

Dear Families,

Welcome and welcome back! I am looking forward to another wonderful year in our classroom! I hope you have all had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer and that are getting yourselves ready for another year of learning!

Students, if you have not been doing so already, please prepare your mind for your return to school by easing off screen time and boosting your time spent reading, refreshing your multiplication facts, and spending time in nature. Bring whatever you are reading in with you, for we begin Joyful Reading (that's 30 minutes of silent individual reading) on the first day! We will also start math facts tests on the first day.

This year, we will be transitioning from the Book of Knowledge to a computerized version. We will continue to use the binders for tracking work until I get the new system all figured out. For new families, the Book of Knowledge is a catalog of the sequence of all the works your child will do in upper el, organized by subject and grade level. This sequence is a careful analysis and combination of both the Montessori Curriculum and the Common Core Curriculum. It has thus far proved to be a useful tool in helping students plan their time and take responsibility for their learning, as well as a simple way for parents to track their child's progress. When I know more about our new program, Montessori Compass, I will pass on any information that you need to know.

On a personal note, many of you know that my wonderful and very supportive husband will be spending this academic year away from home. He has an appointment at Harvard's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. I am very excited for him, but a little nervous about being a single parent to my two little girls this year. I am asking for your understanding and support, as this means I will be unable to participate in a lot of the evening events, such as Parent Ed Nights. Wherever possible, I will provide an alternative for events I will miss, and I already have my mom coming to stay with the girls so I can go to MTOS! Thank you in advance for your patience!

*****There is a list of required supplies on the back of this sheet. Please make sure you have all the required supplies ***on the first day of school***. I try very hard to keep the required supplies to an affordable and easy to find minimum. *****

Parents, please make sure that you are registered as a volunteer for the upcoming school year. Any adult who is not registered may not participate in activities with the children, including such simple things as coming in to eat lunch with your child in the cafeteria. It is very easy to register at <https://www.cmsvolunteers.com/>. If you can register with driving privileges, please do so!

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone at Open House!

--Christy Geiger

Supply List for Christy's Class—Upper EI—2013-14

6 composition books (not spiral bound) Many of yours from last year still have lots of blank pages, please reuse those if they are still in good condition. The subjects we will use them for this year are: Language, Math, History/Geography, Science, Writing Journal, Research *Optional-1 extra notebook for Spanish work*

Pencils * (at least 24) Dixon Ticonderoga preferred

Colored Pencils (at least 24)

A pencil box or case

Erasers

A sturdy handheld pencil sharpener Expect to replace this throughout the year. Please note that battery operated pencil sharpeners rarely last until September and are a waste of money. Pay extra for a good metal one and it should last at least until January!

1 plastic 3-prong Folder, solid color For Geometry. Returning students may replace the folder, but MUST keep the pages from last year!

One 1-inch, 3- ring binder For Art. Returning Students should keep theirs from last year.

One Pack of loose-leaf lined paper

One pack of loose-leaf graph paper

4th year Girls:

- Two rolls of paper towels*
- One box of tissues*

4th Year Boys:

- Two rolls of Paper towels*
- One pack of paper plates*

5th Year Girls:

- One box of tissues*
- One box of plastic forks*

5th Year Boys:

- One bottle of all-purpose spray cleaner *
- One box of plastic spoons*

6th Year Students:

- One box of Ziploc bags (gallon or sandwich size)*
- One box of tissues*

* All items marked with an asterix will **NOT** be the individual property of your child. Please do not label those items. They will be put together for general community use.