

## Welcome to Community 2024

**MEET THE TEACHER!** My name is Natalie Shannon, but in the classroom, I go by “Ms. Natalie”. This is my 7th year teaching at Dater Montessori. I will be teaching Math and Science. My teaching partner is, Jill Fackrell, who will be teaching Language Arts and Social Studies. I love spending time with family, hiking around Ohio, and exploring new restaurants around the city. I am looking forward to a fun year of learning and working with this great group of students. I had a baby this past May. I will be on maternity leave until October 11th. There will be a substitute teacher until I make my return on October 12th. I know all of the students will be well taken care of by Ms. Jill Fackrell, Ms. Kate, and Ms. Kennedy. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the office or administration about my maternity leave.

### **What We Do, When and How We Do It...**

**The Montessori Classroom-** Our classroom consists of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders all working together. We value hard work, exploration in learning, peaceful behavior, and kind interactions. Students work from contracts which are typically assigned weekly, from Monday through Friday. Students complete independent and partner work from their contracts, as well as attend small and large group lessons. We set essential work goals for the day, and allow time for “personal development” throughout the week once those goals have been achieved.

**Daily Schedule:** Our instructional day begins as soon as students enter the classroom. They are asked to engage in classroom activities while adults conference with individuals or small groups of students. This is a focused academic time, and all members of the classroom community, including visitors, are asked to refrain from conversations unless absolutely necessary. Our lesson times begin at 9:30 am. Students will receive lessons in Math, Language, or Cultural subjects during this time. Our students will rotate between 2 rooms and teachers to receive specialized instruction in each of their subjects.

**Snack:** Snack time is offered before afternoon specials. The responsibility for supplying the snack is rotated among the families in our classroom- we ask that each family takes turns supplying a healthy classroom snack for 25 students. **Snacks should be ready to be served to our 25 students so that instructional time is not lost in their preparation.** (For example, apples should be pre-cut into 25 pieces, and cheese and crackers should be pre-assembled and ready to eat.) The snack schedule is listed on the classroom calendar. Children are not required to eat a snack. If your child has any food allergies, **please notify us immediately.** (If you are unable to supply the snack for our class, please let us know right away so that we can make a substitution.)

Snack time is a community-building time as well as an opportunity to learn how to make wise nutritional choices. On the date that your family provides snacks, we ask that you please make sure the snacks you select are good for their growing bodies and minds. Examples of  
**How to reach me:** You can reach me by voicemail at 363-0953. I can be reached by cell phone at 317-452-0670 and email at [fisknat@cpsboe.k12.oh.us](mailto:fisknat@cpsboe.k12.oh.us)

easy-to-supply, nutritious snacks are dry cereal, fruit, granola, low-salt popcorn, or peanut butter crackers.

**Weekly Tests:** Math facts tests and weekly spelling tests are typically planned for every week unless it is a short week or special events are scheduled. Math Fact Tests will be given on Thursdays, and Spelling Tests will be given on Fridays. Activities and tips on helping your child to prepare for these tests will be provided at the beginning of the quarter. Test results are typically sent home in the Tuesday folder. The classroom calendar is a good resource for keeping on track with test dates.

### **How You Can Help**

**Parent Communication and Conferences:** No one knows your child better than you! We value your input and encourage communication! We can be reached by voice mail at **363-0953**, and typically try to respond the same day, or in some cases the next day. If you require a more prompt response, I can be reached via phone or text at **317-452-0670**. I can also be emailed at **fisknat@cpsboe.k12.oh.us**

Dater Montessori has established 4 planned conference times for the school year. A letter will be sent home in Tuesday folders to sign up for conferences. If a conference is requested by the teacher, you will receive a notification to schedule a time. We are always available to discuss your child's progress, whether by phone, email or in person, regardless of scheduled conference days.

**Volunteer and Visitors:** If you are interested in lending your time and/or talents to our children, please complete the "Volunteer Opportunities" form enclosed with this letter. We will contact you to schedule a time for you to volunteer inside or outside of the classroom.

Parents are always welcome to visit. If you would like to visit, please call to schedule a time that is convenient for all of us. During your visit, you will be asked to conduct yourself according to the rules of the classroom. If a conversation with an adult or child is essential, please be brief and use a soft voice to help maintain the working climate of the classroom. District policy requires that you apply for a visitor's badge through the central office. You can obtain more information by contacting the school office at 363-0900.

**Plants:** Part of our practical life curriculum is taking care of living things, including pets and plants. If you would like to donate a plant to our classroom, we will do our best to care for it (We welcome special instructions and any materials besides water that are needed for the plant). We will return it to you in May (best case scenario) or return it to the earth for recycling purposes (worst case scenario). Please contact me, or just drop by the classroom if you would like to donate a houseplant.

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**Birthdays:** Students are invited to recognize their birthday with the class by participating in a tradition in which he/she holds a globe and walks around a candle, which represents the sun. The class chants the seasons and counts the number of revolutions the student makes around “the sun” to correspond to the student’s age, thereby representing the number of complete revolutions the earth has made around the sun during the birthday child’s lifetime. Students are also welcome to share a treat with their classmates. Please contact me a few days in advance if you plan to send a treat so that I can allow time in our schedule. Some students with summer birthdays like to celebrate their “half birthday” with the class. For example, an August 1 birthday would be a February 1 half-birthday.

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## **Volunteer Opportunities in Room 2024**

Please check areas in which you are interested in volunteering, and return this form to the classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_ Work as a room parent (or co-room parent) to recruit volunteers and assist PTA in carrying out room parent tasks

\_\_\_\_\_ Work as a party planner (or co-party planner) to organize volunteers and distribute responsibilities among them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist party planner in planning and implementing parties.

\_\_\_\_\_ Send in items for parties and other special classroom events.

\_\_\_\_\_ Work with 1-3 students on a regular basis to drill flashcards, listen to them read, etc. (Please list days and times you are certain you will be available.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Take work rugs home to launder on the last Friday of each month. Return the following Monday.

\_\_\_\_\_ Help prepare Tuesday folders to go home each week.

\_\_\_\_\_ Stop in regularly to check on the health or classroom pets and plants.

\_\_\_\_\_ Share a special skill or experience with students. (This can be anything- playing a musical instrument, your occupation, familiarity with another culture, etc.) Please provide a brief description of what you would like to share:

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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