



September/October 2019 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Parents,

After finishing our second week of school, I just walked through the classes to visit both the children and the teachers. The children and teachers appear calm, happy, engaged, and settled. Children are separating more easily in the morning, making new friends, reacquainting with old friends, and building relationships with their teachers. The early days of school are really important...the importance of developing predictable routines, the emphasis placed on respect, and the effort placed on building a community. These early fall days lay the groundwork for the entire school year. It is also an important transition time for parents as well as the children. I hope you will take the time

Mark your
calendars:



September 19

Montessori Sing for
Peace Around the
World

to read the notes on the bulletin boards outside of each class, in addition to the email updates, and use them as a way to chat with your child about her/his day. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you or your child adjust to this new phase in your child's life. The teachers, staff and I are looking forward to a terrific year. Thank you for choosing to be a part of our Hope community.

Theresa

September 19

Preschool Night for
Parents

September 28

Parent-Child Work Day

October 9

School Picture Day

October 11-12

Hope Montessori
Educational Institute
Midwest Conference

October 31

Halloween Celebration

Fall Calendar

If you do not already have a copy of our school calendar, it is posted on our web site at: crevecoeur@hopeacademy.com .

We make every effort to list the days we are closed and special events well in advance. Please make it a habit to check the sign-in desk and lobby area routinely for posted parent information. Please note the changes in dates for the Preschool Night for Parents and Picture Day from the original calendar issued last spring.



FROM THE OFFICE.....

Finger Print Scan & Dropping Off Your Child

Located at lobby desk is our fingerprint scan system. Please be sure to scan your child in and out each day.

If your child is joining us for breakfast, please say goodbye at the top of the steps to the multipurpose room. A staff member will help your child transition to hang up their coat if necessary and get seated for breakfast. With the cooler transitional weather in the morning, please have your child dressed to play outside in the early morning. If his/her jacket or sweater is in the classroom when you arrive for breakfast, please go get it and hang it on the pegs in the multipurpose room. This assists us greatly in our transition outdoors after breakfast. It is difficult to escort each child individually to get a jacket from the classroom.

If your child is not joining us for breakfast, please take him/her to a teacher. Generally, the early morning staff and children are in one of two places - the hallway toy area or on the playground. Our staff members arrive at various times; if your child's own teacher and/or team member is not yet available, another staff member will welcome your child. If you arrive after 8:30, please take your child directly to his classroom. Please do not leave your child unattended in the hall, classroom, or at the sign-in desk.

The art of saying "goodbye" is a little like jumping rope the double Dutch way. It is easy to lose your footing and get tangled up! Plan ahead for how you see separation happening. Plan a little extra time. Your child will take the clues from you. Be positive. Wait to say goodbye until you mean it. Once you have said goodbye to your child, it is time to go. If the transition is difficult, please feel free to call school and check on your child.

Safety

PLEASE do your part to ensure the safety of every child and Hope family. **Please do not use your cell phone while on the parking lot or in the building.** Drive slowly....under 10 miles per hour while on school property and be aware of pedestrian traffic. Also, please do not leave younger or older children unsupervised in your car. We ask that you lock your car and do not leave valuables in plain sight,

Tuition

Please remember that **tuition is due by the fifth of the month**. If you are unsure of the correct amount, please stop by the office and Patti will be happy to figure your tuition for you. **Late fees will be added on accounts that are paid after the 15th of the month.**

There is a box behind Patti's desk in the office that you may use to drop off your tuition payments. Within 2-3 working days after you drop off your payment, you may pick up your receipt in the blue binder next to the box.

With the start of a new year, it is a good time to reiterate Hope's policy on vacation credit. Many families take advantage of their vacation credit during the summer when you only pay tuition for the weeks your child is attending camp.

For those families whose child has attended Hope/Infant Toddler Community or Hope Montessori Creve Coeur for 12 consecutive months, you are allowed to take up to 2 weeks of vacation in a calendar year with credit. **If your child attends every week throughout the summer** and you decide to take vacation during the school term, you are eligible for a 2 week vacation credit. Vacation credit does not carry over to the next year. Please contact Patti in the office prior to the month you wish to take vacation credit to confirm eligibility.

