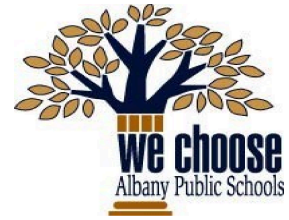




**Montessori Magnet School**  
45 Tremont Street Albany, New York 12205  
518.475.6675 fax 518.475.6677  
**John C. Powell, Principal**  
email: [jpowell@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:jpowell@albany.k12.ny.us)



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August 2021

Dear Montessori Family,

The new school year is almost upon us and I hope this letter finds you on the back half of a well-deserved, restful, and memorable summer. The entire staff of Montessori Magnet School is excited to have roughly 260 familiar faces returning, while at the same time welcoming another 50 who will now call M.M.S. home.

As I begin my fifth year at Montessori Magnet School I can tell you that this is a special place unlike any other. We are all fortunate to be able to call this school home. We are SO EXCITED to have our students and their families back where they belong. Last year presented a variety of challenges, but it was the manner in which the entire M.M.S. community stepped up that lets me confidently say that no matter what this year may bring we will find success, we will grow, and we will continue to maintain Montessori within our students' lives.

Being successful requires one basic element over all others, showing up, and that is why I give space to that reality in this letter. Attendance for all students PK-Grade 5 is critical. As a school, we expect regular attendance for all our students and strive for a 95 percent daily attendance rate. In addition to striving for great attendance, we also believe in establishing strong home-school communication. We do this by publishing a bi-weekly newsflash that includes a calendar of events, sharing information through School Messenger and the Albany CSD website. Please also check your child's book bag nightly as this traditional communication method is still one of the best ways to stay informed.

A goal for the 2021-22 school year is to reintroduce as many of the beloved Montessori community activities as possible. I do anticipate that with the ongoing impact of COVID there will be limitations, but we will again aim to maintain as much "normal" as possible. We hope to see you at the first MCC meeting of the year (Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m.), Open House (Monday, Sept. 20 from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.), and the Ice Cream Social (Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.). Watch for details on each in future communications.

Let me wrap with something I share each year. If there is ever anything that you need, please do not hesitate to reach out so that we can have that important conversation. Making your families journey through MMS a positive one is a primary focus of myself and our entire staff. We very much look forward to working together with each of you as your child grows at Montessori Magnet School.

Attached you will find important information, tidbits, and helpful hints for the opening of school.

Sincerely,

John Powell

## **Our Daily Schedule (8:00-2:30)**

Arrival	7:50 – 8:10 a.m.
Classes begin	8:10 a.m.
Tardy	8:10 a.m.
Lunch Served	10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Dismissal	2:30 p.m.

## **Important Numbers**

Cafeteria: 518-475-6685

Health Office: 518-475-6680

Transportation Department: 518-475-6170

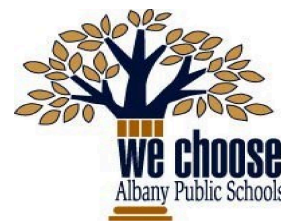
**\*If you have more than one child attending Montessori, please check their bus numbers and make sure they are riding the same bus.**

## **General Tips for a Successful Year**

- Plan to establish routines, which are key to your child's success (bedtime, designated homework time and place, and reading each day).
- Attendance at all grades PK-Grade 5 is critical. While some students can make up missed work more easily than others, you can't make up for the dialogue, conversation and shared experience of the classroom. Late arrivals and early dismissals, while sometimes inevitable, are disruptive for everyone. Always aim to have your children in attendance for the full day of school.
- Please make sure your children know the details of their dismissal before coming to school each day (where they are going, who is picking them up). Our team will support as well but talking to your child about any changes in their normal routine is very helpful.
- There is no supervision of students before doors open, and very limited supervision after dismissal for students not involved in an after-school activity. Please do not drop early, and be prompt with pick-up
- Children should not transport medication. A parent can bring medication to school in its original container with a note from the doctor.
- As a precaution to children who have food allergies, look to your child's teacher for details about any food considerations you will need to make during the upcoming school year.
- Please call before 8:00 a.m. if your child will be late or absent. Your child should bring a note upon his/her return to school (Main Office 518-475-6675).
- These points and more will be woven into our New Family Orientation on August 31<sup>st</sup>.



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## New Family/ Families with a New PK-K Student Orientation

When: Tuesday, August 31st 6:00 p.m. until 7:10 p.m.

### **Schedule**

Last Names	6-6:30	6:40-7:10	Note
A-M	Begin in Your Child's Classroom	Orientation with Mr. Powell - Gym	We will have helpers on hand to help you find your way
N-Z	Orientation with Mr. Powell - Gym	Your Child's Classroom	

**How the evening will work:** In an effort to limit crowd size, we will be running two rounds of this event. You are encouraged to bring your child, but please only the child new to the building (again based on the need to limit crowd size). The time listed as “Your child’s classroom” will provide you with a chance to visit the class your child will be in, and to do a quick walk through the building. The orientation time with Mr. Powell will be a chance to hear about a variety of useful need-to-know items as begin your Montessori career.

As you arrive to the building you will be directed to either the gym or to the classrooms based on your child’s last name.

**\*\*Note** that with most of our new students being in grades PK-1, we will not have all our intermediate teachers on hand. If you child is in grades 3-5 you will use the class visiting opportunity as a chance to explore the building and connect with grades 3-5 teachers who are in attendance.

\*Those families attending with new students, but who are not new families to MMS may choose to skip the time with Mr. Powell as the information will be familiar to you.

**Parking:** Feel free to use the school parking lot, on-street spots, or any available spaces at Westland Hills.