



Hampton Roads International Montessori School



October 2021 Dates to Remember

Monday, Oct. 11th: No School Indigenous People's Day

Thursday, Oct. 14: Hampton Campus Fun Run

Friday, Oct. 15: Newport News Campus Fun Run

Saturday, Oct. 16: Virtual 5K

Thursday Oct. 21 6:30-8:00 **Children's House Parent Education Night:** Hampton Campus and virtual.

Let's talk about Practical Life! (See p. 2 for more information)

Friday, Oct. 22 No School for Students: Professional Day

Monday, Oct. 25 Spirit Week Pajama Day

Tuesday, Oct. 26 Spirit Week Crazy Hair Day

Wednesday, Oct. 27 Spirit Week Career Day

Thursday, Oct. 28 Spirit Week Backward Clothes Day

Thursday Oct. 28 6:30-8:00 **Toddler Parent Education Night:** Hampton Campus and virtual.

Let's talk about Toilet Learning! (See p. 2 for more information)

Friday, Oct. 29 Spirit Week Wear Your HRIMS T-Shirt or Wear Blue Day

Planning Ahead: Parent Conferences, virtual and in-person on Nov. 4th and 5th. A sign up genius will be sent out soon for choosing a time!

JOIN US!

Toddler Parent Education Night: Thursday Oct. 28 6:30-8:00
Hampton Campus and virtual

Let's talk about Toilet Learning!

Come join us to learn the tricks of the trade when it comes to toilet learning for your child. Starting the process early is important, so come learn how and when to look for signs of readiness for toilet learning. We will answer any questions or concerns you may have. The toddler staff will see you there!



Children's House Parent Education Night: Thursday Oct. 21 6:30-8:00
Hampton Campus and virtual

Let's talk about Practical Life

This unique curriculum area Maria Montessori established provides opportunities for children to use items they have seen at home and connects the child to their new Montessori environment. By providing them the presentation of how to use the materials for their purpose, the children learn to care for themselves and their environment with joy and a love for work. Grace and courtesy lessons are taught to develop their social and problem-solving skills while the children learn how to work and play in harmony with others. In a community that promotes peace, the child learns these critical life skills beginning from the moment the child first enters the classroom.

Join us as we learn about Practical Life in our beautiful Montessori environments!

Toddler Community



My Toddler Morning Routine:

The toddler morning routine starts with car line at 8:30. Car line is fun! I am greeted by the teachers outside in front of the school. They help me get out of my car seat, get my lunch box and water bottle. I carry my things and we hold hands until we reach the building. Safety always comes first. I reach the cubby area where I look for my picture to put my lunch box away. We head towards the classroom using our walking feet. We practice walking “heel-toe”, “heel-toe”. Once inside the classroom I greet my friends, put my water bottle in the basket and head towards the white basket with my slippers. I sit on the blue line on the floor, take off my shoes and then work on putting on my slippers. Sometimes this is not easy! My teacher will help me, but I have to use my words. “Help me, please” is the phrase we are learning. My teacher has shown me sign

language to help me communicate. Occasionally, I become frustrated, but I just take a deep breath and try again. My teacher will ask my friends to help. This always makes me feel better to have an “older friend”/“role model” helping me. Next, I head towards the bathroom.

Toileting is very important! I am observing and learning from my older friends, who go independently. I am learning to pull my pants up and down, take off my diaper by pulling on my tabs, and then throwing it in the trash. I sit on the toilet for two minutes to see if something will come out. My teacher always praises me for my efforts. My toilet is very close to the ground. This helps me get on and off it by myself. When I am finished I get a fresh diaper and wash my hands in the sink. I wash my hands with one pump of soap and rinse with warm water. My teacher sings a song with me to help me get all the germs off. It’s time for the Work Cycle after hand washing.



The Work Cycle is when I am able to choose work from the shelves. There are many different areas in our classroom. Practical Life, Sensorial, Art, Language, Library, Safe Space, Music and Movement. In each area there are place mats or floor rugs. I use a place mat for table work and a rug for floor work. This is my “work space”. My work area is for my hands only. I treat the materials with respect, being gentle and walking with them slowly. My teacher asks that I use one work at a time. When I am done, I put my work back in it’s “home” and make it ready for the next friend. I also have to pinch and roll my table mat or floor rug. This is great fine motor skill practice. We sing a song called “pinching and rolling” to help me remember what to do. I love Work cycle, it’s where I get to explore and learn new things. My teacher rings the chime when the work cycle is over and it’s time for Circle. I put my work away and head towards the blue rug.



