

CCM Communicator - September

Marilyn Horan • about 2 months ago • Sunday, Sep 4 at 11:41 AM • **Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School**



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

I have been part of many "first day of school" days throughout my time in education. One of the blessings of a Montessori school is that the start to the school year is truly a "welcome back, we missed you!" Students and staff quickly return to the rhythm of being together, learning and growing. We took this coming together for granted previous. Then COVID became a major force in everyone's lives. The "first day of school" was very different the past two years. Two years ago we met through a screen. We tried to hold tight and keep relationships close, but it was difficult. Last year the "first day of school" included masks and contact tracing and apprehension about being together after such a long time apart while staying healthy. This year's "first day of school" felt SO much better! There was a strong sense of peaceful joy as we came back together. Relationships were built quickly and the business of learning was on the way. While we usually allow the entire month of September for our community to "normalize" before we start providing tours, I have already toured several people who have been amazed at our beautiful, independent, respectful, peaceful learning environment. It is great to be back together!





One of the advantages of starting school so early in August is that we get to celebrate Maria Montessori's birthday which was August 31 (she was born in 1870). Students across the building learned about the scientist who worked to provide a learning environment that truly meets the needs of children. International Day of Peace is a great opportunity our students will participate in this month that reminds us of the how each person can make a difference in making our world a peaceful place. These two activities help us center ourselves for the work at hand at school and in the community.



We have had several staffing changes this year. Please refer to the **staff directory** to view a listing of our school staff. Our eight new staff this year are as follows: Kelsey Bird (LE teacher), Nerlyn Alesi (UE assistant), Danielle Kubi (MS assistant), Megan James (School Counselor), Veronica Chavarria (Speech), Leah Smith (SEIA), Christine Howard (Custodian) and Brittney Pelan (Administrative Assistant).



This past week was "Safety Week" at CCM. We practiced 7 drills (Fire, Lockout, Hold, Lockdown, Evacuate, Shelter and Active Assailant). We all take the safety of our community seriously. Staff do not merely go through the motions of participating in these drills, but rather have extensive discussions with our students. During these discussions our students were able to share what they would do in various scenarios helping others think through those possible situations.

If your family is new to CCM or have joined us in the last three years I would like to encourage you to learn more about the governance and parent involvement of our charter school. Attending the next **Governing Council meeting** (this Wednesday) and the monthly MMCI meeting (September 27th - look for the link in an upcoming ParentSquare post) will give you a better understanding of the financing, staffing and structure of our school. A large part of our discussions and decision making in recent months has been concerning facilities. We currently rent the building we are in, but will not be able to afford to continue to rent in the near future due to our PPA increasing at a slower rate than our rent. This is a charter school issue not just in Frederick, but also in the state as a whole.

You will notice that there are six field trips on the calendar this month including two overnight camping trips. As a Montessori school, we strongly believe there is a lot of learning to be gained through experiences outside the walls of our school. We appreciate your support as we provide these opportunities for our students to learn about our world outdoors, themselves and others.



As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me (240-566-0600 or marilyn.horan@fcps.org).

Marilyn, Horan

Principal

Upcoming Events

9.5 No School (Labor Day)

9.7 CCM **Facilities Committee Meeting @ 6:00**

9.7 CCM **Governing Council Meeting @ 7:00**

9.9 Field Trip - Middle School to Upward Enterprises

9.12 Fall Pictures

9.16 12:40 Dismissal (Mid-Term)

9.21 International Day of Peace

9.23 11:15 Dismissal for all students (Fair Day)

9.27 Field Trip - Brady to Tree Trekkers

9.27 MMCI Meeting

9.28 Field Trip - Balodis to Tree Trekkers

9.29 Camping - Smith to Fort Frederick State Park

9.30 Field Trip - Bird to Tree Trekkers

10.3 CCM **Facilities Committee Meeting @ 6:00**

10.3 CCM **Governing Council Meeting @ 7:00**

10.5 No School (Yom Kippur)

10.6 Camping - Gouge to Fort Frederick State Park



Counselors Corner

I am so happy to start this new school year with you all. Currently, I am CCM's School Counselor, Mrs. Mac. This is my 3rd year at CCM. I support students and the school in many different ways.



