



Westshore Montessori  
School

# Parent Handbook

2021/2022

Westshore Montessori Association  
26536 Detroit Rd.  
Westlake, Ohio 44145  
440-899-7911  
[www.westshoremontessori.org](http://www.westshoremontessori.org)

Revised: July 2021

# Welcome

*"The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one – the period from birth to the age of 6."*

*Maria Montessori*

With that thought in mind, two extraordinary women – Ro Eugene and Ellen Daiber, founded Westshore Montessori School (WMS) in 1966. For 54 years the school has consistently provided a high-quality early childhood education for children ranging in age from 18 months to kindergarten. The teaching philosophy and methods of Dr. Maria Montessori and the American Montessori Society are at the heart of all the school's programs.

The hallmark of the school is undoubtedly the dedication, experience, and compassion of the staff. Many of our Lead Teachers have taught here for over 20 years. Over the years, twenty-one of the staff's own children have been educated at WMS.

In 1994, the school moved to its current location in Westlake. With the move to the new facility, Before & After Care was added to the curriculum to provide quality child-care for WMS students both before and after school. The Summer Program was introduced in 2018, and the Elementary classrooms were expanded in 2021. As expected, the Montessori Method is at the heart of these programs.

WMS is a not-for-profit educational organization governed by an elected Board of Trustees. More information on the makeup of the Board and the Association is given in the next section of this document.

## Philosophy and Goals

The primary goal of WMS is to provide learning and life experiences that will foster

- independence,
- self-direction,
- self-discipline,

- problem-solving skills,
- a sense of responsibility, and
- a love of learning.

The learning and life experiences gained at WMS are not intended to prepare the student for a specific future educational experience, but rather to prepare him or her for all future life experiences. By providing a fundamental core of training based on the principles of Dr. Maria Montessori, WMS strives to transform each student into a life-long learner.

The Montessori-certified Lead Teachers at WMS nurture the whole child in order to instill a joy of learning as the child's education progresses at his or her individual natural development.

Through observation and personal attention, the Lead Teacher follows the development of each child to provide appropriate stimulation for mental, physical, and academic growth.

# Contact Information

Any parent with a question, concern, or suggestion should contact either the Executive Director or their representative on the Board of Trustees.

Location.....	26536 Detroit Rd. Westlake, OH 44145
Main Phone/Attendance Line.....	440-899-7911
Fax.....	440-899-8176
E-mail.....	info@westshoremontessori.org
Web.....	www.westshoreMontessori.org
Executive Director.....	dianabetts@westshoremontessori.org
American Montessori Society.....	<a href="http://www.AmsHQ.org">www.AmsHQ.org</a>
Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services (OJDFS)....	<a href="http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/cdc">www.jfs.ohio.gov/cdc</a>

## **Faculty and Staff**

Diana Betts.....	Executive Director
Sarah Riggle.....	Program Coordinator
Shun Shun Cui/Lauren Hart.....	Toddler Program - Lead Teacher / Assistant
Jessica Hrytzik/Kelly Senior.....	Primary Program – Lead Teacher / Assistant
Nancy Wu/Ethna Carroll .....	Primary Program – Lead Teacher / Assistant
Cindy Genin/Lynette Pacheco.....	Primary Program – Lead Teacher / Assistant
Michelle Nadar/Erin Lynch.....	After Care Program Teachers
Mary Sutphin/Evan Girard.....	Elementary Directress/Assistant

## **Board of Trustees**

Christian Giardini, President

Jennifer Kegyes, Vice President

John Brickel, Treasurer

Carolyn McNeeley, Secretary

Matthew Tuskan

Gregory Johnson

Taylor Pedone

Diana Betts, Executive Director Trustee

## **About this Handbook**

This handbook contains important information regarding the educational programs offered at Westshore Montessori. It also describes the various procedures in place to ensure the health, comfort, and safety of each child.

It is especially important that you read this handbook thoroughly before the school year begins and keep it at hand throughout your child's enrollment in the school. It is an invaluable resource.

# Hours of Operation

Office Hours	8:30 am – 3:00 pm, school days
Parent/Toddler Program	As scheduled
Toddler Program	9:00 am – 11:30 am
Primary Program	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Kindergarten, Elementary Programs	9:00 am – 2:30 pm
Extended Care Program - Morning	7:00 am – 9:00 am
Extended Care Program - Afternoon	12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

## Unplanned School Closings

Unplanned school closings may occur for any of a number of reasons – bad weather, staff illness, facility problems, or epidemic. The Executive Director will notify parents through text message and iAlert about school closings as soon as possible. There is a link on the school website ([www.westshoremontessori.org](http://www.westshoremontessori.org)) to media websites with school closings.

