



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

Principal's Message

Maria Montessori advocated for world peace through the education of children. We were able to celebrate her birthday together this year since school started so early in August. She lived through war torn Europe and believed the hope of the world laid in the hearts of the children. She participated in the founding meetings of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, a specialized agency



of the United Nations. The United Nations declared September 21st as International Day of Peace each year. We celebrate this day annually with a whole school assembly. Each cluster level or class will prepare a song, poetry, or short play to share with the group. I have to say that I am looking forward to not only our first gathering as a whole group, but to the traditional ending which is when we will sing "Light a Candle for Peace" together for the first time in well over 19 months. We end each whole school gathering with this song, but the significance of being together this year and all we collectively have gone through will make this a particularly meaningful event.

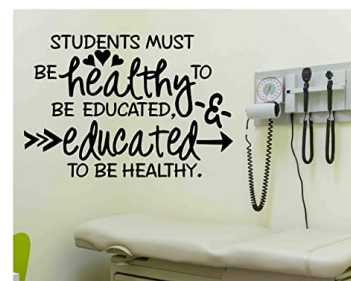
Field trips have started! Our middle school and two of our lower elementary classes have already taken field trips that were filled with activities to build community as well as confidence (the third lower elementary class will be taking their field trip next week). Upper elementary students will be completing a study of Carroll Creek in October, visiting twice for comparison projects. Every time we leave the building there are very specific goals for the experience that will expand the learning for every student.



Many of our "usual" activities are returning within the next month. There early dismissal days for a Teacher Work Day and Fair Day. We will have Picture Day later this month. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held virtually October 12th-14th. Teachers will send sign up information for conferences well in advance of the actual meeting. All families should review the upcoming delays and early releases carefully. *P3 Students do attend school September 23rd, but do not attend September 24th or October 14th.*

We will be participating in the Urbana Latino Celebration Saturday afternoon. Please stop by our "booth" and support our students as they share their learning with the greater Frederick community. We will continue to look for opportunities for our students to practice and share what they know.

Every family and staff member has been taking the upmost caution in keeping our community safe and healthy. Ensuring your child does not have a fever, sore throat, cough, headache or upset stomach before sending them to school has been a good safeguard. While multiple students have had COVID tests, to this point no student has been identified as having the virus. Thank you for continuing to instruct your children to engage in safe practices such as hand washing and mask wearing.



As always, if you have questions or concerns please contact your child's teacher, a school counselor, the front office or myself.

Marilyn Horan, Principal

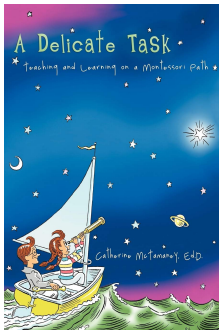
Upcoming Events

- 9-18** 3:00-7:00pm Urbana Latino Celebration - Urbana Library
- 9-21** International Day of Peace
- 9-22** Tree Trekkers Field Trip - Balodis
- 9-23** 1:45 Dismissal - Mid-Term Teacher Work Day (P3 Students **do attend** - lunch WILL be served)
- 9-24** 11:15 Dismissal-Fair Day (P3 Students **do not attend** - lunch WILL be served)
- 9-27** Picture Day
- 9-29** 7:00pm **MMCI Meeting**
- 10-1** Carroll Creek/Baker Park Field Trip - UE
- 10-4** through 10-8 Montessori Consultant Visiting
- 10-6** 7:00pm **GC Meeting**
- 10-12** 12:45 School Start Time - Parent Teacher Conferences in the morning
- 10-13** 12:45 School Start Time - Parent Teacher Conferences in the morning
- 10-14** 12:45 Dismissal - Parent Teacher Conferences in the afternoon (P3 students **do not attend**)
- 10-15** No School - Teacher Work Day



Montessori In Action

Growing and Re-Centering



Everyone missed being able to interact with each other and with our lovely Montessori materials over the past 18 months. Our staff is taking on the task of re-visiting Montessori philosophy throughout the first semester. We will be studying the book "A Delicate Task: Teaching and Learning on a Montessori Path" by Dr. Catherine McTamaney. Dr. McTamaney is using our school to help develop a book study that she will be including with the book for future purchases. We worked through the first chapter, "Orientation", together at our first staff meeting. The collaborative groups developed the following summary statements:

1. Stakeholders have a variety of important roles in allowing students to orient.
2. Trust and respect is an important part of working s a team.
3. We can not expect the children to be oriented at all times because we ourselves are not, and we need to believe we are all capable of growth.
4. We are driven by an essential human tendency to find our place.
5. If we are to guide children toward a horizon we cannot see, we need to believe it in ourselves.
6. The child's orientation is clear when he knows his relationship with the environment around him.

