



MCHL News



Montessori Children’s House of Loudoun

October 2024

WHAT IS MONTESSORI?

The programs at MCHL are designed to meet the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive needs of each child. Children are encouraged to develop good work habits and share in the responsibility of their learning. They work at their own pace and on their own level with gentle guidance from dedicated teachers. The Montessori materials are designed to appeal to the child’s natural desire to learn. They are divided into the following areas:

Practical Life – Activities in this area are designed to give children opportunities to practice the skills necessary for everyday life. Children get great satisfaction in the simple tasks that allow them to pour, spoon, scrub and sweep. Not only is the child working towards independence, but the activities help in developing concentration, coordination and a sense of order. Children are taught how to care for their own environment and are given lessons in grace and courtesy.

Sensorial – The sensorial materials provide the children with opportunities to explore colors, shapes, smells and sounds. Children learn best when allowed to touch, feel, hold, smell, listen and taste. These materials are designed to refine the senses while also preparing the child for further learning in math and language.


Language – The verbal skills of the young are stimulated every moment at MCHL through conversation and exposure to high quality children’s books. Reading and writing are intimately connected and integrated strategies are offered to ensure success. The tracing of sandpaper letters provides the tactile, phonetic foundation for later reading. A variety of fun and enriching activities are available to facilitate the child’s emerging writing skills, beginning with the early scribbling stage to keeping a daily journal.


Mathematics – A basic tenet of Montessori education is that understanding is often a matter of seeing and touching. Special equipment helps the child to absorb abstract concepts through the use of concrete materials. A broad spectrum of activities in the room allows one child to count sets of five or six buttons while next to him a child is adding four digit numbers through the use of manipulatives.


Culture – Art and Music activities are an integral part of the curriculum and available to the children every day. Lessons in geography are enriched through songs, crafts, and guest speakers from the region being studied.


In future issues you will read about different types of Montessori materials, methods and enrichment programs available at MCHL.


OFFICE NEWS



 **If your child has a food allergy or intolerance, please inform the office and your child’s teacher.** MCHL has specific guidelines for storing and dispensing medication.

 Please update the office with any changes to your contact information. It is imperative we are able to reach you in the event of an emergency.

 All children should have a complete change of clothing in their cubby for “accidents”. Please check their cubby. It’s also time to switch those clothes in the cubbies from shorts and tee-shirts to long pants, long-sleeved shirts and sweaters. Don’t forget socks and underwear. Also, remember to encourage your child to keep his toys at home where they are safe. As always, please label everything.

 Sunscreen authorizations expired last month. Please pick up your child’s sunscreen from their Cascades Club classroom.

 If you received an access card, please remember to bring it with you each day.

 IMPORTANT DATES 	
October 14	Indigenous Peoples’ Holiday MCHL Closed
October 23, 24	Picture Days
October 22	MCHL Pumpkin Patch

MCHL PROGRAMS

LOWER ELEMENTARY

The MCHL Lower Elementary environment includes 1st – 3rd grades. Children at the elementary level are actively social and begin to demonstrate the ability to think abstractly. The program is based on a cultural curriculum that integrates History, Geography, Mathematics (including Geometry and Algebra), Science, Language, Literature, Art and Music. The child has his/her own work plan. Each year, your child could be introduced to the same elemental concept, but a new lesson will be given at a higher level. This helps reinforce and build upon the previous concept, to expand into a new concept and understanding.

A multi-age group provides a community of support and when a child completes a Montessori elementary program, they will have set the foundation for a lifelong love of learning knowing that one may use both concrete and imagination to explore the world.

KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten Program is a full-day program from 8:30 – 3:00. This program covers and exceeds the Loudoun and Fairfax county curriculum.

The morning work time is spent in a mixed-aged class. The materials in the classroom are designed to challenge and motivate the broad spectrum of children in each class. The curriculum offers the children a rich variety that includes Language Arts, Math, Geography and Science.

During the afternoon, the Kindergarten students are taught by Montessori certified teachers. A group lesson is presented followed by an independent work time. This helps to prepare the Kindergartners to make the transition to a more traditional style classroom when they enter 1st grade.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Early Childhood classroom is designed to meet the developmental needs of children between the ages of 3 and 6. These preschool and kindergarten age children are what Maria Montessori called the “first plane of development” – the stage in a young child’s life characterized by a need for order, concrete thinking, sensitive periods for learning and great strides in emotional, physical and cognitive development. During this time, children learn at their own rate, and it’s common for knowledge to be acquired in bursts with plateaus in between.

Early Childhood students are learning through their senses, but they are no longer simply absorbing the environment as they did as toddlers. Each child follows a different learning trajectory, and moves along the developmental continuum through individualized lessons. Our teachers adapt and modify the curriculum to ensure access for all students, regardless of their skill or ability level.