As a general rule, if Westlake City Schools are closed due to bad weather, WMS is also closed.

# Programs

WMS offers several programs to meet the needs of children from 18 months to 9 years of age. Each program meets Montessori guidelines as outlined by the American Montessori Society and Ohio Department of Education.

Each program will not exceed the following state mandated adult-to-child ratios.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Adult:Child Ratio</b> (State maximum)	<b>Class Size</b> (School Maximum)
Parent-Toddler	16 – 24 months	1 to 7	5
Toddler	18 – 35 months	1 to 7	14
Primary	2.5 – 6 years	1 to 12	24
Kindergarten	5 – 6 years	1 to 18	12
Grades 1-3	6 – 9 years	1 to 18	24
Before Care and AfterCare	18 mo. – 9 yrs.	1 to 12	24

## Parent-Toddler Program

This program serves as a child's and parents' first group experience in a Montessori classroom. It is recommended for all parents and their toddlers as an introduction and orientation to the Montessori method in general and at WMS specifically.

A parent or adult caregiver must always remain in the classroom. Parents are to observe or passively participate if necessary.

## **Toddler Program**

Three sessions of the Toddler program are available.

MWF morning	9:00 am – 11:30 am
T/Th morning	9:00 am – 11:30 am
M-F	9:00 am – 11:30 am

The child need not be toilet trained to enter the toddler program.

A ratio of one adult per seven toddler students is maintained at all times.

## **Primary Program**

Each of the Primary classrooms at WMS operates under the direction of a Lead Teacher and their Assistant with a maximum of 24 students per class. The ratio of one adult per twelve (12) primary students is maintained at all times. Primary classes meet M – F from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon from the end of August to the end of May.

To ensure the integrity of the Montessori classroom model, every attempt is made to ensure that each class is composed of a balanced number of students from each developmental stage (first, second, third year) and gender. In addition, a child enters a specific primary classroom as a first or second year student (ages 3, 4 or 5) and is expected to remain in that specific classroom until completion of the third primary year.

Entering a classroom as a third-year student at age 5 or 6 is at the discretion of the Executive Director and the individual Lead Teacher.

Children must be toilet trained to enter the Primary program.

## **Kindergarten Students**

Kindergarten students are members of the Primary classrooms. They attend Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. They must bring a lunch packed with an ice pack every day. This program requires fees beyond the standard primary tuition. Please refer to the tuition schedule.



## **Elementary Students**

Elementary students attend Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 2:30 pm in an Elementary-specific classroom. They must bring a lunch packed with an ice pack every day. This program requires fees beyond the standard primary tuition. Please refer to the tuition schedule. Students will undergo one standardized test in order to document the progress of our Elementary program.

## **A note on students with special needs**

The Montessori Method of education provides a nurturing, supportive environment for children of all abilities and learning styles. This includes children with special needs, including physical disabilities; learning differences in reading, writing, spelling and/or math; ADHD; and mild-to-moderate autism spectrum disorders.

Children learn in multi-age classes, with the same teacher, for 3 years. This sustained connection creates a stable, predictable environment for adults and children alike. Students are able to attend to their learning, rather than having to adjust to new people and new routines every year.

## **Licensing**

WMS is licensed to operate legally by the state of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. At the end of this handbook you will find an attachment about licensing and other valuable information. Please take the time to read this information.

## **Kindergarten Certification**

WMS is also in compliance with the Mandatory Kindergarten Law, Amended Substitute House Bill 738. This bill states "that all children successfully complete Kindergarten before being admitted to the first grade."

# Admissions

This section outlines the policies and procedures for enrollment in WMS.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

Westshore Montessori School is committed to respecting all individuals. A strong school community formed by families with a diverse cultural heritage benefits us all.

Westshore Montessori School recruits and admits students of any race, color, or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, the School will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, employment, scholarship program, and other school-administered programs.

## Program Admissions

This section outlines the policies and procedures used to apply for enrollment in the Toddler or Primary programs (additional steps for Kindergarten and Elementary students are included at the close of this section). The first step is to take a tour of our facility.

### Submit application

The prospective student should submit an application and the associated application fee.

### Interview

After the application and fee have been received, an interview with one or more faculty members is scheduled. The purpose of the interview is to assess the readiness of the child to enter the selected WMS program.

During the fall semester, interviews are only scheduled as openings occur. During the spring semester, interviews are scheduled for all applicants in anticipation of fall semester openings.

An interview does not guarantee admission to the program.

