



Little River Montessori School

www.littlerivermontessori.com

PARENT HANDBOOK

2020-2021

GENERAL INFORMATION

MISSION

The mission of Little River Montessori School is to inspire children to reach their human potential - academically, socially, and emotionally - in an authentic Montessori environment. The goal is for children to develop inner discipline, self-assurance, independent thinking and a life-long love of learning within a cooperative social context.

LRMS HISTORY

Little River Montessori School was established in 1978 as Maryville-Alcoa Montessori School. The name was changed to New Horizon in 1981 when the school moved to its present location and then to Little River in 2015. In 2020, LRMS opened a toddler classroom at the Louisville location and opened an elementary campus in Knoxville.

AFFILIATION

Little River Montessori was initially affiliated with St. Nicholas Montessori Training College in London, England. In 1990, Little River was involved in forming a new Montessori teacher's training organization, Montessori Educators International, Inc. Little River Montessori School is approved by the Tennessee State Department of Education.

INCLUSIVITY

LRMS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age in any of its programs and activities and provides equal access to any extracurricular activities or after-hours school functions.

FERPA/Records Releases

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides parents/guardians certain rights in regards to student educational records. For more information, please contact the school office.

FACULTY

Title	Name	Email Address
School Director & Elementary & Adolescent Lead Guide	Jamie Watts	littlerivermontessori@gmail.com
Business Manager	Jessica Smith	jessicasmith.lrms@gmail.com
Office Manager	Emily Guarisco	egualrms@gmail.com
Director of Early Childhood Education & Early Childhood Lead Guide	Allison Jones	ajonlrms@gmail.com
Elementary Assistant Guide	Angela Varnon	angvarlrms@gmail.com
Early Childhood Lead Guide	Amanda Gienow	amandaglrms@gmail.com
Toddler Lead Guide	Rebekah Carpenter	rebekahcarpenter.lrms@gmail.com
Aftercare Director & Early Childhood Assistant Guide	Blake Jones	josephbjonesy@gmail.com

Tax ID Number: 02-0554071

Mailing Addresses

Little River Montessori School South
913 E. Cumberland Dr.
Louisville, TN 37777
865-970-4322

Little River Montessori School West
544 Canton Hollow Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37934
865-777-0197

ANNUAL TUITION & FEES 2020-2021

<u>Depart Time</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
12:00pm (Toddler Only)/12:45pm	\$6,700.00 (\$690.10 monthly)
3:00pm	\$7,700.00 (\$793.10 monthly)
3:15pm - 5:30pm	\$8,700.00 (\$896.10 monthly)

There is a non-refundable enrollment fee of \$250.00 for new students. Tuition is due on the first day of the month. Payments received after the 5th of the month will accrue a late fee of \$15.00. Elementary students must attend class until at least 3:00 p.m. The school reserves the right to drop from the roll any child whose tuition is over 30 days overdue.

There is a \$500 a year discount for siblings, children of employees, first responders, or military families.

Yearly assessment of re-enrollment and placement is considered in this order of priority:

1. Younger siblings of children currently enrolled in Little River Montessori;
2. Students transferring from other Montessori schools;
3. Younger siblings of students who are eligible but do not attend Montessori (including former Montessori students who left before graduating) and students new to Montessori with no older siblings.

In considering class placement, many factors are reviewed in addition to chronological age. Please be assured that the staff at Little River will carefully assess your child as a unique individual before recommending class placement.

LRMS is an approved TN DHS Child Care Certificate Program participant. Please contact Jessica Smith at jessicasmith.lrms@gmail.com for more details.

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN

The discount for additional children applies to the younger or youngest sibling(s).

ENROLLMENT

Children are accepted into the classroom on a one-month trial basis. If after a month, your child does not seem to be adjusting well you will be contacted for a conference to work together on a solution or discuss alternatives.

SCHOOL MEDICAL RECORDS

The school is required by law to maintain up-to-date health records on all students. Existing health records from another school are acceptable. Immunization records are kept on file at the school. We also accept medical and religious exceptions. All health records must be signed or stamped by the doctor or medical facility.