As a school counselor, this school year I will be holding small groups with students that focus on specific needs and skills. I will send out a form to all parents with information to see who may need some extra support this school year. I also teach a lesson to each level, in each class, once a month. Our first lesson was in August, this was about getting to know who I am and my role in the school. Our next lessons will vary topics dependent upon grades, which include; identifying and expressing emotions/feelings, self-esteem/self-talk, building confidence, seeking support, etc. Our future lessons will include topics such

as, coping skills, big problems v. small problems, conflict resolution, personal and online/tech. safety, bullying, stress management, career exploration, friendship, etc.

I meet with students individually to listen to their needs, offer advice or support, to work through peer issues, and/or support them in advocating for themselves. My focus of counseling is brief-solution focused counseling, as the goal is to help them get to a place where they can learn. Outside of this individual counseling, I am able to offer outside resources for further support upon parent request or need.



Not only do I support students, but I support our school with the following; Attendance, 504s, Community and Homeless Liaison, Testing Coordinator, High School Registration, etc.

Coming up in September:

National Suicide Prevention Week is September 4th-10th

National Recovery Month

8th Grade parents will be receiving communication from me in regards to High School preparation/registration! Please be sure to know where your student will be attending High School.

Kathleen McNamara, Counselor

From the Art Room

Welcome to a New School Year!

Kindergarten-Eighth Grade artists began the school year reviewing the elements and principles of art with a colorful, collaborative Zen Tangle project. The children worked together to identify and create pattern, emphasis, movement, rhythm, proportion, unity, and variety using lines, shapes, textures, values, and colors.

Kindergarten students are learning about the art element of line in art class as they practice realistic proportions of the face for their beginning of the year self-portraits.

Lower Elementary students are learning to use simple shapes to draw animals indigenous to Africa. They are also reviewing the realistic proportions of the face in preparation for their beginning of the year self-portraits.

Upper Elementary art students are learning about the political and cultural points of view expressed by artists such as Kerry Marshall, Frida Kahlo, Yue Minjun, and Stacey Tyrell through their self-portraits.



Middle School 3D Design students are learning to use the engineering design process to problem solve in preparation for their design and build of a three-dimensional “art car” with working wheel and axle systems.

Middle School Nature as Inspiration for Art students are inventing ways to transport art materials so that they can practice Plein-Air painting. They are exploring marker painting techniques and creating thumbnail sketches in preparation for a landscape painting in the form of a diptych. -Mrs. Reed

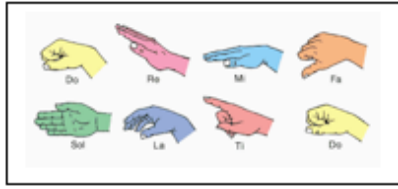
Art is about paying attention. -Laurie Anderson

Lisa Reed, Art Teacher

Music Notes

Welcome to a New School Year!

Kindergarten classes, new to the music room, have been focusing on classroom routine. Students enter forming a circle, practicing grace and courtesy as they wait for all to enter, and manage space between themselves. We start our classes by singing attendance using the sol-mi interval, and students have learned to sing the “Old Gray Cat” story song fairly well!. The “Muffin Rhyme” has students using their voice in many ways: speaking, whispering, and projecting. We are using the circle formation to reinforce spatial awareness while dancing to the “Color Song” and “Shake My Sillies.”



Lower Elementary students have been refreshing their solfeggio singing skills with great success. Classes are demonstrating their knowledge of low and high Do as well as low and high Sol. They are also beginning to sing the familiar “Fish and Chips” in a three part round with third graders leading their sections. Classes have also enjoyed doing the changing partner dance, “Down in the Valley.”

Upper Elementary classes have been refreshing their rhythms skills with patterns that include some sixteenth note values. As we head into our African continent studies, students have been reviewing and using the tubanos and djembes in combination with the rhythm review to engage in call and response lessons. We will progress to drumming arrangements that emulate patterns from Western Africa. Students will also be studying recorder this fall. If your child needs a recorder, the school will be doing a bulk purchase at a reduced rate. More information will be coming out on Parent Square.

Middle School

The music room is offering 3 electives to Middle Schoolers this semester:

- Music History will focus on uniquely American styles: Blues, Jazz, Early Rock, and Musicals
- Drama class returns with a mix of Drama I and II participants. Some students will learn “stage hand” techniques as well.
- 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” by Shelley Murley.