## **Notification of Enrollment Status**

Notification of the student's enrollment status is made within two weeks of completing the interview. This letter is the only official means of notification.

Before February 1<sup>st</sup>, applications and classroom requests for the upcoming year will be given preference in the following order:

1. Currently enrolled Toddler students
2. Siblings of current WMS students
3. Past WMS Parent/Toddler students
4. Students transferring from other Montessori institutions
5. Students completely new to WMS

Within each category, preference is given based on the date which the application and application fee were received.

## **Acceptance Letter**

Upon acceptance to WMS, a letter is sent including a request for a non-refundable tuition deposit. The deposit is due within one week of receiving an acceptance letter. The deposit secures a spot for the child in the classroom.

Failure to meet the deposit deadline may result in the forfeiture of the student's roster spot.

## **Mandatory Enrollment Forms**

Mandatory enrollment, authorization to release, and medical forms are provided to families upon receipt of the non-refundable tuition deposit. These forms must be completed and filed with the office by the scheduled due date. As these forms are required by ODJFS (Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services) and ODE (Ohio Department of Education), failure to complete them is grounds for temporary dismissal.

## **Parent/Toddler Program Admissions**

Any family wishing to participate in the parent/toddler program should call the WMS office and request a schedule and application. Because sessions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, the completed application along with the program fee should be returned as soon as possible.

Childcare arrangements should be made for siblings who are not enrolled in the program.

## **Montessori Before & AfterCare Program Admissions**

All currently-enrolled Toddler, Primary, Kindergarten, and Elementary students are eligible for participation in the Before & AfterCare program.

## **Toddler and Primary Student Reenrollment**

In order to reserve a roster spot for the following school year, current Toddler, Primary, and Elementary students must submit a non-refundable tuition deposit of \$300 by February 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year. Deposits submitted after the February 1<sup>st</sup> due date run the risk of losing their child's spot in his/her classroom.

Students are expected to remain with the same Lead Teacher for the duration of the three-year Primary program.

## **Kindergarten and Elementary Student Enrollment**

Students at the level or age for the Kindergarten program (aged 5-6) or Elementary program (aged 6-9) will be asked to complete an additional or extended classroom visit. Once the classroom teacher and Executive Director are satisfied that the child can join the program successfully, they will move forward with the remaining Admissions steps.

# Fee Schedule and Deadlines

## 2020-2021 Tuition Schedule:

Application Fee	\$100
Non-refundable Tuition Deposit	\$300
Snack Fee	\$60 per school year – Primary & Elementary \$120 per school year– Full-Day students \$40 per school year – 2- and 3-Day Toddler \$55 per school year– 5-Day Toddler
Kindergarten & Elementary supplies fee	\$55 per school year
Late Pick-Up Charge	\$1 per minute
All Full-Day Students (7am-6pm)	\$11,155 per school year
First year Primary	\$7156 per school year
Second year Primary	\$7156 per school year
Third year Primary with Kindergarten	\$8709 per school year
First Grade Elementary	\$10,000 per school year
Toddler – Three-Day (M-W-F) Program	\$4391 per school year
Toddler – Two-Day (T-Th) Program	\$2945 per school year
Toddler Five Day	\$6588 per school year
Toddler Full Day	\$10,381 per school year
Parent/Toddler Program	\$180 per six-week session
Before & After Care Program	Monthly billing per usage, \$10.00/hr

Toddler, Primary, Kindergarten, Elementary and Full-Day day program tuition are annual fees and are not adjusted due to individual student absences. The Executive Director should be notified if a long-term absence due to illness or other family emergency is expected.

## **Methods of Payment**

### **Option 1: Payment in Full**

Toddler, Primary, Kindergarten, Elementary and Full-Day program tuition for the coming year are due in full by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. In other words, tuition for the school year beginning in August 2021 is due in full by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

### **Option 2: Monthly Installment Payment Plan**

For those families not wishing to make a lump sum payment, a monthly payment plan administered by FACTS is available. Details on the timing of payments and additional fees involved will be provided upon receipt of the tuition deposit.

### **Late Payments**

Any family has the potential of being faced with an unplanned financial difficulty. If you anticipate a problem meeting your monthly tuition obligation, the Executive Director must be notified in writing and an alternative payment must be agreed upon. If an alternative payment plan has not been discussed, the late fees and collection procedures described below take effect.

A monthly finance charge of 1.5% may be charged for an overdue account.

## **Tuition Refund Policy**

A **non-refundable** tuition deposit of \$300 is required in order to reserve a place for your child. Our expectation is that your child will remain enrolled for the entire school year.