Circle time is so exciting! We sing songs about the weather, shapes, apples, pumpkins and farm animals. We also sing to each other and say good morning. This is our community time and how we get to know each other. We love to sing and dance. My teacher makes funny faces and reads books to us about the things we are studying in the classroom. When we are finished, it’s time for snack.

Snack is my favorite part of the day! We sit together like a family and eat. We have to first set our place. We use a place mat, glass plates, small glass cups, cloth napkins and silverware. We have to be very careful, walk slowly and hold everything with two hands. I am learning how to use my silverware to eat instead of my fingers, when appropriate. I am also learning how to politely ask for snack or water using the words “please and thank you.” When I am done, I take one item at a time and wash them at the dish washing station. My napkin goes in the laundry basket to be washed. Sometimes My teacher will ask a friend to help her with the laundry. We get to go to the laundry room and help her put the laundry in the washer. This is so exciting!

When snack is over, it is time to go outside. We use the bathroom one more time and then change our inside shoes for our outside ones. Once we are all ready for outside, we hold a rope with different colored loops to be safe and walk down the hallway to the door and then outside to the playground. Outside time is SO much fun! We even go outside when it is raining!

Children's House



“We discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being.”

– Dr. Maria Montessori

The start of the school year is always bittersweet, always emotional, always requires us to be present and compassionate and ready with a lap and a hand to hold and to hug, but this year is different. For many of our students, they have not had the interactions with others that are usual for them. They need more from us to help make them feel safe when leaving parents, working with others, and working alone. To make this transition easier, we, the Montessorians, are accommodating our children's needs by observing their skills and setting them up for success.

The mixed-age group in the classroom plays a key role and helps children develop their social skills. The children are learning to get along with each other. They are practicing social graces and courtesy lessons. The adults are the role models in the classroom and exhibit gentle and respectful behavior throughout the day. They are eager and excited to see their friends and are learning to share and wait for their turns.



The children love to see their friends, but at the same time, they miss their family, which is the most important and favorite to them. They need a lot of attention and affection. Often the children love to have a conversation or want us to read a book to a small group. They enjoy listening to a book or playing language games and want us to sit and talk and listen to them, which helps to enhance their vocabulary and develops communication skills.

They are working more on refining their social skills, as they were away from their friends. The older children are assisting younger children. We are providing them opportunities to gain confidence, giving them responsibilities, and allowing them to make mistakes. The children learn by making mistakes. If they spill water while transferring water from one cup to another, we calmly point to the wet table and ask them, “What should we do?” This allows them to develop problem-solving skills, rather than immediately solving the problem for them.

Our prepared environment has everything in order, and the children have access to the towels, broom, and dustpan, which fosters independence. The children are engaged in taking care of the environment by dusting the shelves, polishing leaves, washing the table, and sweeping the floor. This helps them to develop coordination of their movements and self-esteem.

The children are incredibly empathetic, and what affects one of us affects all of us, doubly so for children. They enjoy making others feel happy and safe in our classroom.



Lower Elementary

Our students are excited to be back in the classroom! They are quickly making new friends and catching up with old ones. The elementary level and plane of development speaks to the need for socialization at this level and learning how to interact with each other. This is guided by our grace and courtesy curriculum and focuses on respect for self and others.

The students are acclimating to their new classrooms and guidelines. They are getting used to the schedule and completing their daily work plans. They have been excited to get back into the classroom to work on new lessons and review previous ones. The first month of the year has a focus on reviewing skills that may not have been practiced over the summer and balancing that practice with the introduction of new lessons to excite and inspire the students to learn more.



The students have had lessons on the continent of Asia, encompassing puzzle maps, haiku poetry and general information and research. This global perspective allows students to develop an appreciation for other cultures and the connections we have with others around the world.

Botany lessons were also introduced on fall related subjects, such as plants and types of leaves, with upcoming lessons on photosynthesis.

In addition to the studies of Asia and botany, children listened to the story of how geometry got its name. They worked with the shapes in the geometric cabinet, along with tracing the metal insets to compare congruent, similar and equivalent shapes. Not to be forgotten, they also received lessons on the origin of the days of the week and months of the year. Follow up lessons were also received on capitalization and abbreviations.