WEATHER CLOSINGS

Little River Montessori School follows our own plan for inclement weather closing and delayed opening schedules. Upon a closing/delay decision, all LRMS families will be notified via email and text message. If the weather deteriorates during the school day, we will stay open until the last child leaves. Parents may collect children at their discretion on these days. We will open as soon as possible after bad weather occurs. You are not obligated to bring your children if conditions in your area are still hazardous. Feel free to call the school if you are not sure about a closing.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Emergency information should be supplied in the space provided in the Child's Emergency Profile Form. Updating this form will be expected yearly. This information is kept on file at the school. Should a child become ill or suffer an injury at school, the staff will attempt to contact the child's parents/guardians. If they cannot be reached, the list of people authorized to act in an emergency will be used. If no one on the list can be reached and medical attention is indicated, the child will be taken by a staff member or ambulance for treatment as required.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

On-Time Arrival is Important

Our classrooms, regardless of age group, follow established daily schedules because children thrive on routine and order. When children arrive after the start of class, their routine as well as those of the other students is disrupted. Children have an inherent social need to greet their teachers and friends and settle into their environment. Children arriving late miss this important transition time, yet their social needs persist. We find that children arriving late want to speak to their teacher, greet their friends, and are often frustrated to find that the work they planned to do has already been chosen by another child. As a result, late children distract and frustrate their already working classmates, interrupt the teacher and the children with whom she/he is already engaged, and have a harder time choosing work for themselves or planning their morning. Furthermore, they miss valuable work time and often do not have time to complete an entire lesson and engage in deeper levels of concentration. This missing time leaves them well behind their peers by the end of the week.

Tardies

Students are marked tardy if they fail to enter the classroom (not the building) by 8:00 a.m. Please keep in mind that Early Childhood students will need a few minutes to hang up their belongings and change into their slippers each morning. Each accumulation of five (5) tardies equals one (1) unexcused absence.

Absences

Please let us know by telephone or email as soon as possible if your child will be absent.

Absences will be excused for the following reasons: illness or injury, death in the immediate family, medical appointment, court proceeding, religious observance, educational opportunity (Approval must be granted by the Director. No more than five (5) educational opportunity days may be taken each school year.), and absences related to military deployment. Absences not falling into one of these categories will be considered unexcused.

Intervention

Any student who accrues more than twenty (20) excused absences in a school year may have to repeat that year. The Director and Lead Guide will meet with the parents before the end of the year to make that determination.

Parents of students who accrue three (3) unexcused absences in a year will receive an email notification from the school. Parents of students that accrue six (6) unexcused absences in a year will be required to attend a conference with the Director and Lead Guide to discuss ways in which the family can restructure their home schedule to accommodate consistent school attendance.

School-age students (K-6th grade) who accrue ten (10) unexcused absences will be referred to social services (in accordance with TN Dept. Of Education regulations) and will be unenrolled from LRMS, at the discretion of the Director. Pre-K students accruing ten (10) unexcused absences will be unenrolled from LRMS, at the discretion of the Director.

There is no tuition credit for absences, vacation or illness. If an extended absence of more than 3 days is anticipated, please contact your child's teacher. Elementary students must attend at least the minimum number of days required by the State of Tennessee. Days of attendance are reported to the State Dept. of Education. Extra "snow days" are included in the school year. If necessary, additional make-up days will be added as required at no extra charge.

ADDITIONAL HOURS

The rate for additional time beyond the prepaid tuition increment is \$6.00 per hour (or part of an hour) per child. The rate for additional time past 5:30pm is \$10.00 per five minutes, payable in five minute intervals.

DISENROLLMENT

Students may be dis-enrolled for any the following reasons:

1. A pattern of aggressive or violent behavior of any type.
2. Any pattern of behavior that adversely affects the learning environment.
3. Illegal activities.
4. Nonpayment of tuition or tuition over 30 days late.
5. Irresolvable conflict of parental and school goals for a child.
6. Abusive (physical or emotional) behavior by parents to children or staff.
7. Inability of the staff to address the needs of a child.
8. Significant difficulty of parents or child in adjusting to the methods and procedures at LRMS. This includes excessive tardiness and excessive absences.