If you choose to withdraw your child from school at any time during the first semester, (first semester is defined as July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021) you are responsible for paying the full first semester's tuition, plus 50% of the second semester's tuition (the annual tuition will be prorated on a weekly basis).

If a child is withdrawn from school at any time during the second semester, you are responsible for the full amount of the annual tuition and no tuition will be refunded.

### **Re-location Exception**

If withdrawal during the first semester is necessary due to relocation from the Cleveland area, you are responsible for paying the full first semester's tuition, plus 25% of the second semester's tuition (the annual tuition will be prorated on a weekly basis).

If a child is withdrawn from school at any time during the second semester, you are responsible for the full amount of the annual tuition and no tuition will be refunded.

### **Withdrawal at Schools Request**

If a child is withdrawn from the school at the school's request, you are responsible only for the amount of tuition (prorated on a weekly basis) for the time the child was enrolled.

## **Financial Aid**

A limited amount of financial aid is available. Families apply for aid by completing a form available on the FACTS website. To ensure that aid is need based, a copy of the most recent IRS Form 1040 must also accompany the application. Applications must be received by FACTS by April 30<sup>th</sup> for current students and May 31<sup>st</sup> for new students.

## **Back to School Packet**

A packet is provided to each new student containing important information regarding the upcoming school year. The packet contains:

- Enrollment and Child Medical forms, as required by ODJFS and ODE
- Authorization to Release form
- Tuition and Handbook Agreements
- School calendar
- Parent Handbook

**Failure to complete and return the enrollment and medical forms by the due date will result in temporary dismissal.** These required forms are also available on our website [www.westshoremontessori.org](http://www.westshoremontessori.org).

# Student Dress Code

The Montessori environment is a world of self-discovery. Our classrooms are peaceful, beautiful, and filled with learning materials that help children develop their academic, social, motor, and concentration skills. Children explore and manipulate these materials and, in the process, develop a deeply rooted joy of learning.

Students attending Westshore Montessori School will dress as follows:

- Plain or simple print shirts (long or short sleeves)
- Child-manageable pants or shorts - elastic waist - no belts
- Every child will need a spare pair of **closed-toe shoes** to keep at school in their cubby, along with a full change of clothes, **all items clearly labeled with their name**. They will change shoes in the hallway before they enter the classroom each day.
- **No sandals, flip-flops, Crocs, platforms, dress shoes, loafers, etc. – they must be able to go on the playground in the shoes they have on.**
- Dresses or skirts are permitted if shorts or leggings are worn underneath. They should be at or above the knee in length. They are not to restrict active work and play. Party dresses are inappropriate for the school environment.
- Jewelry, bulky accessories, or umbrellas are inappropriate for the school environment.

We feel confident that this dress code will be beneficial in avoiding unnecessary distractions from lessons, in avoiding unnecessary accidents resulting from inappropriate dress, and will ultimately make things easier for the parent readying the child for school.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call or email. We appreciate your cooperation and your continued support.

**ALL CLOTHING, SHOES, BOOTS, HATS, GLOVES, AND MITTENS SHOULD BE  
LABELED WITH CHILD'S NAME**



# Transportation

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school each day.

## Arrival

A staff member will then get the child out of the car escort the child into the building during the times designated below. A staff member is stationed in the hallway to make sure each child arrives in their classroom, where the teacher meets them at the door.

Primary, KDG, Elementary Students      8:45 to 9:00 am

Toddler Students      8:45 to 9:00 am

You will not need to get out of the car. This ensures the safety of all involved at arrival, and a peaceful transition from home to school for all our students. Please feel free to send a note with your child, leave a note in the office, or call the school (440-899-7911) with any urgent communications.

## Late Arrival

In the interest of safety, if you should arrive after the specified arrival time for your student, you must park your car in front of the east-facing door, call the office and a staff member will greet you and escort your child to his/her classroom. This policy is always in place to ensure your child's safety.

## **Dismissal**

At the end of each instructional day, a Lead Teacher escorts each student to his/her car and assists in making certain that the student is properly secured in a car seat or seat belt. The ultimate responsibility for fastening a child's seat belt is held by the driver of the vehicle, as outlined by Ohio's mandatory seat belt law.

Dismissal times for each program are given below.

Toddler Students	11:30 am
Primary Students	12:00 pm
Kindergarten/Elementary Students	2:30 pm

If a parent realizes that circumstances beyond their control are going to delay pick-up, a phone call is requested. This is important as many children fear they have been forgotten when parents do not arrive at their usual time. If you arrive after the specified dismissal time for your student, you must park your car in front of the east doors and call the office when you arrive. A staff member will get your child from their classroom. Please remember that tardiness at dismissal time is an imposition to the staff, as well as frightening to your child.