Looking ahead, the students are anxiously awaiting Spirit Week, which gives them a chance to have fun by expressing themselves through their dress or hair. Children are also looking forward to running or walking in the annual Fun Run in October. Students did a terrific job writing letters to sponsors asking for donations for completing the race, and we want to thank all those who have supported us!



Upper Elementary

Upper Elementary is exploring and learning all about Maria Montessori's Second Great Lesson- The Timeline of Life. They are taking a look at the first organisms to inhabit earth up until present day. This lesson will be the basis for many of their botany, zoology, and geology lessons this year. It is by far a favorite of all the Great Lessons, and they will begin doing research based off of what they have been studying.

This lesson has led them to study the different eras, and they have been researching the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras. This study incorporates fossils, using maps and coordinates, learning the countries around the world, and so much more! It is amazing to watch their interest grow and to see them share what they have learned with others, creating more excitement about learning.

Their study of eras and fossils has led them to studying vertebrates. Finding similar characteristics can be an interesting part of the classification of vertebrates. Delving deeper into mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles allows for curiosity as they research and creativity and individuality in choosing examples.



The students are wrapping up their Geometry City Planning Project. They were given specific directions to design a city using the many different types of lines and angles they have been reviewing the past two weeks. From this, they then had to place specific buildings and landmarks. Now they are naming the streets and are actually working on the Urban Structure of their cities. This will set them up for a bigger, long-term project they will be introduced to soon!

For language we have been working on a Narrative Writing. They have been guided through the writing process from brainstorming, researching, and drafting. They are working on editing and revising and learning the process of both. The students have been coming up with some excellent works, and we are anxious to see their final products.

Much of the beginning of year focused on review of math processes and skills. In addition to practice of the concepts, math is woven into the studies of all other areas. For example, in learning about vertebrates, students also learned and practiced fractions. They used animal studies, how long they sleep and why they need that much sleep to complete math problems and research. They then figured out what fraction of a 24 hour day that is, and simplified the fractions. Learning is so much easier when you can apply what you have learned and when you can learn and use information from other curriculum areas. It might even make fractions fun!



The upper el students also have a subscription to Epic, a site that hosts over 40,000 books and audiobooks. They have been challenged to read as many books as possible this year, helping to increase their reading comprehension, speed, and accuracy. They can read at home or in school, logging in if they can't find what they are looking for in our school library.

Here's to having an Epic year in Upper Elementary!

Ways to Support HRIMS



We would like to thank the Colburn Family for their donation to our EISTC Program! This will go directly to help families who would like to attend our elementary program, but are unable to afford the full tuition.

The **Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program** allows businesses and individuals to donate to our financial aid program and receive a credit on their Virginia taxes for 65% of the amount of the donation. In addition, you are able to claim the donation on both Federal and Virginia taxes as a donation.

As diversity of our community in all areas is the mission of our school, this program truly helps us fulfill our mission and directly impacts both the community and allows your children's friends to continue in our elementary program. It allows our toddler and children's house students participating in the Miliary's Childcare Aware Program and the Virginia Subsidy

Program to continue on to our elementary program, benefitting from the consistency of community and our Montessori education.

Thank you, Colburn Family, for truly being a difference-maker in our HRIMS community. We truly appreciate your impact on our students!

For more info on EISTCP, see our website at: <https://hrimontessori.org/eistc>

Newport News and Hampton Campus Updates

Newport News Campus Updates

We are excited to have the pavement fixed in our drop off circle!

Hampton Campus Updates

Thank you to Ms. Lindsey for her tenacity in all things benefitting the school! She worked to secure a grant for playground equipment and was **awarded the \$15,000 grant for elementary equipment** for the Hampton Campus. She negotiated the installation fees and with using some of the donations from our Student Fun Run and 5k, we are excited to make this happen for our students!

Newport News Campus and Hampton Campus Updates

We are excited to welcome Ms. Genesis to our programs. She will begin teaching Spanish to our Children's House and Elementary Levels in January! This is another benefit from our funding through our Student Fun Run and 5K donations. Thank you for helping to make additional programming available without raising tuition to fund it!

Committees Available For Both Campuses:

Please contact the office if you are interested in any of those listed. We will begin meetings soon!

New Family Mentor 5k and Fun Run Parent Organization Leadership Campus Beautification
Winter Social Spring Fair CH/6th grade graduation Teacher Appreciation Week HRIMS Merchandise