Some of our book study sessions will be completed as a whole group while others will be completed in cluster level meetings.

Mike Flohr, a Montessori consultant who has visited with our staff previously, will be working with our staff for a week in October. This is an exceptional opportunity for our educators to ask questions and be reassured from an expert who recently opened a Montessori teacher training center himself.

"We are each other's navigational stars."

- Marie Dugan, AMS Living Legacy

"The observation of the way in which the children pass from the first disordered movements to those which are spontaneous and ordered -- this is the book of the teacher; this is the book which must inspire her actions."

- Maria Montessori

Counselors Corner

Welcome back CCM Students and Families!

We hope you had sometime this summer to relax and connect as a family. We are so happy to have students back in the building and you can see their happiness as well! Our first lesson of the year for all levels is a "Meet the Counselors" lesson. During our time together, we discuss our role and how we can support students. Some of the ways we support students is through Classroom lessons, Small Group meetings, and brief solution focused individual sessions.



Classroom Lessons: At CCM all classes will receive a monthly Social Emotional Lesson (SEL). The purpose of these lessons are to strengthen students skills in order to achieve academic success, college and career readiness and social/emotional development.

Small Groups: With Parent permission, students can participate in small group counseling that may address a variety of topics. Possible group topics include: Kindness/Friendship, Family Changes, Anxiety/Mental Health, etc. These groups are formed based on student needs and how they are impacting students here at school. If you feel your student needs a small group, please contact Mrs. Adams or Mrs. McNamara.

Individual Solution Focused Sessions: Counselors are available to meet with students who need additional support one on one. Our scope is brief and solution focused. If you feel your student needs ongoing counseling support, we are happy to help connect you with community resources.

504 Coordinator: Mrs. Adams serves as the CCM 504 coordinator. A 504 Plan provides accommodations for students with a disability that significantly impacts one or more major life activities.

Testing Coordinator: Mrs. McNamara serves as the CCM testing coordinator.

Attendance: Mrs. McNamara serves as the CCM attendance coordinator.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Mrs. Adams or Mrs. McNamara. We are happy to assist in any way. Many resources are also available on our School Counseling website

<https://sites.google.com/fcps.org/ccmpcs-school-counseling/home>

To learn more about all the other things the School Counselors do, please visit

<http://www.schoolcounselor.org>.

Danielle Adams, Counselor

Kathleen McNamara, Counselor

From the Art Room

Welcome to School Year 2021-22!



With North America as our continent of study this semester, visual art projects include a connection to North American artists in art history and studies of North American wildflowers, leaves, rocks and minerals, and animals.

Kindergarten-Upper Elementary students are exploring identity, portraiture, and a variety of mediums, tools, and techniques as they develop their beginning-of-the-year self-portraits.

Middle School Sculpture students are learning about the tradition of Catawba pottery still practiced today by the Catawba River People. Students are practicing clay hand building techniques including slab and coil methods as they prepare to create clay tiles, pots, sculptures, and independent three-dimensional art works.

Middle School Drawing and Painting students are practicing creating the illusion of form, light, volume, and space using value in preparation for paintings inspired by American still-life artists, including Charles Ethan Porter and Wayne Thiebaud. Students are also exploring color and pattern, painting techniques, and collaboration as they create a “Drip Painting” installation inspired by American artist, Jen Stark.