Class Daily Schedules

TODDLER COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

7:30 - 8:00	Arrivals
8:00 - 10:00	Individual lessons during the uninterrupted work cycle
10:00 - 11:00	Outdoor Recreation
11:00 - 12:00	Lunch, clean up, and rest time prep
12:00 - 12:10	Half day dismissal
12:00 - 2:15	Rest time
2:15 - 2:45	Clean up from rest time and snack
2:45 - 3:00	Full Day Dismissals
3:00 - 5:30	Aftercare: Free play, Art, and Outdoor activities

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Kindergarten students will be marked tardy after 8:00am

7:30 - 8:00	Arrivals (Children should be in the classroom by 8:00am)
8:00 - 11:00	Individual lessons during the uninterrupted work cycle
11:05 - 11:25	Group
11:30 - 11:55	Outdoor Recreation
12:00 - 12:35	Lunch, cleanup & rest time prep
12:35 - 12:45	Half day dismissals (children under five years)
12:45 - 2:15	Resting (children under five years)
12:45 - 2:15	Kindergarten students extended day work
2:15 - 2:45	Outdoor Recreation
2:45 - 3:00	Full Day Dismissals
3:00 - 5:30	Aftercare: Lessons, Art, & Outdoor activities

Any child under five years of age staying past lunch is required by TN law to have a period of rest.

ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Elementary students will be marked tardy after 8:00am

7:00 - 8:00	Arrivals (Children should be in the classroom by 8:00am)
8:30 - 9:00	Group Lesson #1
9:00 - 11:00	Individual lessons during the uninterrupted work cycle
11:00 - 11:15	Jobs/Clean Up
11:15 - 11:45	Group Lesson #2
11:45 - 12:15	Lunch
12:15 - 12:45	Recess
12:45 - 1:15	Group Lesson #3
1:15 - 2:15	Follow Up Lessons
2:15 - 2:45	Jobs/Learning Logs
2:45 - 3:15	Dismissals

3:15 – 5:30

Aftercare: Outdoor activities & Free play

Note: The above schedules may change as required.

TODDLER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD - ARRIVALS & DISMISSALS

Staff members will be on hand from 7:30am to 8:00am to accept children.

Per state of Tennessee requirements, all children must be signed in and out by a parent or guardian. A sign in sheet will be provided for this purpose. We require supervision of the children at all times. We cannot accept responsibility for children who are not properly escorted to staff supervision upon arrival. Please do not drop your child off at the sidewalk and drive away or leave them unattended in the front hallway.

Children will be marked tardy after 8:00am.

Carpool arrivals will begin at 7:30am. For standard Arrival and Dismissal times (7:30am to 8:00am & 2:45pm to 3:00pm) please loop around the parking lot in a counter-clockwise direction. When your car reaches the entrance sidewalk, a teacher will escort your child inside or bring your child to the car. During arrivals and dismissals this will require no parking at the sidewalk from the corner of the school towards the road.

Late arrivals are very disruptive to a class that has already settled down to work. The additional distraction of another adult in the classroom is enough to interfere with a child's concentration – which is not easily regained.

Children arriving after 8:00am must be escorted by a parent into the office to sign in. A staff member will bring the child to their classroom so as to not interrupt the work cycle.

If your child dismisses at 12:00pm/12:45pm, please park and come into the hallway. A staff member will bring your child to you. Please do not come into the classroom. The transition from lunch to rest time is a busy one and staff members are focused on helping children get settled.

Carpool dismissals will begin at 2:45pm. Children who are not staying for aftercare will be brought into the hallway to wait for their parents. Drivers will follow the same path as for arrivals. A staff member will escort your child to the vehicle. Children not picked up by 3:00pm will be brought to aftercare.

The extended day hours are 3:00pm to 5:30pm. Please do not bring children into the classrooms before 7:30am even if staff members are present. If staff members are at school before 7:30am, it is because they are busy preparing for school to open and they cannot complete their tasks if they must supervise children. The school closes at 5:30pm. Children who are not picked up by 5:30pm are assessed a fee of \$10 per five minutes/per child.

