

Primary Orientations Fall 2020

Orientations are going to look different this year, as we are not able to do them in person. We have created a three-tiered orientation schedule for new families that will support parents and children getting to know their teachers before the start of school.

Parent Meeting

This meeting will be held via Zoom and is for parents/caregivers and the teacher only. This is a very unique moment in time where many families have been home together, all day, every day, for many months. The Parent Meeting is a time to hear parents' thoughts, concerns, struggles, and joys. We want to connect with you, hear where your child is, where your family is, and get to know each other in this way prior to the Family Meeting. We do ask to schedule this meeting at a time when your child is not present. Out of respect for your child, we try never to talk about them in front of them. It is okay for just one parent/caregiver to participate in this meeting.

Family Meeting

After our Parent Meeting, we will schedule a Family Meeting via Zoom. This meeting is for the whole family! It will be a chance for your child to meet their teacher- see their face, hear their voice, and get to know each other. Children may be shy or reserved during this meeting, and that is okay! If your child just wants to listen and watch, that is just fine- that happens during in-person orientations, too! The Family Meeting is a time for your child to get comfortable seeing their teacher through technology, and to see their parents/caregivers feeling comfortable and excited about meeting their teacher.

Parent Night

We are very excited to present Parent Night in a new way this year! First, we will send out two recordings for you to watch prior to the Zoom event. The first recording will be **Montessori in the Home** and will provide examples of how to bring the Montessori principles behind preparing the environment into your home. We will show ways you can set up your home environment, how and when to rotate materials/toys, and how to support independence. You will hear Eric and Elizabeth discussing Montessori theory and you will see examples of this theory put into practice. The second recording will be **Successful Online Learning** and will discuss how best to prepare your home environment to support fun, organized, independent online learning experiences for your child. Eric and Elizabeth will discuss the physical and psychological learning environment, the rules and limits consistent with school, managing daily scheduling, setting up for independence, and what this looks like for children of different ages and abilities. We will also talk about what Online Learning will look like, how to utilize printables and packets, and how to set up the work in your home environment.

These two recordings will likely answer many questions you already have, as well as sparking new ones. In order to dive deeply and thoughtfully into the material, we ask that you watch both recordings prior to attending our Zoom Parent Night. The Parent Night will serve as a Q&A for these two recordings, as well as a Back to School Night where you get to know your teacher,

learn about the classroom, community, Montessori philosophy, and curriculum. This event is for all families, new and returning. Recordings will be sent closer to the start of school.