

Dear Parent/Guardian of Community 1122,

Welcome to Dater Montessori and the 2023-2024 school year. Let me first start by introducing myself to those of you who are new to the Dater community. My name is Yaulonda Harris and I will be your child's teacher in the fall. Last year was amazing! However, I look forward to a fresh start with you and your child this school year. I would like to welcome all my new families to Community 1122 and welcome back my rising 4-year-old preschoolers and kindergarteners. I look forward to partnering with you as we work together to ensure that your child has an amazing school year.

First, let me start by telling you a little bit about myself. I am married and I have three beautiful children. My youngest child is a rising 11th grader at Clark Montessori. I also have two older children who are proud CPS graduates who are making their mark in the world. All three of my children are former Dater Gators. Teaching is my passion and it brings me much joy. When I am not teaching, I also enjoy spending time with my family, listening to music, or reading a good book.

I received my undergraduate degree in telecommunications from Ohio University and worked for a few years in the corporate sector. I soon realized that teaching was my true calling so I returned to school to become a Montessori teacher. I received a Master's in Education from Xavier University in 2006. After the birth of my youngest child, I decided to become a stay-at-home mom for a year. I then worked at Dater Montessori from 2008 to 2010 as an Instructional Paraprofessional before being hired as a Montessori teacher. I taught kindergarten (only) for three years and children ages 6 to 9 for three years at Parker Woods Montessori. I was so excited to return to Dater Montessori in the fall of 2016. I am proud to say that I just completed my seventh year as a 3 to 6 teacher.

It is my desire to create a partnership with you through effective communication to ensure your child has a wonderful learning experience at Dater Montessori. We will have our first **parent meeting** for the 2023-2024 school year **on Tuesday, August 15th from 6:30-7:30 pm**. The meeting is for **parents only**. I will be addressing the Montessori philosophy as well as the daily routines, expectations, and classroom workflow. There will also be time to answer any questions you may have.

I anticipate an exciting school year as I get to know your child. My classroom will be a nurturing, safe environment designed to encourage your child to learn, explore and experience so many wonderful things. You can assist with this process by reading to your child daily and exposing them to as many fun, yet meaningful educational experiences as possible. I am excited about the opportunity to meet each of you. It is my goal to work with you to make sure your child has every opportunity for success.

I welcome parent participation therefore, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas throughout the school year you may contact me at 513 363-0971 or harris@cpsboe.k12.oh.us. Enclosed is a school supply list. Keep your eyes open for the many great summer sales as you shop.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I will see you soon.

Sincerely,

Yaulonda M. Harris