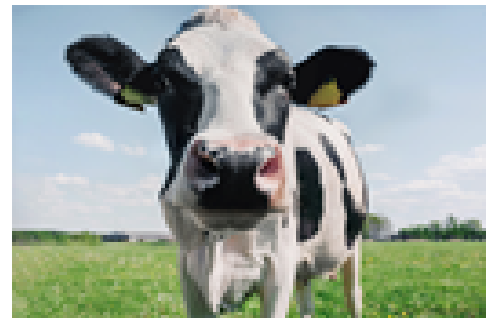
"Every Child is an artist." - Pablo Picasso

Lisa Reed, Art Teacher

Music Notes

Kindergarten classes are continuing to focus on classroom routine and have started exploring our beginner instruments to accompany songs.

Students use egg shakers to perform steady beat and “cha-cha” rhythms to “La Vaca Lola” and use rhythm sticks for our “Old Gray Cat” song. Students have also played “Hunt the Cows” looking for lost animals on the way to the fair, and are answering singing questions with the “sol-mi” solfeggio interval format.



Lower Elementary students have started refreshing their solfeggio singing skills with great success. They are also beginning to sing the familiar “Fish and Chips” in a three part round as well as reviewing simple rhythm patterns using quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. Classes have also enjoyed doing the changing partner dance, “Down in the Valley.”

Upper Elementary are refreshing their solfeggio skills as well, advancing to the minor scale. Students have also put their yearly folders together and have started to create resources for rhythm values, musical symbol vocabulary, and directed listening exercises. Classes have also practiced the drumming ensemble parts our peace song, “Light A Candle.”

Middle School

Percussion: students are using tubanos and small percussion to improvise in various time signatures to include 4/4, 3/4, 6/8, 5/4, and 7/8. Students practice emphasized beats, call and response, and proper instrument technique in duple, triple, and mixed meters.



Performing Ensemble: our first warm up performance will be our assembly on Peace Day, where students will provide drumming accompaniment while the entire school sings “Light A Candle for Peace” by Shelley Murley.

Elementary Performing Ensemble: *information will be coming out soon; due to safety precautions we will be limiting the number of students participating.*

Mary Lou Reynolds, Music Teacher

Spanish Spoken Here

Hola familias de CCM!

We have had a fantastic start to the year in Spanish class, and I am so grateful for all of your support. It is so nice to have students back in my Spanish/Lab 21 classroom. Please read below to learn about what students have been working on in my classes.

Montessori Spanish Experience – This class brainstormed and pitched ideas for CCM's participation at the Urbana Latino Celebration on September 18, as well as wrote and recorded a Spanish-language message to the CCM community asking for donations for the event.

They have also started a chapter book study of *Esmeralda La Tortugueta Marina* about a baby sea turtle to revisit vocabulary and grammar from Spanish 1 and 2. We will also use this book as a springboard to explore and discuss, in Spanish, the effects of human activity on biodiversity.



MS Spanish 2 – This class started the year with a review of cognates, high frequency words, and grammar from Spanish 1. We have started honoring Hispanic Heritage Month with studies of “*comidas tradicionales*” such as tamales, pupusas, ceviche, el sándwich Cubano, tacos de carne asada, empanadas, and churros. Currently, we are exploring *El Grito de Dolores* (the beginning of Mexican independence) and its similarities to the US Declaration of Independence. We will also highlight important figures in Latin-American history with short biography studies.

MS Spanish 1 – This class began the year with works to strengthen cognate awareness. We then used several short class stories (*La Canguro Katrina*, *¿Jaron o Justin?*, *Karen es Una Robot*, and *Wilbebest/El ñu*) to acquire high frequency verbs (*dice, hay, es, se llama*) and practice cognates within the context of these stories.

6th Grade Spanish 1 – In addition to the work listed above for MS Spanish 1, this class voted to perform short group skits in Spanish of the story “El ñu/Wildebeest” based on this animated short, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMjXvsCLu6s>. The scripts, scene-by-scene screenshots from the animation, and pictures/videos of skit preparation can be found on the 6th Spanish 1 Schoology page.