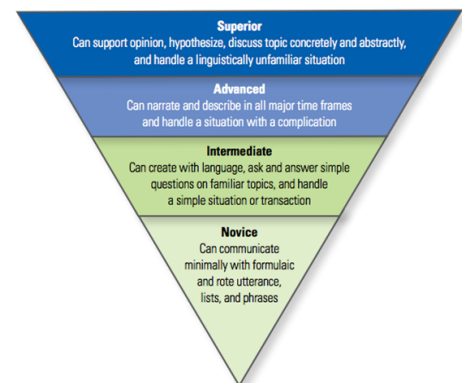
Elementary Performing Ensemble: *information will be coming out soon; our practices will be after school on Tuesdays from 4-4:45.*

Mary Lou Reynolds, Music Teacher

Spanish Spoken Here

¡Hola familias de CCM!

We have had a fantastic start to the year! All of my Spanish classes began the year with a discussion on the language acquisition process and the **levels of proficiency** that one goes through when learning a new language. We explored examples of what each level looks and sounds like and will use this understanding throughout the year for self-evaluations and setting goals. Please read below to learn about what students have been working on in my classes.



- **Montessori Spanish Experience** – MSE started the year with conversation circles to practice using the Spanish they've acquired over the last few years in an impromptu, conversational setting. This group in particular is working on taking all of the Spanish that they can read, hear, and write and now focusing on speaking with more fluidity and confidence in non-rehearsed situations. They are already doing AMAZING work on this front.
- **MS Spanish 2** – Spanish 2 started the year with writing work designed to review the content they acquired last year in Spanish 1. They did a beginning of the year Free Write response to a prompt (My Favorite Memory) in order to show their current proficiency in writing. It was clear from their work that they are ready to jump into more advanced language such as using multiple tenses and expanded vocabulary. This is so exciting! We then dove head first into a complex non-fiction text (that used multiple tenses!) about a historic town in Mexico and students are currently writing Spanish skits to promote tourism in that town.
- **MS Spanish 1** – There are many students in this group who are new to CCM this year, and we are so excited to have them! The class began the year with work to develop their reading and listening comprehension of cognates (words that look, sound, and mean the same in two languages). Students are always amazed to see that within the first few days of class, they are reading, hearing, and more importantly *understanding* paragraphs and short stories presented entirely in Spanish.
- **6th Grade Spanish 1** – Most students in this group have been at CCM for at least as long as I have been teaching here (four years), and they are starting Spanish 1 with more capabilities in the language than a typical Spanish 1 student would have. Yay! I was sneaky and introduced high school Spanish 1 first semester content to them last year while they were in Upper Elementary, so this means we will actually be jumping into work that typically comes in the second semester of CCM's Spanish 1 program. They will soon start reading a novel called *Brandon Brown Quiere Un Perro*.
- **Upper Elementary Spanish A** – Upper Elementary group A has been working with two short stories to review language acquired in previous years. The stories and accompanying follow-up work focus on usage of words such as dice/says, quiere/wants, es/is, hay/there is, camina/walks, ve/sees as well as a variety of cognates such as estudia/studies, exclama/exclaims, ataca/attacks, conversa/converse, and others.

Marisa Maldonado, Spanish Teacher



Queridas Familias,

It has been a wonderful start to our school year! Thank you for sharing your children with us and supporting us in our endeavors. We have been busy learning routines using Spanish vocabulary and reviewing and learning new cognates, which are an important part of the Spanish language acquisition. We look forward to our continued learning days ahead.

In our Upper EL students we have been learning more cognates and reviewing the ones we learned last year.

In our Lower EL students we have been reviewing what we have learned last year, reading short stories and practicing cognates to create language confidence in our kids.

In our Primary group we have been learning basic concepts like, me llamo, como te llamas, pareense, sientense and more singing and dancing with class routines.

It has been a busy couple of weeks creating community and getting to know each other, we are excited for what this school year might bring.



Isabel Schmitz, Spanish Teacher

Physical Education



PE HAPPENINGS!

