper Elementary** art students finish their self-portraits, they are exploring the elements of art at the drawing center through independent works on texture, line, shape, and color. They may also access *Hispanic Heritage Month* art lessons via choice boards on Schoology.

Kindergarten-Middle School students are learning about radial composition, pattern, and organic and geometric shapes as they create thumbnail sketches for their Square 1 Art designs.



Middle School Sculpture students are creating slab pots, designing coil sculptures, and developing limited color palettes to paint their completed tiles. Finished clay tiles are on display in the front office.



Middle School Drawing and Painting students are preparing to create Pop Art inspired paintings of cakes, pies, donuts, and other sweet treats by practicing contour drawing, creating the illusion of space, form, light, and volume on a two-dimensional surface, and developing color studies and scales.

"Every child is an artist." - Pablo Picasso

Lisa Reed, Art Teacher

Music Notes

Kindergarten students are exploring the many small percussion instruments of the music room through the rhythm rhyme "5 Little Pumpkins." Tubano drums, claves, tambourines, guiros, suspended cymbal, vibraslap, and chimes all provide sound effects for various lines of the piece while teaching students to sequence, recognize performance cues, and practice foundational percussion skills of tap, scrape, and shake. We have been using animal songs for creative and patterned movement with dances like Animal Action and Elephants have wrinkles, as well as singing the 12 bar blues with "I Know A Chicken" by Laurie Berkner.





Lower Elementary students have been studying verse and refrain form by singing the Appalachian folk song “Rocky Mountain.” Classes have also started to explore the instrument families by listening to Benjamin Britten’s “Young Peoples Guide to the Orchestra” piece that features specific families on a repeated theme. Our new dance, “Old Man Moses,” combines the fun of changing partners with moving to changing tempo and articulation of the accompaniment.

Upper Elementary students are deep into their study of sixteenth and eighth note rhythm combinations with the rhythm rhyme “Click Beetle, Clack Beetle” and challenging drill patterns. Students are also combining the math of fractions with musical notation by solving missing beats music exercises, where they can finish incomplete measures with anything rhythm they want as long as the math adds up to the time signature.

Middle School

Percussion: students are practicing improvisation in complex meters like 5/4 and 7/8 time signatures on African and Latin percussion. Classes have also worked on “Gahu,” a West African dance with complicated drumming patterns that change as the lead drummer dictates.

We will soon be moving into score reading skills and jazz improvisation on the barred instruments of xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels with the piece “Blue Ramble.”

Performing Ensemble: the group is currently working on material for a December performance that includes an African piece with changing meters, a Latin drumming style known as “Bembe,” and a James Brown hit from the 80s.



Elementary Performing Ensemble: a limited number of students will start rehearsing on Tuesdays after school.

Mary Lou Reynolds, Music Teacher

Spanish Spoken Here

Students in 3rd, 6th, and 8th grades recently completed the Fall round of Avant Spanish testing. This test measures their abilities in Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. Students are then given a proficiency rating from Novice to Advanced, as outlined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Students who took the test will receive a copy of their proficiency rating with their first quarter report cards. Typically, students will show more progress first in Reading and Listening skills, and Writing and Speaking skills will develop later. For context, the Center for Applied Second Language Studies at the University of Oregon notes that most students will need over 720 instructional hours to reach Intermediate-Mid proficiency, which is about four years of study in a high school language program.



Please read below to learn about what students have been working on in my classes.

- **Montessori Spanish Experience** – Students completed their first novel study of the year and will move on to an exploration of a lesser known Día de Los Muertos tradition from Guatemala called *barriletes*, or giant kites, that honor deceased loved ones.
- **MS Spanish 2** – Students explored several class stories (*Llamapiro*, and *Ari No Tiene Miedo*) to practice the target verbs *tiene miedo de/is afraid of*, *mira/looks at*, *sigue/follows*, and *se queda/stays*. They then read informational texts to learn about the monarch butterfly migration to butterfly sanctuaries in central Mexico. Students completed their studies by writing a short Spanish essay showing what they know and using the target grammar and vocabulary.
- **MS & 6th Grade Spanish 1** – Students used several class stories (*Seppi*, *Dakota Camina a La Escuela*, *Barbie y Justin Partes 1 y 2*) to acquire the target verbs *camina/walks*, *corre/runs*, and *ve/sees* and recycle target verbs from previous units and stories. Student actors did an amazing job at acting out the crazy drama-filled story of Barbie, Justin, Ken, and Shrek! They all completed several works to demonstrate comprehension and acquisition of the target vocabulary.
- **Upper Elementary A** – Students in this group also studied the monarch butterfly migration by exploring two challenging texts that described the journey of the butterflies and the relationship of the butterfly migration to the Latin American tradition of Día de Los Muertos. Students also reviewed DDLM vocabulary studied in past years and they knew every single term - amazing!