During times of severe weather, please try to arrive ten to fifteen minutes early to help alleviate traffic problems.

## **Authorization to Release**

WMS staff will only release a student to persons listed on the Authorization to Release form. This form is provided in the Back to School packet. If the student is to be released only to his/her parents, the form should reflect this.

New forms are available from the office should changes be necessary throughout the year.

## **Custody Agreements**

If there are custody issues involved with your child, you must provide WMS with court documents indicating who has permission to pick up the child. WMS may not deny a parent access to their child without proper documentation.

## **Emergency Release Procedure**

If an emergency should arise, the parent or guardian must provide a written, signed note giving WMS permission to release their child to a designated person. If the staff is not familiar with the designated person, they will verify their identity by checking their photo ID before releasing the child to them.

## **Car Pooling**

Should you and your child join a car pool, it is imperative that the Authorization to Release form reflect the permission to release your student to all members of the car pool.

If the composition of a car-pool changes, new forms must be submitted to reflect that fact.

## **Supervision Policy**

At no time will a Toddler or Primary student be left unattended. Staff will always supervise children, including quiet/nap time. If a child becomes ill, they may be isolated in a section of the room not in use, but within the sight and hearing of a staff member.

## **Medical Policy**

Parents are responsible for keeping the Emergency Medical Form up to date at all times. The medical form, signed by a physician or certified nurse practitioner, must be updated every 13 months.

## **Minor Injuries**

Most staff members are trained to administer first aid and CPR. Generally, for minor injuries, the staff member will treat the student, and then complete an Incident/Injury report as described below.

## **Medical and Dental Emergencies**

In the case of a more serious injury or dental emergency the Lead Teacher:

- administers first aid,
- summons emergency transportation by dialing 911,

- notifies the parent, and then
- accompanies the child to the hospital with all available medical forms.

In the event that the student requires emergency transportation, arrangements have been made with the Westlake Rescue Teams. This service is provided through the 911 network.

## **Incident/Injury Reports**

An incident/injury report is completed under the following situations

- the child has a minor illness or injury which requires first aid,
- the child receives a bump or blow to the head,
- EMS is summoned to transport the child to the hospital, or
- an unusual or unexpected event has occurred which jeopardizes the safety of the child.

The report is filled out by the Lead Teacher and then signed by the parent. A copy of the report is given to the parent and a copy is filed in the office.

## **Communicable Diseases**

It is important for the health and safety of our students and staff to restrict access to the school to those students who exhibit signs of a communicable disease. The procedures used to manage the impact of exposure to a communicable disease are given below.

### **Identification**

Most staff members are trained to recognize the common signs of communicable diseases. The Assistant who receives the student from the car upon arrival observes each child for signs of illness.

### **Symptoms**

The chart is located near the washer and dryer for staff reference.

- Temperature of 100 F – in combination with any other signs of illness
- Diarrhea - more than three abnormally loose stools within a 24-hour period
- Persistent or severe cough - causing the child to become red in the face or to make a whooping sound
- Difficult or rapid breathing

- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Redness of the eye , obvious eye discharge, matted eyelashes, burning or itching
- Untreated skin patches, unusual spots or rashes (except localized diaper rash)
- Unusually dark urine, gray or white stools
- Stiff neck accompanied by an elevated temperature
- Evidence of lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestation
- Vomiting – more than once or when accompanied by any other sign of illness
- Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- Excessive runny nose

### **Isolation of Student**

If the staff should observe a symptom of a communicable disease, the following takes place.

- The student is immediately isolated from other children. During isolation, the child is always within sight and hearing distance of a staff member.
- The parent is notified using the information from the Emergency Medical Form.
- The child is discharged to the parent or emergency contact.
- The parent is directed to seek medical attention.
- All parents of the children who were in the classroom where the communicable disease was observed are notified in writing and/or via email about possible exposure
- The cot and linens used by an isolated student are washed and disinfected after each use.

### **Returning to School**

Any student who has been sent home for exhibiting signs of a communicable disease must be symptom free before returning to school.

All students must be free of diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.

In the case of lice, the student may not return until he/she is free from nits, in accordance with the Westlake City Schools policy.

### **Isolation of Staff**

No staff member who exhibits a sign of a communicable disease is permitted to work in the building until they are free from disease.

## **Minor Illnesses**

Any child demonstrating signs of an illness that is not considered a communicable disease as outlined above is also isolated and carefully observed for symptoms. If the child does not feel well enough to participate in school activities, the parent is contacted so that they may take the child home.

