

July 11, 2008

Dear Brighton Montessori Families,

Planning is in full swing as we prepare to begin the 21st school year at Brighton Montessori! There is an excitement that comes with all new beginnings as we welcome our new and returning students.

Along with this letter, a copy of the 2008-2009 School Year Calendar is included. Make note of important dates and retain this copy for reference throughout the school year. You will be notified of necessary revisions in the monthly newsletters or through special announcements. **Please note that there is a new time schedule this year. The morning Montessori classes will meet from 8:45 – 11:30 am and the afternoon Montessori class is from 12:30 - 3:15 pm. The “full day” session hours are 8:45 am – 3:15 pm.** A primary goal is to keep you well informed, so please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions or concerns.

NEW STUDENT INFORMATION

Note the important dates of the beginning of the school year. Children entering our school for the first time have been assigned an individual VISIT TIME for parents and the child to meet with their teachers. Notice of the scheduled appointment is included with this letter. This important time is designed to give the new, incoming children an additional opportunity to be introduced to their Montessori teacher and classroom as well as to the basic ground rules used in our educational setting. It also serves to aid in the child’s initial adjustment to the school. Newly enrolled “full day “students in Theresa’s morning class, are also assigned a time to meet with Marilynn. During that appointment, they will be introduced to their exciting afternoon environment. Should rescheduling be necessary, please inform the assigned teacher as soon as possible.

PARENT MEETINGS

All parents are asked to attend the very important PARENT MEETING. Many questions, concerns, school policies, and routines are explained. You will receive a copy of your child’s class assignment, orientation schedule, and other documents. Orientation procedures will be addressed. Please note that childcare will not be available. In order to accommodate as many busy schedules as possible, two dates have been set. Choose whichever is most convenient for you.

Thursday --- August 21 **OR** Monday ---- August 25

7:00 – 8:00 pm

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

Orientation will begin for Group A on Tuesday, September 2 and for Group B on Wednesday, September 3. Again, note that orientation details will be addressed and Group A and Group B assignments will be distributed at the Parent Meetings. Consult the Yearly Calendar for specific dates. New families can refer to the informational booklet, *INTRODUCING BRIGHTON MONTESSORI*, for a brief explanation of this important aspect of our program. As enrollment is still being finalized for some families, developing a viable orientation schedule at this time is difficult. However, if you have special needs (car pools, work schedules, vacations, etc.), please let us know as soon as possible so that we can best accommodate you. Childcare will begin on Tuesday, September 2 and will be available during the regular hours of 7:30 am until 6:00 pm throughout orientation and the school year. **Please note that Spring Recess is the week BEFORE Easter this year. The change was made by Brighton Area Schools.**

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION INFORMATION

All newly enrolled children and kindergarteners are required to have a physical examination in order to attend school. Other students who are returning to Brighton Montessori do not need a physical examination. If your child does need an exam, and you have not yet returned the completed health form to us or have to schedule your child's appointment, please do so as soon as possible. Call the school if you need the required green health form forwarded to you. Note that the chicken pox vaccination or written verification that your child has had chicken pox is now required. The Michigan Bureau of Regulatory Services and the Livingston County Health Department closely monitor these records. **All sections (including accurate recording of the dates of immunizations) MUST be properly completed and the doctor's signature is essential.** The childcare licensing consultant reviews these important documents carefully. Thank you for your cooperation.

Because many young children have undiagnosed vision problems, it is now recommended that preschoolers have an eye examination by a professional optometrist or ophthalmologist. Note that vision screening is required for all kindergarteners. In some cases, treatment must be initiated before a child reaches a certain stage of physical development. Addressing young children's early visual health is considered as important as their professional dental care. The summer months offer an ideal time to schedule an appointment for your child's eye examination.

CHILDCARE INFORMATION

Those using childcare on a regular basis are asked to let us know the general schedule of days and times you will need to use this service. No set schedule is required and childcare can be used on an occasional basis.

Children using the childcare services during the afternoon will have a scheduled rest time. New regulations regarding the bedding requirements will be explained at the Parent Meetings.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES

When school begins, we will also need you to provide a clearly labeled shoebox (or one similar in size) containing a complete change of clothing for your child. Each item – pants, shirt, socks, and underwear should also be labeled with your child's name. Remember to replenish the box should an item be sent home or if the clothing is not seasonally appropriate.

LABELING OF OUTERWEAR

Labeling ALL outerwear worn to school is important. Each year, we experience mix-ups or find lost items that cannot be returned because the owner cannot be identified. Keep this in mind as seasons change or new outerwear is purchased.

TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULE

Please note that the **SEVEN MONTH AND TEN MONTH PAYMENT SCHEDULES BOTH BEGIN IN AUGUST**. Please mail the first payment to the school. Thank you!

If you have any questions or concerns, call the school and leave a Voice Mail message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. Everyone at Brighton Montessori looks forward to seeing you later this summer and to working with your child throughout the 2008 – 2009 School Year. May you continue to have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Very truly yours,

Marilynn S. Dawson