Students in Spanish 2 and Upper Elementary-A created paper butterflies and letters that “flew” to schools around the monarch butterfly sanctuaries in central Mexico as part of the Symbolic Butterfly Migration. In the spring, they will receive butterflies and letters from students in those schools.

Please let me know if you have any questions about your child’s Spanish or Lab 21 progress. Thank you for your support!

Marisa Maldonado, Spanish Teacher



I’m so grateful for all the parents who logged into our meeting to meet me. All the comments and feedback that I have received warmed my heart; and will make me better each day.

This past three weeks, we had the opportunity to learn about the monarch butterfly. Whether that be their transformation from an egg to a butterfly, or the grand adventure they embark in every year in October. With their adventure to Latino America, we got to learn about places such as Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Colombia. The response from the kids was amazing, they were very happy and interested about the new facts that they had learned.

In the next two weeks, we will be learning about Día De los Muertos (Day of the Dead), and more about México’s traditions and culture. This unit we will be reviewing colors, family members, and new vocabulary. As well as the different ways they celebrate this special day in other Latino countries. It will be a couple of weeks filled with food, colors, and history.

Finally, with upper elementary we will also continue learning about cognates with exciting activities, working in groups, and conversations.

Isabel Schmitz, Spanish Teacher



Physical Education



Artwork by Leila Maldonado

PE HAPPENINGS!

October 2021

“Athletics are great. But physical education is for every youngster -- to help them learn about themselves, learn about their bodies, learn ways to become physically active but not necessarily to compete,...”

-George Graham, PH.D.

What are we doing this month?

Kindergarten & Early Elementary

- Underhand toss and catch progression
- Team Building games
- Sportsmanship cooperative learning

Upper Elementary and Middle

- Baseline Fitness Assessments: Mile Run, Plank Holds
- Football Unit (manipulation skills of throwing and catching): Modified game play

Striking Manipulation with hands: moving into Volleyball and Pickleball game play

Extra Notes:

As the temperature cools, our PE classes will take advantage of the crisp fall air and take many opportunities to play outside. With that in mind, please make sure students are prepared with water bottles and appropriate outdoor clothing. Students are continuing to participate in team building activities at all grade and age levels. Bridging the gap between interdependence and cooperative play. As the lower elementary students work on underhand toss and catch, upper elementary and middle school students will progress to overhand throwing and modified football game play. We will continue to focus on our PE sportsmanship motto which is FUN TO PLAY WITH AND FUN TO PLAY AGAINST. Activities are geared towards healthy competition which promotes sportsmanship and learning how to win and lose with grace.

Kerry Grimm, PE Teacher

Lab 21

Sixth grade students completed their social/global issue animation project using the online coding program called Scratch. The projects reflect both a strong understanding of basic coding skills and also an awareness of important global issues.

Marisa Maldonado, Lab 21 Teacher



Tidbits From Our GC



Great volunteers keep our schools running smoothly and one of the important ways to serve is to be on one of our governing bodies. We have openings on our MMCI Board of Trustees (BOT) and on the CCM Governing Council (GC)! These positions will be voted on at our virtual 2021 Annual Meeting November 17.

What positions are up for election this year?

- BOT CCM Vice President
- BOT Treasurer (can be filled by either MVM or CCM)
- BOT Parent Trustees (2 from CCM!)
- GC Parent Rep (4 from CCM)

- Friends of Ed for the BOT, MVM GC, and CCM GC!

Read the **[Position Descriptions linked here](#)** to learn more about these positions!

The **[MMCI Annual Meeting Guide CCM 2021 linked here](#)** will give you an overview of the BOT, GC, MMCI (What do these acronyms mean?) and an overview of the Election Process.

Still have questions? Email the Nominating Committee at nominatingcommittee@mmcimd.org

Are you ready to run for a position? Please fill out our **[Nomination Form linked here](#)** by Wednesday, November 3rd to be considered for a role on the BOT or GC.

TIMELINE:

- November 3rd Nomination Forms Due!
- November 10-November 17 Early Online Voting
- SAVE THE DATE: November 17 at 7:00 p.m. Virtual Annual Meeting (details to come), includes 24 hour Annual Meeting voting window.

All of this information and more can be found on our Election Website: **<https://mmcimd.org/community/election/>**

Jen Kuhn

MMCI Secretary