## **Administering Medications**

The staff of WMS cannot administer or supervise the self-administration of any non-prescription medication, special diet, or food supplements.

Please speak directly to the Executive Director about ODE and ODJFS regulations if your child requires prescription medication during the school day.

## **Pandemic Policy:**

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. A pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges to which the collective population has little or no immunity and for which there may be no vaccine. New viruses often spread quickly and easily from person to person and may cause serious illness. Studies have demonstrated that school-aged children are susceptible to disease transmission. They have a high attack rate of influenza infection because they have limited pre-existing immunity and once infected, transmit influenza viruses to others even before they themselves have recognizable symptoms.

In the event that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or World Health Organization (WHO) identifies the presence of a potential pandemic virus (including but not limited to: Human Avian influenza A, SARS, H1N1 Swine Flu, Ebola, Zika, COVID-19), Westshore Montessori School will monitor federal, state and local government recommendations as well as guidance from the medical community in order to ensure the health and safe wellbeing of our school community, and adhere to any and all mandates including school closure and safe operating practices. Such closures may be deemed appropriate even in the event that there are no confirmed cases of the disease in the school or in our local community.

### **In addition, Westshore Montessori School will undertake the following practices:**

- Any child/ staff who has returned, or whose immediate family member has returned, from an area for which the CDC has issued travel advisories due to a pandemic situation, or any child/staff who has an immediate family member who has been

infected, will not be allowed to attend school for a minimum of 72 hours (or the incubation period for the virus as defined by the CDC).

- Any child/staff with a suspected or confirmed case of the disease will be required to stay home from school until they have been asymptomatic for a minimum of 72 hours (or as long as is deemed appropriate by the state and local health department) without the aid of medication. The case will be reported to local authorities who will oversee the child's/staff's re-entry.
- Westshore Montessori School will notify parents and staff of any confirmed or suspected cases in the building.
- Westshore Montessori will comply with any and all state or local health department guidelines regarding cleaning and sanitization practices, recommended safe practices (including but not limited to wearing masks, requiring frequent hand washing, physical distancing, student rotation of attendance, and/or temperature checks). School staff will develop exact requirements for attendance once recommendations and/or requirements are outlined by state and medical officials.
- Westshore Montessori School will comply with any and all state or local health department guidelines regarding school closures, reopening, and re-entry of students after infection with the disease.
- Westshore Montessori School will utilize email as the primary method of communicating school closures and other pertinent information related to operational changes.
- During school closures Westshore will do its utmost to remain connected to students and families. When reasonably practical, and within a reasonable amount of time to plan and configure, Westshore staff will present virtual learning opportunities via Zoom, a free app used for video conferencing, or similar platform.
- Westshore Montessori School will not refund, discount or pro-rate tuition for mandated closures related to a pandemic in an effort to preserve the integrity of school programs and retain essential staff.
- Westshore Montessori School reserves the right, at the sole discretion of the Executive Director, to close the school for in-person-instruction at any time that such action is deemed appropriate in order to minimize the transmission of disease. The Westshore Pandemic Plan will be followed if and when there is an occurrence of COVID-19 at school.

# Guidance and Management Policy

In the classroom, children are respected as individuals. The student is generally free

- to move about the room and interact with fellow students
- to work on appropriate materials, and
- to ask for help from the classroom staff.

The student may not

- disturb other students,
- abuse the materials, or
- disrupt the operation of the classroom.

If necessary, the classroom staff provides corrective guidance. However, the goal is to direct the students to become self-disciplined, self-directed, and self-motivated.

The following steps are taken when guidance from the staff becomes necessary.

- Objectively evaluate the situation.
- Redirect the student's activity.
- Provide a quiet time up to five minutes (1 minute per year of age) for the child.
- Talk to the student about the problem.
- Re-introduce the student to the activity.
- Repeat the above steps if the problem continues.
- The student may be removed from the classroom, under the supervision of the Executive Director or other available staff person, and then reintroduced to the classroom.

If the problem should escalate, the following corrective procedures are taken.

- Hold a conference with the parents to develop a behavior management plan. This plan would be consistent with the requirements of Rule 5101:2-12-22 OAC.
- Suggest that outside specialists be consulted if the problem outgrows the classroom.

As a last resort, the Executive Director may request temporary or permanent withdrawal of the student from WMS.

All specifications of Rule 5101:2-12-22 OAC apply to all persons at the school.