Independence is crucial for children in the Early Childhood Program. When students are able to button their coats for the first time, write their names without help, sequence numbers to 100 or read a book all by themselves, their confidence grows.

They develop an enthusiasm for learning. Once they are able to do for themselves, they are capable of doing for others.

TODDLER

The Toddler classroom has been designed for our younger children to have a positive first experience at school. Our primary concern is that your children feel safe and happy by meeting their physical, emotional, social and intellectual needs.

One of the first needs for toddlers is the need for order. Toddlers like to know that there is a place for everything and that everything belongs in its place. Toddlers do best with consistent, repetitive and predictable routines. The classes have established routines that allow plenty of time for the children to explore the room and materials independently, to spend time together at Circle Time with songs, books, conversations and presentations of new work, to have snack and to play outside. Some of the children also have lunch and nap as part of their daily routine.

The classrooms have shelves for Practical Life, Art, Music, Language, Math, Sensorial and also an area for Movement. Toddlers are always moving, so we provide a changing selection of ways for them to challenge themselves as part of their curriculum. The Practical Life shelves are the most appealing to the children because they offer materials that promote independence in their everyday tasks – pouring, spooning, carrying, food preparation, taking care of their clothing and using simple tools. The Language and Math shelves have introductory materials for the exploration of sounds and numbers and constant opportunities to learn and use new vocabulary. The Art shelf allows them to use paints, crayons, scissors and glue – always with the emphasis on the process rather than the product.

Toddlers are trying to make sense of their world. Socializing with a group of their peers is a very new thing to most of them. The adults are aware that children learn most by experiencing, so we model the behavior and types of respectful interactions that we wish to emphasize and have the children imitate.

Toddlers are so interested in exploring their world. The Montessori teachers are there to love them, guide them and support their efforts at mastering their environment, thus building their confidence and independence.

INFANT

The Infant program serves children from the age of 6 weeks until the age of 18 months. The program is designed to duplicate the loving care and gentle stimulation that infants need to grow and develop to his or her full potential. Flexible scheduling allows each child to eat, sleep, or play according to his or her own natural timetable.

The ratio of children to adults is never more than three to one with each child being assigned to a “primary care giver” who monitors that child’s schedule and communicates through the “Daily Report Sheet”.

Our infant care goal is to provide warm loving care just as you would if you were with your child during the day. We firmly believe in the need for open and thorough communication between the caregiver and the home to provide secure, loving care for each child and confidence for each parent.

As your child approaches 18 months of age we will begin arranging visits to a toddler classroom to ease the transition to this new and exciting stage of development. A transition period of two weeks gives the child time to adapt and adjust to their new environment.

IMPORTANT SAFETY PROCEDURES RELATED TO ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL



1. The traffic flow at MCHL is one-way only, clockwise around the building.
2. There is NO PARKING in front of the building. Parents are asked to be considerate and park in the outer parking spaces. Please observe the safety rules in our parking lot. Parents are required to supervise their children during arrival and dismissal at MCHL.
3. Please be **ON TIME** for dismissal. Children have difficulty waiting. Late arrivals can upset the children. It is imperative you pick up your children at their designated contract time. If you anticipate you will be late, please contact us before your child's dismissal time.
4. Please refrain from talking on your cell phone during drop-off and pick-up. MCHL is a no cell phone zone.



IMPORTANT HEALTH NEWS

MCHL COVID POLICY

If your child is experiencing COVID-like symptoms (fever, cough, runny nose, etc.) and tests positive for COVID, please keep them at home for 5 days and inform the office. Day 1 of the 5-day quarantine is considered as the day you received a positive test.

They can return to MCHL after 5 days if they are no longer exhibiting COVID-like symptoms, (fever-free for 24 hours without medication, no longer coughing and are well enough to participate in class).

Thank you for calling the office to report when your child is ill. Please remember that your child must be free of any symptoms (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or debilitating cough) for a full 48 hours before s/he can return to school. If you bring your child back to school too soon, the staff is required to ask you to take him/her home. We appreciate your cooperation.

Children who are too ill to go outside for recess should remain home until they are well enough to go out. The children go outside every day, weather permitting. If your child needs to remain indoors during recess, you must submit a note from his/her pediatrician.

LUNCHROOM NEWS

PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES!

Please pack nutritious foods for your child. Also, label your child's lunch box on the outside so the staff can find it quickly, and use a thermos or ice pack to keep your child's food at an acceptable temperature. Parents are asked to send their child's lunch ready-to-eat. Do not send in food that requires heating for lunch – Hot Pockets, ravioli, frozen foods, etc. **Candy is not permitted at MCHL.**

If your child has a 3:00 dismissal and is participating in an afterschool activity, please send in an additional snack for them to eat.

