

June 20, 2014

Dear Students and Families,

Hello from Park Road Montessori! I hope your summer is going well.

When you arrive on the first day you can expect much to be the same, but you can expect some changes, as well – even if you're returning to my classroom. Regardless, expect to start right up on the first morning of the first day, and to not let up until it's summer again. Expect to write every day, expect to be tested on multiplication facts starting on the first Friday, and expect to start with STEMS tests on the second Friday. Further, we will begin immediately our fundraisers and other preparation for our trip to Mountain Trail Outdoor School on October 8-10, including our AutoBell fundraiser. Feel free to dirty up the car this summer, but don't clean it too well until that fundraiser!

Students please don't worry if you can't quite remember the difference between a eukaryote and a prokaryote or the application of the Pythagorean Theorem. We'll get to all of that. If you've been reading this summer, you're already as ready as you need to be. If you haven't read a good, solid novel this summer, you need to start one, NOW!

Parents, while I don't want to cause undue stress to your children, I do want to start strong this year, and keep up a strong pace. Summer bedtime hours in our house tend to relax a bit, but once school starts, students need plenty of sleep and a consistent routine. Good nutrition, especially breakfast and lunch, is important, and it's almost as important that children who bring a lunch pack it themselves. Upper elementary students need to take responsibility for their own lives as much as possible, and packing lunch (even if it has to be done the night before) is an excellent first step. It's sad to hear a child complaining about what's in his or her lunch, but not sad for the reasons THEY think it's sad! Related to that, we will this year enforce a ban on candy, frosting of any kind, doughnuts and cupcakes, including for birthday treats. You may also want to take a second look at the ingredients of those granola or other "healthy" snacks, as many of them to be loaded with sugar and fat.

Further, it's time to start talking about severe limitation of television and video game time, and how important it is that you monitor what they see on those screens. Our students' older siblings are in middle school and high school, and premature immersion in teen culture through online conversation and other media may not be appropriate for most elementary school students. We also see that it is a tremendous benefit to our students to be reading at least as much as watching TV or video games. Strong reading is the foundation for successful academic work, and those who don't read regularly are far less likely to make it into, much less succeed, in college. Reading informs all academic areas – math, history, geography and science, not just Language Arts. Along the same lines, you can help your child in school more than you realize if they see you reading regularly. In keeping with these ideas, we will have highly restricted access to technology for the first few weeks of school. Our students have grown accustomed to using a wide variety of tech tools in my classroom, but we will be starting with very few of those, so they can start the year by leaving phones and tablets at home.

Communication is important, and to that end, I should be available in person or by phone most school days between 4:15 and 5:30. The most certain way to reach me on a given evening is by email – [curtfrueh@gmail.com](mailto:curtfrueh@gmail.com) – I've found this a most reliable and informative way to communicate. By all means email me if you have questions or concerns. I like to hear from you, and I will respond.

I'm looking forward to working with this class. See you soon!

Best regards,

Curt Frueh

Supply List for Room 5, 2014-2015 School year:

Pencils – 6 dozen #2 pencils with erasers; personalize them, because what you bring in is what you'll use – we have no community pencil bin. Please no mechanical pencils. They are unreliable.

6 Sewn composition books

3 hand held, hand powered pencil sharpeners that catch the shavings -- again, personalize. Metal is better than plastic.

A variety of colored Sharpie markers (fine-tipped), personalized.

4<sup>th</sup> graders: one package of loose leaf lined paper for the community paper supply.

5<sup>th</sup> graders: one package of graph paper for the community paper supply.

All: 1 Spiral bound sketch paper pad, 5.5 x 8 inches, 100 sheets, like this: <http://amzn.to/1poWVrH>

4<sup>th</sup>: A refill bottle of spray cleaner, preferably an environmentally friendly brand.

5<sup>th</sup>: girls bring in a cylinder of turtle food, boys bring in a pack of replacement filters for a medium sized TetraFauna Reptofilter.

6<sup>th</sup>: a box of band-aids.

Optional: a USB thumb drive (any size) for easily transporting files from home to school. Our students do research presentations for the class and USB drives make moving files back and forth much easier.

One plastic bin that closes, to hold the above, and other work, measuring about 4 or 5 inches tall, 13 or 14 inches across and 9 or 10 inches from back to front. It should easily hold the stack of composition books, with room for pencils, sharpeners, etc.

One box of facial tissues, preferably unscented, with no added aloe or other oils.

Please supply your email address, too, if you haven't already.

Other supply needs will become apparent during the year; we will keep you informed via email.

Thank you!

Curt Frueh