



**WELCOME**  
**to**  
**Community 2006**

**Ms. Debra and Ms. Hocker**

We are delighted to welcome you and your family into our class, Community 2006! It is going to be a wonderful year working with first, second, and third graders. I cannot wait to get to know each of your children. We will work hard to help them achieve our learning goals over the next three years, and to make school a happy, safe, and fun place filled with growth and learning.

A bit about me...

My name is Debra Morrow-Soward (the kids call me Ms. Debra) and I was thrilled to join the wonderful community that is Dater Montessori, in 2020. I brought to Dater ten years of teaching experience, and over 19 years as a Montessori parent. I grew up in central Pennsylvania, but have lived in Cincinnati for more than 20 years now. I graduated with my BLA from Xavier University, and began working as a teaching assistant in grades 1-3 for two years while completing my internship and working towards my MEd in Montessori Education. I am a fully certified Montessori Educator and licensed by the state of Ohio to teach Kdg through 3rd grade. In my free time, I enjoy reading, cooking, gardening, and spending time with my husband and our five children.

Our Community has an amazing paraprofessional (teaching assistant) in Ms. **Shaneisha Hocker** (the kids call her Ms. Hocker). She has been at Dater for seven years and is terrific with our students. She shares my belief that student well being and student learning go hand in hand!

There are many activities you can do at home over the summer to better prepare your child for the upcoming school year. Here are a few ideas:

- Math Fact Fluency (1st & 2nd= addition 3rd = multiplication)
- Memorize birthday, phone number, & address
- Practice Calendar Skills, Including Writing the Date
- Read aloud every day of the week!
- Practice typing on the computer if possible
- Practice Telling Time, Counting Money, and Measurement
- Lots of Cooking!
- Folding Clothes & Making your Bed
- Tying Shoes
- Play Outside
- Write Letters

At the beginning of next year you will receive a Welcome to 2006 Newsletter filled with valuable information about classroom expectations, different study topics, volunteer opportunities, and our overall classroom structure. Keep your eyes looking for that during the first week of school!

I believe that we are partners in your child's education, and communication is key. I look forward to meeting you and your child and learning more about how I can make this the best learning environment for all of our students!

I am looking forward to working with you!

*Ms. Debra Morrow-Soward*

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