The Honeywell Instant Alert is the system we use to notify our families of an emergency or weather-related situation. Maintaining the accuracy of your profile information is essential to be able to receive important information in a timely manner. All of our new families have been added or transferred from Infant Toddler into the system with just the basic information (student name, parents' names, home phone) and provided with an instruction sheet for accessing the system to update the contact phone numbers and preferred method of communication. All families are encouraged to log onto their personal profile to verify the information listed is current. The website is <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>; extra copies of the instruction sheet are located at the sign-in desk. On Monday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m., we will run a test alert. If you have any questions regarding the alert system or do not receive the test message, please see Patti in the office.

School Directory

A draft directory is available for review at the sign-in desk for you to verify that all of your information is listed correctly before distributing it to each school family. Please advise the office any time you have a change in your contact information (cell/work/home phone numbers, address, emergency contacts, email addresses, etc.). It is extremely important that we have current information on file to reach parents as needed.



Preschool Night for Parents

September 19, 2019

New and returning parents are invited to join us for the Preschool Night for Parents on Thursday, September 19. We will begin at 7:00 p.m. and we will end by 8:30 p.m. Parents will have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom, meet other families, learn a bit more about the Montessori approach to education, and listen as your child's teacher describes a typical day at Hope. We will also save time for questions and answers.

Some foods seem to go naturally together.... so as a special treat for all our parents, we will be serving ***Wine and Non-alcoholic beverages, paired with Cheeses***. We hope both

parents can attend, but we also completely understand if only one parent can join us. This is one of the few Hope events that is just for parents. Please put this night on your calendar and book your sitter. It is an informative and fun evening. RSVP sheets by classroom will be out in the lobby shortly.

Sing for Peace



On September 21, 2019 the United Nations is hosting its annual International Day of Peace. Montessori schools from all over the globe will be joining together for a special Sing Peace Around the World Celebration. The song *Light a Candle for Peace* will begin on the shores of New Zealand and continue to travel from country to country, time zone to time zone, until it reaches the Hawaiian Islands 24 hours later. I am thrilled to include Hope in joining fellow Montessori schools from across the earth to Sing for Peace. We will be joining Andrews Academy for their "Peace" assembly and then the two schools will sing together. We are asking that each child wear a white shirt on this day.



Save the Date – Work Day, September 28, 2019

One of the best events of the whole year happens every Fall. Families join us for a morning of gardening, mulching, sewing, planting, trimming, painting, and pruning the nature trail. Parents sign up in advance to work on a particular project and bring tools, if possible. In the course of three hours, it is amazing to see how much gets accomplished. At 11:30, everyone meets in the multi-purpose room for lunch. It truly is a special event.

 <p>MIDWEST REGIONAL MONTESSORI CONFERENCE ST. LOUIS, MO SPONSORED BY: HOPE MONTESSORI EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE</p>	<p>KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:</p> <p>Catherine McTamaney "The Universe in Ecstatic Motion: Montessori's Teaching in a Spirit of Wonder"</p> <hr/> <p>Crystal Dahlmeier "Learning from the Inside Out: The Roots of Cosmic Education in the First Plane"</p> <hr/> <p>Mark Robinson "Balancing Music and Creative Movement in the Daily Montessori Curriculum"</p>
<p>COSMIC UNFOLDING: THE CHILD'S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE</p> <p>FOR ALL MONTESSORI EDUCATORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND PARENTS</p> <p>OCTOBER 11-12, 2019 Double Tree Hotel and Conference Center 16625 Swingley Ridge Road Chesterfield, MO 63017</p>	<p>REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 30TH</p> <p>HopeMontessoriTraining.com INFO@HOPEMONTESSORITRAINING.COM</p> <p>HOPE MONTESSORI EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE 1799 Lake St Louis Blvd. Lake St. Louis MO 63367 (636) 265-2877</p>

Due to the success of our first regional Montessori conference in 2018, David Shelton-Dodge, Amanda Allmeroth, and many others in our Hope family have worked over the last year to plan this year's conference for parents and educators of young children. Hope - Creve Coeur preschool is honored to be one of the six Montessori schools selected for touring by the conference attendees. The tours will take place between 9-11a on Friday, the 11th. Also, the conference is open to parents of young children as well. Please visit the [conference page](#) for registration and more information. Please use promo code: *PARENT* for a discount on your registration fee.

*Note that we are still open on Friday, October 11th, per usual.



Halloween Celebration, October 31st – Morning

Every fall, Mark Robinson leads us in a fun Halloween Celebration at Hope. Each class carves a pumpkin and our center hallway is transformed into a magical space. Mark sings songs with the children, and we are also treated to a special parade by the Andrews Academy children. Again, please do not send costumes. Also, we do not serve candy to the children as part of the celebration.

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