

May 19, 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Dater Montessori and Room 1120. My name is Juanita Johnson and I have been teaching at Dater Montessori for 32 years. My educational and professional background includes a Bachelor's in Psychology and Social Science, a Masters in Education and I am currently working on my Doctorate in Educational Leadership. I am a certified lead teacher with the Cincinnati Public School District and obtained National Board Certification as an Early Childhood Generalist for ages 3-8 in 2002. I also taught as an adjunct professor in Xavier University's Montessori Education program for 5 years and have trained student teachers from both Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati over the years.

I have four children who attended Dater Montessori and three of my grandchildren attend Dater as well! I live in Westwood with my husband and youngest son and my interests and hobbies are many including health and wellness, photography, travel, writing and poetry. I am also a racial healing practitioner who is very passionate about diversity and inclusion and I serve in this capacity in all facets of my life including Cincinnati Public Schools, church and in the community at large.

Next year, I will have a paraprofessional who is new to our classroom community but not to our school. Her name is Taylor Merritts. Taylor has experience working with young students and she is excited to join our classroom. Together we will work diligently to create a very nurturing, academically challenging and productive classroom where all children feel safe learning and growing and where each child experiences a sense of belonging. Our first parent meeting of the 2022-2023 school year is on Monday, August 15, 2022 from 6:30-7:30. Please save the date and time. We will provide more information about logistics in advance of our meeting.

At our meeting, I will be addressing Montessori philosophy as well as the daily routines, expectations, and classroom workflow information. There will also be time to answer questions. Our goal is to help you feel comfortable with the expectations and to answer immediate questions to help facilitate a smooth transition into our community for both you and your child.

I am looking forward to partnering with you to provide the best possible educational experience for your child. Please feel free to call me or send a note with any questions, concerns or ideas throughout the school year. My telephone number at school is 513-363-0941 and my email address is johnsju@cps-k12.org or johnsju@cpsboe.k12.oh.us. Parents' participation and contribution is always welcome in Room 1120 and please know that your input is greatly valued. There will be many opportunities to support the work and needs of our classroom including things that can be done from home that I will share at our parent meeting. Please plan to be involved and to communicate with me regularly. I am excited to meet your children and to welcome them into community 1120. I am setting an expectation that the 2022-2023 school year will be an amazing, fun and successful year for your child. Together, let's partner to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Juanita I. Johnson