ELEMENTARY - ARRIVALS & DISMISSALS

Staff members will be on hand from 7:00am to 8:30am to accept children.

Per state of Tennessee requirements, all children must be signed in and out by a parent or guardian. A sign in sheet will be provided for this purpose.

Children will be marked tardy after 8:00am.

Carpool arrivals will begin at 7:00am. For standard Arrival and Dismissal times (7:00-8:00am), weather permitting, children will be dropped off at the playground gate. On inclement weather days, please pull up to the gate closest to the main building and a teacher will escort your child inside.

Late arrivals are very disruptive to a class that has already settled down to work. The additional distraction of another adult in the classroom is enough to interfere with a child's concentration - which is not easily regained.

If you arrive after 8:30am or need to pick up your child before 2:45pm, please pull up to the gate closest to the main building and a teacher will come to your vehicle to help.

Carpool dismissals will begin at 2:45pm. Children will be out on the playground. Please pull up to the playground gate and your child will be released to you. If we are inside due to inclement weather, please pull up to the gate closest to the main building and a teacher will escort your child out to you.

Aftercare is held from 3:15pm until 5:30pm. Children who are not picked up by 5:30pm are assessed a fee of \$10 per five minutes/per child.

STUDENT DIRECTORY

Email addresses, phone numbers, and home addresses are included in our student directory. This directory is provided to those who request it for birthday invitations, scheduling play dates, etc. If you do not wish to have your information released to other LRMS families, please indicate your wishes on our information release form in your child's folder. Please notify us immediately if your information changes.

ADULTS IN THE SCHOOL

Observation of the classroom is welcomed and encouraged. This is especially true before conferences. You may set up an appointment to observe your child's classroom. Parents are welcome in the classrooms at any time with one stipulation; we ask only that you wait until the teacher feels that there will not be a disruption before you come into the room and that you try to follow the same rules as the children and teachers. Unfamiliar adults in the classroom environment may be a problem for some children, and since these are classrooms, control of disruptions is important. You can also arrange to have your child videotaped in lieu of personal observation. Please be aware of the rules and encourage your children to follow these rules when you are at school. (Of course, encourage them to follow the rules when you are not at school, too.) The basic rules are that we treat people kindly, use lessons carefully, use quiet voices, walk in the school, use furniture appropriately (not sit on tables or stand on benches), use only lessons that have been presented, walk around carpet seats and lesson rugs.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

The students will be videotaped several times and have their pictures taken by the staff during the school year. These photos/videos may be used by LRMS for newsletters and/or social media posts on sites such as Facebook and Instagram. **If you do not want your child photographed or videotaped please indicate your wishes on our Media Release Form in your child's folder.** Generally, pictures may be taken during the work cycle, at birthday celebrations, and school functions such as picnics, open houses, and plays. In photos/videos that are used for newsletters/social media posts, to protect their privacy, children will never be identified by name.

UNSAFE DRIVERS

As required by the Department of Human Services, we must inform you of the following policy: If anyone arrives in a condition or drives in a manner that a staff member considers unsafe for transporting a child, we are not allowed to prevent his or her leaving with the child, but are obligated to call the police to report the situation. We will also try to contact another guardian, if appropriate. Children must be transported to and from the school in age-appropriate, serviceable car seats in accordance with State of TN regulations.

NEWSLETTERS

Parent newsletters will be sent electronically every week. These newsletters are necessarily brief. If any part of the newsletter is confusing, please feel free to ask for clarification. Newsletters contain information you need to know. Changes in the school calendar, upcoming events, and current events are included in these letters, which will help you remember many things that are easy to forget (such as school holidays).

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

If there are questions, please arrange to ask them when children are not present. All discussions and special conferences regarding your child must be done during school hours and under appropriate circumstances. Please do not unnecessarily distract the supervising staff person from monitoring the classroom or playground. This does not mean that teachers will not talk to you. It does mean that they should be looking at the children and not you when answering. It also means that they may suddenly end the conversation without warning to attend to their duties. Please don't take offense if a teacher puts the children's needs first. You may call at any time to check on your child and ask the staff person who is in charge of answering the phone to check on your child or with your child's teachers.

