



7/12/2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Oneonta Montessori family! We can't wait to get started with a promising and healthy new school year! We realize that you place great value on your child's education and we are overjoyed that you have chosen Oneonta to educate and nurture your child. It is a great honor and privilege that you have bestowed on us; we want to thank you and look forward to working alongside with you. Together we can contribute to their success as we share the same high expectations, hopes, and dreams that you have for your child's future.

For over 30 years Oneonta has been dedicated to providing an enriching environment achieved by staying true to the Montessori philosophy, the child is always the central figure in the classroom; respect for the child is a tenet of the Montessori Method and is uncompromised at Oneonta. Our teachers are trained and certified in the Montessori Method of teaching. They motivate and encourage growth by insightfully following the child's lead. The child is encouraged to set and reach goals in his/her learning process, which in turn promotes a strong sense of self. The Montessori Materials that were designed by Dr. Maria Montessori ignite a spark of creativity in a child while developing his/her senses. The self teaching and self correcting materials lessen the intrusiveness of the teacher and allows imaginative exploration. Dr. Maria Montessori placed great emphasis on multi-age groupings; they are intrinsic to the Montessori classroom and enhance the learning experience; younger children are stimulated by the activities of the older children & older children reinforce their own knowledge by 'teaching' younger children. Through the integral Montessori principal of multi-age groupings; leadership, strong friendships and a profound sense of belonging is cultivated at Oneonta Montessori.

Our preschool not only defines a high quality early childhood education program; it raises the standard by continually evolving to meet the needs of each individual child. All our teachers are committed early childhood educators, instilling in all our little ones a sense of awareness and responsiveness in a happy and safe environment.

In the elementary classrooms, we prepare our students for transitioning into a traditional school setting by incorporating text books, seat work, weekly quizzes, spelling tests and a grading system. Proficiency results of the National Standardized testing (Terra Nova 3rd edition) are a testament to our high expectations and the hard work of our students. While staying true to the Montessori philosophy, our elementary grade level Math and Language curriculum supports the California Common Core standards. Incorporating our Montessori Cultural Arts subjects such as History,

Geography, Botany, Zoology & Geometry allows our students to be curious and truly understand the world around them. Special subjects such as Social Studies, Science, PE, Spanish & the STEM program (for the older students) are also incorporated into the grade level curriculums.

Extracurricular after school activities such as Dance, Tennis and Soccer will recommence this school year.

Our Covid -19 journey began by implementing many safety precautions when we reopened, using the state's & LACDPH Guidance for schools as well as requirements from Ca State Social Services Dept. We have gone above and beyond what is recommended to keep our students and teachers healthy during this never ending Covid-19 pandemic; we will continue to do so without compromise. Daily temperature checks & dabs of hand sanitizer at entry, masks for staff and students indoors, reconfigurations of classrooms, sanitizing stations installed throughout the school, continuous washing hands, disinfecting high touch areas , limiting access on campus & weekly Covid-19 testing were changes we made to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all. A full set of guidelines for the new school year is on our website at www.oneontamontessori.com under Safety Protocols 2022-2023.

We will continue to mandate some of these important safety protocols at the beginning of the school year; if and when we are advised it is safe, we will discontinue them. During the school year if we have to reinstate any Covid-19 protocols deemed necessary by LACDPH or the state, we will do so. Please understand that even as we do our best to protect the health and welfare of everyone, eliminating the risk entirely is beyond our control. We ask that families please cooperate by understanding our immense undertaking and commit to following the guidelines we have established. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding!

We are committed to providing a satisfying and rewarding partnership with you. Your ideas and questions are valuable to us so please feel free to keep the lines of communication open. We anticipate a very successful and productive experience for all our students as we begin our “near normal” educational journey together for the 2022/2023 School Year! We stand fast in our commitment to our families and thank you for the trust placed on us.

*Yours truly,
Fiona Emersley
Director*