



Children's House New Parent Orientation 2014-2015 School Year

Welcome to Renaissance Montessori! We are excited to have your family part of our school community. Please let us know what questions you may have regarding the information below.

Enrollment forms. Please make sure that your child's emergency form, immunization and health forms and payment are in **before** your child begins his school session.

Drop off: 8:30 am. Please take advantage of the curbside drop off service from 8:30-8:40 each morning. Parents may still park and walk their children in if desired. When walking your child in, please strive for a consistent, calm and easy transition by saying goodbye just outside the classroom door. If you need to talk to an administrator in the office, please say goodbye to your child, then enter the office and close the door so that your child may begin his day undistracted. Want to chat with another parent? Please do so in our breezeway or in the parent lounge for the same reason. Please be sure to **sign in and out** each day.

Lateness/ absence. It is important that children arrive promptly each day, as we have lots of fun activities planned! Should your child be arriving late or be absent, please call the office (919-439-0130 and leave a message if necessary), as we include this news in our morning announcements. Children often ask where their friends are, and we like to let them know if a child is on a trip, arriving later, or will be absent for the day.

Clothing.

- Please provide your child with a change of clothes (one shirt, pair of pants, socks and underwear, **all labeled**) on his first day. You may leave these items in his cubby.
- Should your child need sunscreen or bug repellent (as our property is quite wooded!) please apply this **before** coming to school.
- During summer months, please bring a reusable, filled water bottle with your child's name and drop it in the basket outside your child's classroom each morning. Take home water bottles daily.

Open Door policy. We enjoy having a relaxed attitude toward parents entering the classroom. Please follow these guidelines when deciding to enter the classroom.

- Feel free to enter in the morning with your teacher's permission after your child has been in the classroom for at least 30 days.
- Likewise, feel free to schedule to spend part of the morning with your child in class or join him for lunch. This may be done by signing up prior to your desired day.
- If you feel that your child is having a difficult transition in the morning, allow the teacher to take the lead and distract your child or pick him up to 'say goodbye together' to you. Your teacher may contact you to discuss other options that may help.

Half Day pick up is at 12:30 pm outside. **Full Day pickup** is at 3:00 pm outside. **Extended Day pickup** is 3:00-6:00 pm. After 3:05 pm, please ring doorbell and a staff member will let you in. Please do not bring guests who are not specifically noted in your child's file as able to pick up your child, as they will not be allowed into the building.

A note about picking up your child. Only those listed as able to retrieve your child will be able to sign him or her out. Should you wish to add a friend or family member, please ask to write it in your child's file. The first time that any staff member meets the newly-included person, he or she will be asked to present a photo ID.

Snacks. Parents will contribute to snack each year in the form of a Snack Fee. This will allow our snack volunteer to prepare wholesome, sustainable and local ingredients for each day's snack that will include fresh fruits and vegetables, cheeses, grains, beverages, etc.

Lunch. For full and extended day students, please pack a labeled lunchbox with a protein, dairy, vegetable/ fruit, carbohydrate option and milk **in portions that your child can finish**. Your child's teacher will not be able heat up any food during lunch, so please pack hot and cold foods in Thermos brand containers. PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH WITH THEIR NAME AND THE DAY'S DATE (this daily dating is a licensing requirement).

Peanut Policy. Renaissance Montessori is a 'peanut sensitive' school. This means that we help our students with peanut and other food allergies to manage them. For example, a student that has a peanut allergy will be encouraged to move away from a student who may have brought a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch. Although generally do not serve tree nuts during snack, please note that peanut and tree nut dust has been at our school from the beginning.

Naps. For full and extended day students who still nap, please provide your child a crib-sized set of labeled sheets; small pillow and blanket are optional. Your child will be asked to lay down for 30 minutes; if he or she does not fall asleep regularly, he will be invited to rest quietly, then find an activity.

Extra activities: Please consider having your child participate in our many extracurricular activities. Information is listed on our website at RenaissanceScholars.com/Enrichment-Activities.

Parent Education and Community Meetings. Parents Nights are twice per semester. We find these times to be extremely valuable. Please make every effort to attend these nights. As always, childcare will be available. For more information, please visit the website.

Parent Conferences. You will be assigned a time and date to discuss with your teacher your child's academic, social and physical progress at least one month in advance. Please contact her right away if you should need to reschedule and make plans for both parents to attend.

Thank you for choosing Renaissance Montessori! A Bilingual Arts and Sciences Montessori Preschool. 610 Nottingham Drive, Cary, NC 27511. 919-439-0130. RenaissanceScholars.com