Upper Elementary Spanish A – Students in this class are showing a strong mastery of cognates and high-frequency verbs (*es, hay, dice, tiene, va, mira*, and others) as well as Spanish basics (numbers 0-100, colors, calendar, descriptive adjectives). Last year during virtual/hybrid learning, these students did their first chapter book study with *El Capibara con Botas*, and now we will begin their second! We will read the novel *La Piñata de Renata* about a girl whose magical piñata transports her to different Spanish-speaking countries. It is a fantastic way to honor Hispanic Heritage month and explore cultural diversity.



Is hard to believe that we already made it to the first month of our Spanish class, its being a positive and productive start to the year. I'm so thankful to be able to make part of the Carol Creek Montessori family, it hasn't been easy but the joy of being able to be here with your children has proven to be so rewarding. I am doing everything to make sure your kids are happy and with the desire to learn and speak Spanish.

Upper Elementary groups B and C, we are working in Spanish pronouns and vocabulary, this will help a lot to improve the acquisition of the Spanish language, same as we are doing in the **lower elementary group A**.

Lower elementary groups B and C, we are working in recognizing colors, days of the week and numbers with fun stories, and songs that we love to sing and hear.

Spanish Subject Pronouns:

Spanish Pronouns	English Pronouns
• yo	• I
• tú	• you (familiar)
• él, ella, usted	• he, she, you (formal)
• nosotros	• we
• vosotros	• you all (Spain)
• ellos, ellas, ustedes	• they, you all

Students in **kindergarten and Pre-K** have a lot of fun singing, dancing and coloring subjects presented in stories, but for me personally is very important that the kids enjoy and have fun while learning, because "when learning is fun it sticks to the brain"

I can't wait to see what the school year brings for us!

Isabel Schmitz, Spanish Teacher

Physical Education



PE HAPPENINGS!

September 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

- Body Awareness Games
- Locomotor Skills (running, galloping, skipping, and hopping)

- Team Building games

Upper Elementary and Middle

- Baseline Fitness Assessments: Push-up, Curl-up, PACER
- Football Unit (manipulation skills of throwing and catching)
- Skill related components of fitness (balance, agility, reaction time, speed, power)

Extra Notes:

It's great to be back to school and hopefully increase our physical activity. With that in mind, students will be slowly reintroduced to locomotor concepts at the lower elementary level and fitness skills and concepts at the upper elementary and middle school level.

My hope is to motivate and inspire our students to love physical activity and moving their bodies with purpose. Our extra focus this school year will be TEAM BUILDING for all grade levels. We have been working on our own for most of our time in quarantine and now we have the opportunity to work together and practice and play as a team. With everyone back in school, we can refocus on cooperative learning and fostering interdependence.

Kerry Grimm, PE Teacher

Lab 21

Lab 21 6th Grade – This class began the year with a focus on the difference between having a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. We also started our journey into computational and algorithmic thinking to complete programming tasks. (Ask them about writing instructions for Mrs. Maldonado making a sun butter and jelly sandwich!) We will be put our skills to work with an animation project designed to raise awareness of a global challenge or important social issue using the online programming platform Scratch.



Marisa Maldonado, Lab 21 Teacher

Tidbits From Our GC

The Governing Council (GC) presentation for Back to School Night this year included a **15-minute video (linked here)**) that you can watch at your convenience. The presentation includes an overview of CCM governance and volunteering in the charter school model. Also linked here are **the presentation slides** for the video which includes information, links, and contact information that you can reference in the future as needed.

Whether you are new to CCM this year, new to in-person this year, a family that has been with CCM since the school opened in 2012, or somewhere in between, please take time to review this information. Some things like the FCPS Online Volunteer Training and Registration process are new for the 2021-2022 school year.

This Presentation

This presentation will provide an overview of:

- Governance of CCM as a charter school
 - Monocacy Montessori Communities Inc. (MMCI)
 - Board of Trustees (BOT)
 - CCM Governing Council (GC)
- Volunteering in the charter school model
 - Annual volunteering per family
 - Specific Volunteer Opportunities
 - Connecting with Volunteer Opportunities
 - Submitting Volunteer Hours in ParentSquare
 - FCPS Online Volunteer Training

Regards,

Carrie Jean Rathmell

gcchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org

Governing Council Chair

Parent Representative

Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School

<https://carrollcreekmontessori.org/>