## **Permanent Dismissal Policy**

We make every effort to work with your child and family regarding issues that may arise during your child's enrollment at Westshore Montessori. However, the Executive Director reserves the right to dismiss a child after all reasonable efforts have been made to accommodate the family.

# Classroom Procedures

In this section the procedures and policies in place to manage the classroom schedule throughout the school year are outlined.

## Daily Schedule

### Toddler Students

9:00 am	Arrival
9:15 – 10:30 am	Singing and discussion Individual learning activities Story time and Gross Motor activities
10:30 – 11:25 am	Snack Individual or Group activities Songs, poetry, Gross Motor activities
11:30 am	Dismissal

### Primary Students

8:45 – 9:00 am	Arrival
9:15 am	Individual Learning Activities
11:15 am	Group Activity: Gross motor, outdoor play, music, holiday or birthday celebrations
12:00 pm	Dismissal

Outdoor play is included in the Primary schedule when time allows and weather permits. Please refer to the Outdoor Play section for more information.

### Kindergarten and Elementary Students

12:00 pm	Lunch and outdoor activity
1:00 pm	Individual and small group work
2:30 pm	Dismissal

Outdoor play is included in the Kindergarten and Elementary schedule. Please refer to the Outdoor Play section for more information.

## Snacks

Students are served a snack and a drink each day. This snack is planned by the Lead Teacher and Assistant. Examples of a typical snack are fruits and vegetables. The drink offered at snack time is water. The annual snack fee is used to purchase appropriate snack foods for the classroom. Children are not permitted to bring other foods into the classroom (unless they have dietary restrictions). Chewing gum is also prohibited.

Please discuss any of your child's dietary restrictions with his/her Lead Teacher.

## Lunch

Parents must provide a lunch with a cold pack for their child on days when they attend Kindergarten, Elementary class, or the After-Care program. It is recommended that the meal consist of nutritional food from the food groups listed below:

Protein (Meat/Poultry/Fish/Eggs/Cheese)

Fruits/Vegetables (2 servings)

Bread (preferably whole wheat)

Drink (not pop)

**Nut/Peanut Butter..... NONE PERMITTED**

**Peanuts, all other nuts and food containing nuts or nut byproducts are not permitted on or to be consumed on school grounds. We are not permitted to warm your child's food.**

All food items must be stored in a clearly labeled lunch box and must include a cold pack.

## **Outdoor Play**

Supervised outdoor play on the playground and school garden is provided for all students based on classroom needs. The expectation is that each class spends at least 15 minutes outside each day. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play every day at arrival.

## **Extra Clothing**

Each student must provide a complete change of clothes (pants, shirt, socks, shoes and underwear) to the classroom teacher on or before the first day of school. This outfit will be kept in the classroom for the full year to be used in case of emergency, and soiled items will be sent home to be cleaned and replaced. Please make sure to label each article of clothing with your child's name.

## **Diapers for Toddlers**

Disposable diapers are provided for Toddler students.

## **Communications**

Keeping the lines of communications open between WMS staff and WMS families is very important. It helps all parties involved to better understand each child's needs. Information from parents about happenings at home (problems, celebrations, or other changes) often offer insight into new or changed behavior at school. Send a note or email to your child's Lead Teacher to keep her informed about your child.

If parents have any questions or concerns at any time, it is recommended that the parent first speak with their child's Lead Teacher. If necessary, you may then follow up with the Executive Director. If the issue is still not resolved a meeting will be set up with the President of the Board and the Executive Director. They will work closely with the parent until the issue is resolved.

WMS also has several ways of communicating with parents. They are

- Montessori Compass ([www.montessoricompass.com](http://www.montessoricompass.com))
- School/Lead Teacher Newsletter (email)
- School Website ([www.westshoremontessori.org](http://www.westshoremontessori.org))
- Parent/Lead Teacher conference, and
- Student Progress Reports.

## **School Newsletter**

An email newsletter is sent to parents' email bi-weekly. The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate significant school and classroom events.

## **Parent/Lead Teacher Conference**

Conferences are scheduled twice during the school year. During the conference the Lead Teacher discusses each student's progress with one or both parents. All families should make attending the conferences a priority.

If you feel the need to discuss your child's progress at other times throughout the year, simply contact your child's Lead Teacher to schedule an additional conference.

## **Progress Reports**

A copy of the progress report is given to the parents at each conference.

## **Scheduling an Observation**

- Parents may observe in their child's classroom at any time if proper prior notification has been given. Observations typically last 20 minutes.
- All parents or guardians have access to the school during hours of operation. Upon entering the building, parents must notify the office of the intention of the visit. The office will provide guidelines for classroom observation.
- Toddler parents may wish to schedule an observation of a Primary classroom. This may be done at any time during the school year, although the staff discourages observations during the orientation period.