"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

- Rules and Procedures for Physical Education at CCMPCS
- Locomotor Movements in personal/general space
- Introductory cooperative learning games and activities

Upper Elementary and Middle

- Rules and Procedures for Physical Education at CCMPCS
- Introductory cooperative learning games and activities
- Baseline fitness assessments for 4 out of 5 components of health related physical fitness: Cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, and flexibility
- Sit & Reach, PACER, Push Up, and Plank fitness tests for baseline data

Extra Notes:

I am so happy to be back for PE at CCM!! It is so encouraging to have students who are positively engaged and enthusiastic about moving their bodies and participating in physical activity. As the school year begins, this is our opportunity to collaborate with our classmates and participate in activities that promote teamwork, compromise, and cooperation.

At the primary and lower elementary level, students will have the opportunity to learn or practice a variety of locomotor movements in different levels (high/low) and different spaces (personal/general). We will progress further into using various locomotor movements in game play and cooperative learning. This introductory unit allows the students to tap into their kinesthetic sense and try to control how their bodies move in space.

At the upper elementary and middle school level, students will also be focusing on cooperative learning in order to promote teamwork. This month will also be an opportunity to test students on their baseline fitness in the areas of muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. I have assured all the students that these "tests" are simply an opportunity to assess where they are starting in regards to their fitness journey. Hopefully by tracking their fitness scores with their own personal fitness cards, the students will see improvement in their overall performance and/or identify goals to improve their personal fitness.

Kerry Grimm, PE Teacher

Lab 21

This sixth grade class began the year with a focus on the difference between having a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. We explored topics such as neuroplasticity and positive self-talk. We are now moving into an exploration of what it means to be a good digital citizen and how social media impacts our lives both now and in the future.



Marisa Maldonado, Lab 21 Teacher

Tidbits From Our GC

Looking for ways to support CCM through volunteering?

Members of the CCM GC have compiled a catalog of key volunteer roles with job descriptions for each role. Descriptions include tasks and time commitment and point of contact for each role. Click this link to view the [Volunteer Catalog](#) or contact Fundraising@carrollcreekmontessori.org for more information.

- Request for MMCI **Lottery** Committee Volunteers:
 - Please reach out to lottery@mmcimd.org to get involved
- Request for CCM **Library** Committee Volunteers:
 - Please reach out to communications@carrollcreekmontessori.org to get involved
- Request for MMCI **High School** Committee Volunteers:
 - Please reach out to gcchair@mvmpcs.org to get involved

Curious about where CCM will be located in Fall 2023?

Monocacy Montessori Communities, Inc. (MMCI) updated its website with a good [overview of the facilities search](#). Stay up to date on the facilities search by attending GC meetings, [reading the minutes](#), and emailing questions to facilities@carrollcreekmontessori.org.

Annual Giving Fund:

Our annual Per Pupil Allotment fund has to stretch farther than other public schools as we pay rent, technology, and other fees not provided through FCPS. CCM could use your support.

<https://www.parentsquare.com/fundraisers/629?token=d847cfc24bf8f996cab6577c4f96bac4b5922b8b>



Traffic Reminder

Arrival and dismissal has been going fairly smoothly with a lot of grace, courtesy and patience. We have a pretty good system for getting everyone in the building safely. Families with children in our primary classrooms (Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Grier or Mrs. Viveiros) make two lines close to the school building. Once they get close to the front door staff members help the children in or out of the car. All children should be ready to get out of the car in the morning so our line can run smoothly. All children who have a sibling in a primary class will also enter and exit school through the line close to the school in the front of the building. Adults should not get out of their car during arrival or dismissal. After your child(ren) has been dropped off in the morning you will be directed to move out of the primary lane and to the outside of the car line.

Elementary and middle school families will turn to the right after entering the school property. It is **ESSENTIAL** that we make two lines and merge into one in the middle of the back of the building to help keep traffic from backing up on Crestwood. Please do not feel like you are cutting in line - you are actually helping if you move into the second lane and if you are allowing that second line to merge into the lane close to the school. When we go to the Zoning Board our traffic pattern is one of the major areas they will look at before granting us a permanent exemption.

Please refer to the map below to help guide the lines during arrival and dismissal. It takes everyone being

observant, patient and respectful during those 20 minutes of arrival and dismissal each day. Thank you for your continued help as we safely move 315 children to and from school!

