



## 2023-2024 Lower Elementary Supply List

Please purchase the corresponding school supplies and bring them with you to your Monday, August 28th classroom visit.

### First Year Students

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package of origami paper | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box of small size ziploc bags |
|---|--|

### Second Year Students

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package of soft felt (any colors) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box of large size ziploc bags |
|--|--|

### Third Year Students

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 skein of yarn (sparkly or mixed color) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box of large size ziploc bags |
|---|--|

### ☐ **Small Indoor Potted Plant \***

Please help us create a beautiful classroom by sending in an indoor plant that can stand overwatering. *Plants will be returned in June. Please label the plant and saucer with name in permanent ink*

### Change of Clothes

Please send a change of clothes in a plastic gallon Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. We will keep these clothes to use as needed.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirt | <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear (2 pairs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pants | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks (2 pairs)     |

### ☐ **Slippers or Rubber-Soled Shoes \*** - For use in classroom (Example: crocs)

**Emergency Items** - Please place the following items inside a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. *We will return any unused items at the end of the school year.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A reassuring note from parents | <input type="checkbox"/> A family picture |
|---|---|

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*Please bring the following items each day to school. They should come home at the end of each day.*

- ☐ **Water Bottle** - Please make sure your child's water bottle is labeled with their name.
- ☐ **Lunch** - Please make sure your child's lunch bag is labeled with their name
- ☐ **Optional: Backpack** (if not yet purchased, please avoid cartoon, movie or TV characters)

**Note About Shoes \*** - We like to encourage independence in dressing. Please wait until your first grader can tie their shoes before sending shoes that tie with laces. We'll work on this during the school year.

***Thank you so much!***

## **\*More Montessori Information - *Why we do what we do***

You may have noticed that there are a few unique items listed on the school supply list. These are traditional to a Montessori classroom and support specific goals.

### **Small Indoor Plant**

The Montessori classroom is the living space for children and plants are often a piece in completing the space. Bringing plants into the classroom also gives children another opportunity to care for their environment. Learning how to care for plants is a core Practice Life activity as children are responsible for watering and dusting each plant. The learning opportunity transitions into the classroom Montessori work of the Botany cabinet as well as more in depth care including repotting and finding the perfect space for a plant to flourish and grow. Plants also provide a beautiful symbiotic relationship with us caring for plants and plants caring for us through fresh air and purification.

### **Inside Shoes/Slippers**

A Montessori classroom traditionally has children and teachers/guides wear different shoes or slippers for use in the indoor space. This practice promotes cleanliness in the classroom and creates an active transition between the outside world and the inside space. The act of removing outdoor shoes and putting on a different pair of shoes that is specifically designated for indoor use signals children to switch gears in rhythm and place. It is a visual and physical gate between the two spaces and reinforces the change in behavior and expectations that are part moving from outdoor to indoor.

### **Lace Up Shoes**

Encouraging independence in children is a core principle of Montessori education. It fosters confidence, teaches a child responsibility for themselves (and their space) and builds important life skills. One of the key goals of Montessori education is to teach children to be able to do things for themselves. In a Montessori classroom, independence is an ongoing and organic process. As a child learns to pour water, put on their own shoes and clean their own workspace, they become more confident and independent, all of which lead to ongoing benefits throughout their childhood and life. Students are provided with daily opportunities for independent and self-directed learning and the independent task of being able to put on their shoes supports and encourages this independence.