

Welcome New and Returning Families,

I hope you are enjoying your beautiful summer! I would like to warmly welcome you to our Lower Elementary classroom. We are so looking forward to seeing returning children again and welcoming our new first graders to our classroom community. We know we will have a wonderful school year together.

Teaching has been bringing me joy for many years. I feel honored and fortunate to be a Montessori guide. I am awed as I observe our children becoming independent, experiencing joyful learning, rising to academic challenges, and creating peace each day. For many years, I have supervised student teachers during their internship year at Montessori Education Center of the Rockies. I have also been an Instructor in MECR's Lower Elementary AMS Certification Program. I hold my M.A. with a Special Education Endorsement, my Colorado State Teaching Certificate, and my Lower Elementary American Montessori Society Certificate. I value lifelong learning, and believe each day is a great opportunity to learn something new. I look forward to another joyful and productive year full of learning with our Cougars at DCS!

I live in Golden with my husband and our two boys. Both of our boys have happily attended a Montessori charter school near our home for many years. Spending time with my family outdoors is my favorite pastime. We enjoy traveling, camping, and hiking in our beautiful mountains.

Most importantly, please know that I strive to truly meet the needs of each child, and take great joy in watching each child blossom. I do appreciate and value direct conversation and communication regarding your child, as I find this is the best way to work together in order to best meet specific needs. If you should ever have any questions or concerns, please come to me and we can discuss them. Please email me at Illyce.Kaarto@dcsdk12.org or call me at (303)387-5664, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

My assistant this year will be Erika Tinker. Ms. Erika brings with her a wealth of experience as an Educational Assistant, and will be starting her fifth year as an EA at DCS Montessori. She truly enjoys working with children. She holds her M.A. in School Counseling, and worked with various ages of children as a school counselor before joining us at DCS. Ms. Erika and her husband have one daughter in one of our Primary classrooms, and a 2 year old daughter at home. She is very happy to be a part of our Lower Elementary classroom community.

Enjoy summer!
Warmly,
Ms. Illyce

Extra Information

I invite you to read our Parent Handbook, a copy of which can be found online. It is very informative!

A few important classroom items:

*After the first 8 weeks or so, I welcome classroom visits/observations. Please call to set up a time.

*Birthdays: We enjoy celebrating birthdays. Your child may bring any of the following optional items to share: photos from each year of life, personal stories, an item to share, and a special healthy snack (such as muffins, cookies, fruit kabobs, etc.). Please - no cake or cupcakes of any kind! We will celebrate summer birthdays on the half birthday. Please call me to set up a time for your birthday celebration.

*Snack: Please send your child with an individual, simple, healthy, low sugar snack for late morning. Also...please remember to pack a healthy cold lunch if your child brings one. Good nutrition makes for good learning! We will have water bottles in class.

*Montessori Information: Any Montessori philosophy you can become familiar with, or include in your home life, greatly benefits your child academically and emotionally. Your child and I will both greatly appreciate any further learning you are able to do regarding Montessori philosophy. I am always able to share information about Montessori...just ask! The American Montessori Society has a great website that will answer any question you may have about Montessori. There is an extensive booklist as well as a website list on the AMS website, which I strongly recommend every parent with a child in Montessori explore.

Ms. Illyce's Supply List 2011-2012

*****We share supplies as a community, so please **do not label!*******

We would appreciate having supplies on the first day of school, but don't worry if you can't find everything.

Everyone:

Pencils (2 boxes #2)
Erasers: (2 packages - large pink)
Folder: Plastic with 3 holed brads in the middle to hold paper (2) UNLABELED
Folder: Paper with 2 pockets (1 red, 1 yellow, 1 blue, 1 green) UNLABELED
Composition book (1 black/white marble - wide ruled, w/drawing space at top of pg.)
Composition book (1 black/white marble - wide rule, without space at top)
Wide ruled notebook paper (3 packs)
Binder tabs (at least one set of five tabs with clear plastic tabs – for subjects)
File organizers (upright, plastic - clear if possible – for magazines) UNLABELED
Colored pencils (2 boxes – including the colors of pink, white, and grey if possible)
Clipboard (1 wooden) UNLABELED
Clorox – or natural brand - wipes (2)
Kleenex (at least 2 boxes)
Glue sticks (3)
Scissors (1) Fiskars for children - UNLABELED
Dry erase markers (1 pack- Thin/Fine only)
Water bottle (to keep in class - please LABEL w/name)
Backpack (please LABEL with name on the inside)
Art Supply(at least 1, your choice)- Beads, glitter pens, yarn, pipe cleaners, clay, etc....

1st Graders only:

Plastic folder with 2 pockets (plain color) UNLABELED
Spiral notebook with wide ruled notebook paper (non perforated sheets) UNLABELED
Box to hold 3 x 5 index cards (i.e. recipe box - any plain color) UNLABELED
1" binder-plastic - UNLABELED
Water color paper
Water color paints (Crayola)
1 package construction paper
1 box small or large paper clips
Small can of "spray everywhere" disinfectant spray (Lysol or natural brand)

2nd Graders only:

Tiny sized Post-It flags
Ream of white copy paper
White Cardstock
2" binder – plastic - UNLABELED
Tape (refills only)
Tracing paper
1 bag rubber bands
Hand sanitizing gel

3rd Graders only:

Small size Post Its (1/4 of the regular sized ones) – light color

3" binder-plastic - UNLABELED

Yarn

Ream of colored paper

Colored cardstock (please, no neon colors! 1 small package of 8 1/2 by 11 size)

1 box small or large binder clips

Labels (plain white stickers)

Wish List-

At any time, we would love to have any of the following items donated. These are larger items, so if you would like to purchase any of these, please let me know so I can take it off our list. Gently used is just fine...if you are getting rid of it, ask us first ☺!
Our deepest thanks!!!

Live plants!!!

Montessori materials (ask me what is needed)

New SRA set for reading comprehension (we have one, but it could be updated)

Science Kits w/experiments (Science Wiz...can buy at Target, etc. – Light, Sound, Electricity, etc.)

Wooden weaving loom and materials

Subscription to National Geo Kids

Sheer curtains and rod for front window

Sewn table skirt for cubby table (ask me)

Prisms

Framed classic art

Yardsticks

Games- Othello, Scrabble, puzzles, card games, etc.

Books- Children's Thesaurus, Children's Dictionary, Atlas, any reference books

Pencil Sharpener – the old fashioned, wall-mounted, hand-cranked kind

Globe

CD player and cd's

Tea set

Tea

Hot plate (1 warmer/burner)

Label maker

Laminator

Containers and baskets of any kind

Interesting cultural items (i.e. coins, objects, books)

New pillows for reading corner

Rugs (large floor, or small)

Woodworking tools

Child's recliner or other comfortable chair

Cougar of the week posters (Lakeshore)

Calculator (3)

Hardware drawers (Ace hardware – 60 drawer boxes – we need 4)

Clay (natural preferred) and real clay tools