INFORMATION TABLE FOR PARENTS

Are you looking for a copy of the latest edition of the MCHL Newsletter or information on our afterschool programs? Please stop by the main entrance – the information on the table is updated monthly.

PICTURE DAYS



All students enrolled at MCHL should come to school on their assigned Picture Day. We would like every child in the class photo. These photos will also be available for purchase. You will be notified which day your child(ren) are scheduled to be photographed.

MCHL CHEFS

Each week the children in our Cascades Club classrooms participate in a cooking class. Teaching basic cooking skills early increases the likelihood your children will continue to cook as they get older and focus on good nutrition.

During this class, the students have the opportunity to develop or hone their cooking skills. They will improve math and reading skills in a fun way all while expanding their culinary palate.

PUMPKIN PATCH AT MCHL

Sponsored by the MCHL PTA



On October 22th the MCHL PTA will create a pumpkin patch on the playground. There will be enough pumpkins in the patch for each child to pick one!

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES



All holidays are celebrated at MCHL in a child-appropriate way. Your child's teacher will send home more information in their class newsletter.

It is MCHL policy children do not wear or bring costumes to school.



From time to time, we come across interesting articles or websites that we would like to share. This month we will feature articles about screen time and outdoor play.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/07/the-dangers-of-distracted-parenting/561752/>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/power-of-play/Pages/playing-outside-why-its-important-for-kids.a>



At MCHL, we have 2 Facebook pages. One is public and one is private. Our private page is for parents only. It features photos/videos of our students and updates from the MCHL PTA. You will need to send a request to the private group to be added.

www.facebook.com/groups/mchlparents/

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS OFFERED AT MCHL

Children with 3:00 dismissals can join these classes!

Happy Feet Soccer Monday 3:15 and 4:00



Happy Feet soccer

Highlights Include:

- Unique and challenging games.
- Fitness, coordination, and fun.
- Rapid progress, new skills, and encouraged play.
- Story time with soccer ball.

Montessori Children's House of Loudoun
880 W Church Rd, Sterling, VA 20164

Start/End Date:
Sep 16, 2024 - End of School Year 2025

Class Time/Age:
3:15pm - 3:45pm (Ages 2-4)
4:00pm - 4:30pm (Ages 5+)

Coordinator: Marcia Vaughn
Email: info@mchl.org
Tel: 703-421-1112

\$80 Per Month

Cancel Anytime!

Free Happy Feet Goodies included!



Scan to Register



[HTTPS://PSAASHBURNSOCCER.COM/HAPPYFEET/](https://psaashburnsoccer.com/happyfeet/) 571-752-0994 | KYLE@THEPSASPORTS.COM

Mercier School of Dance Thursday 3:15 & 4:00



MERCIER SCHOOL OF DANCE AT MCHL

Cost: \$68/month (Sep 5th-May 29th)
30 day notice to cancel

Enrollment Fee: \$25 per family

Register online today!

Classes on Thursdays!

Creative Dance/Ballet 3:15-3:45, ages 2.5-4
Ballet/Jazz 4:00-4:30, ages 4-6.5 **Trial Class August 29**

REGISTER [MERCIERSCHOOLOFDANCE.COM/REGISTRATION](https://mercierschoolofdance.com/registration)

www.mercierschoolofdance.com/registration

Piano Keys 4 Kids Tuesday 3:15



Piano Keys 4 Kids!
Fall 12 Week Session Starting Tuesday September 10 at MCHL!

Demo Class offered Tuesday September 3rd!

Piano Keys 4 Kids offers a fun, exciting and meaningful enrichment program for children interested in Piano and Music!

This program is for new and returning students starting at age 3 ½.

The start time is 3:15 to 4:00 with the 2nd class from 4:00 to 4:45. Classes will be divided by age and experience.

Tuition is \$420.00 for the 45 minute class which includes the material fee. This is a 12 week session starting September 10. The dates are: September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26.

Did you know that children involved with keyboard instruction at an early age show significantly enhanced abstract reasoning abilities critical to success in both science and complex math? Put your child's future first!

Our program is proud to be educating students in Northern Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC, North and South Carolina!
www.pk4kids.com



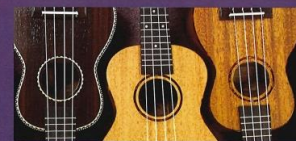
Beleo Music Group Friday 3:15

MCHL GROUP UKULELE



Fall 8 Week Session
September 13th - November 1st
Fridays: 3:30 - 4:15
Ages 4+

Ukulele is the new educational standard used by young students as a gateway into guitar and other stringed instruments. Using a variety of pop and folk songs, students will learn chords, fingerpicking and rhythm techniques that they may use to perform pieces or accompany themselves singing. Students may transition to guitar instruction after the initial session or continue studying more advanced techniques on Ukulele.



REGISTER NOW >

The 8 week program is \$195! Classes will meet once a week