## **Birthday Celebrations**

Your child's birthday will be celebrated at school on their birthday or as close to it as possible. We celebrate summer birthdays as close to the ½ birthday as possible. *Parents are welcome to attend birthdays.* Please notify us if you are coming, so we can give you the specific time for that day. Prepare a brief photo history of your child's life. This can be as simple as one photo per year. Included with the photos, we ask for a brief description of what the child was like for each year, for example, "when he was one he learned to walk, when he was two he learned to talk, when he was three he became a big brother..." They will be invited to walk around our "sun" while holding the globe. This represents for the children the notion that it takes the earth one year to travel around the sun. After the child goes around the sun the right number of times for their age we sing "Happy Birthday." Your child may bring in a birthday treat to share with the class; it must be a **nut-free prepackaged item**. Whenever possible send in treats that are all the same flavor or shape.

# Before & After Care

## Daily Schedule

7:00 – 9:00 am	Open drop off, breakfast
12:00 pm	Lunch, outdoor play
1:00 – 2:30 pm	Lessons
2:30 pm	Dismissal
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Individual and small group work cycle
3:00 pm	Snack
3:30 – 6:00 pm	Lessons, outdoor play, open dismissal

Outdoor play is included in the Before & After Care schedule.

## Sign-up Procedures

Please email the Executive Director if you require childcare for your son or daughter. If your child is not full-day, per diem Before and AfterCare is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis, and you must notify the school in writing that you are requesting the use of the Before and/or AfterCare program on those days.

## AfterCare Lunch

Parents must provide a lunch with a cold pack for their child if that child stays at school for the AfterCare program. It is recommended the meal consist of nutritional food from the food groups listed below:

Protein(Meat/Poultry/Fish/Eggs/Cheese)

Fruits/Vegetables (2 servings)

Bread (preferably whole wheat)

Drink (not pop)

**Nuts/Peanut Butter .....NONE PERMITTED**

**Peanuts, all other nuts, and food containing nuts or nut byproducts are not permitted on or to be consumed on school grounds.**

All food items must be stored in a clearly labeled lunch box and must include a cold pack. If a lunch does not meet the nutritional requirements, WMS is mandated to provide additional nutritional items.

### **Snack**

Students are served an afternoon snack and a drink each day. Snack is planned by the Lead Teacher. Snacks contain fruit, vegetables, and or crackers. The drink offered at snack time is water.

### **Outdoor Play**

Outdoor play is included in the curriculum.

### **Late Pick Up**

If a parent realizes that circumstances beyond their control are going to delay pick-up, a phone call is requested. This is important as many children fear they have been forgotten when parents do not arrive at their usual time. A late fee of \$1.00 per minute per child will be charged.



## **Information Required by Ohio Administrative Code**

The facility is licensed to operate legally by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. This license is posted in a conspicuous place for review.

A toll-free telephone number is listed on the facility's license and may be used to report a suspected violation of the licensing law or administrative rules. The licensing law and rules governing childcare are available for review at the facility upon request.

The administrator and each employee of the facility is required, under Section 2151.421 of the Ohio Revised Code, ORC, to report their suspicions of child abuse or child neglect to the local public children's services agency.

Any parent, custodian, or guardian of a child enrolled in the facility shall be permitted unlimited access to the facility during all hours of operation for the purpose of contacting their children, evaluating the care provided by the facility, or evaluating the premises. Upon entering the premises, the parent or guardian shall notify the administrator of his or her presence.

Rosters of the names and telephone numbers of the parents or guardians of the children attending the facility are available upon request. The parent roster will not include the name or telephone number of any parent who requests that his or her name or telephone number not be included.

The licensing inspection reports and compliant investigation reports for the current licensing period are posted in a conspicuous place in the facility for review.

The licensing record, including compliance report forms, compliant investigation reports, and evaluation forms from the building and fire departments are available for review upon request from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The department's website is: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/childcare.stm>.

It is unlawful for the facility to discriminate in the enrollment of children upon the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 104 Stat. 32, 42 U.S.C 12101 et seq.

Full Nondiscriminatory Policy:

The governing board of Westshore Montessori School located at 26536 Detroit Road in Westlake, Ohio, 44145 has adopted the following racial nondiscriminatory policies.

Westshore Montessori School recruits and admits students of any race, color or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the School will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, employment, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic program, and other school-administered programs.

Westshore Montessori School will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel.

\*This information must be given in writing to all parents, guardians, and employees as required in 5101:2-12-30 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

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