

Dear NV Parents,

This has been an amazing start to the school year so far. Kids are excited to be here. We are already learning, not just academics, but life skills. Everyone is finding a place to contribute, and feel like they matter. These are all big wins.

For the Littles, it may be a big change in their lives. We do have an environment that allows them to experience structure, but also the freedom to be creative and just be kids. If you want your child to have the best experience, giving them permission that it's OK to be away from you will really help. If you ask him if they are OK and that you miss them, they might see school as a bad experience. If you ask them how their day went, and what they learned, even asking them to show you, this changes the mindset.

The older kids are being taught to be leaders in any way possible. This means they may be asked to do manual labor, or chores, which is the only thing that has been proven to be a factor in successful adults. They will also be asked to help others in the class when they can. This will not affect their academic learning. In fact, it will do quite the opposite. When you have to learn something well enough to teach others, it forces you to pay more attention and see things in a different way.

Only part of their time will go towards helping someone younger. The time that they have to work on their own academics will be very efficient. The first couple of weeks they will learn how to do long division, advanced geometry, and the first few levels of trigonometry.

Though we teach advanced learning, faster, easier ways to get to an answer or to memorize, these are based on tried, tested methods that have been around for a long time. In other words, it's based on old school, math, the methods many of us grew up with. If you want to help your child for example, with long division, the methods that you were taught, this is a good thing. Just know at some point, your child might outshine you. We have counseling services available for you when that day happens.

For some things, like the multiplication tables, we will take that on in class. They come from advanced memory, Palace techniques, which we would not ask you to attempt. The learning happens very quickly, so most kids will have these learned and even mastered within the first month.

We will have resources online that explain how we do things in class. This will give you a little insight to how they learned things like cooking, first aid, or carpentry.

I will have a link posted on braincodes.blue near the bottom. This is one of the domains I still own, so it's easy for me to put a page for our North Valley families.

If you have any questions, as always, please ask. Usually in the morning before class starts is a good time or email works for very specific questions.

Thank you for all you do with your children.

Linda, Darren, Linda.