MESSAGES

Messages to staff must be written and dated or sent via email. Verbal messages may not be accurately remembered and implemented. It is especially important that permission for your child to be picked up by someone who is not listed on the "Release Form" is sent as a written note. We will not release your child to visit friends without communication from you. For elementary students there is an area in the learning log for parent and teacher messages.

CONFERENCES

Conferences are intended to be a personal exchange of information between parents and teachers to help both be more effective adults in the child's life. Learning is not confined to the hours which the child spends at school, but is the sum total of all experiences. This makes the cooperation between parents and teachers especially important. Please do not feel that you have to wait until there is a problem to have a conference. Whenever you feel the need to discuss your child's progress or shed light on his home experience call for an appointment. Typically, conferences will be held twice a year. Information will be sent home in preparation for conferences. If additional conferences are required, please allow staff three school days to prepare. If it is not possible to schedule a conference in person, please call to arrange for a phone conference.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is a very important meal for children. Please be sure to provide your child with a nutritional breakfast. The morning snack is no substitute for breakfast. The morning snack is not a substantial amount, but will help tide children over until lunchtime. Children should complete their meal before entering the school building. If they are still finishing their food in the car, please park while your child eats and then escort them into the building.

SNACKS

Snacks are provided by the parents via a weekly snack schedule. The schedule will be posted in the front hallway. If you are unable to bring snack on your child's week, please let a staff member know and we will help you make arrangements. When it is your child's turn, a letter will be sent home with snack suggestions and the number of children in the classroom. The snack your family provides for the class should be at the school by 8:15am. Please remember that snacks are available for the children to choose when and if they want them. If a child does not eat a snack it was because it was not chosen during the 2 1/2 hours of availability.

Staff at Little River will never withhold snack from children, but children may choose not to partake.

LAUNDRY

When it is your child's turn for snack, Early Childhood and Elementary families will also be asked to wash a basket of classroom laundry. This basket includes napkins, washcloths, eye masks for lessons, and other washable items. Please allow your child to assist in this process as it reinforces a sense of community by making children responsible for items used daily in their classroom.

SHOW AND TEACH

Children are allowed to bring articles of general interest to school, such as collections, pictures, and books. When it is the child's turn for sharing, a box will go home. Books should be true or fiction stories about real subjects. We do not read stories about fantasy, talking animals, or fairy tales to children under six years of age. Please help your child choose books about people or nature which are, or could be, true. This policy does not mean that children cannot use their imaginations or fantasize themselves. It means only that teachers do not present adult generated fantasy to children under six years old. Examples include shells, flowers, nonfiction books, pictures of vacations, etc.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are celebrated at school. These are important milestones for your child. If you would like to bring pictures of your child at younger ages and talk about previous years of growth you may do so. In the Early Childhood class the "Walk Around the Sun" is done at group before lunch. You should arrive in time for this group if you wish to bring pictures. Please check with your child's teacher to make arrangements for this type of visit. If you would like to stay for lunch or just come for lunch on your child's birthday please let us know the day before so that we can coordinate arrangements.

The Early Childhood class "walk around the sun" is at 11:30am.

The Elementary class "walk around the sun" is at 11:30am.

If you are planning a party for your child please make arrangements far enough in advance to mail or email invitations to the guests. Addresses may be found in the student directory. Please do not hand out invitations at school or ask your child or any of the staff to hand them out. When invitations are handed out in class it increases the chances of hurt feelings among those not invited.

GIFTS

Children should not bring gifts for other children to school. This is to prevent hurt feelings. Children are not allowed to trade items with or sell items to each other.

ARTICLES TO BRING TO SCHOOL

It was the belief of Maria Montessori that children under age six are not fully able to discern fantasy from reality. Since then, research has proven many times that exposure to adult generated fantasy disorients children and can stifle their own developing imaginations. Out of respect to the philosophy and research of Dr. Montessori, ALL Little River Montessori School staff and students are asked to refrain from bringing fantasy items into the school. This includes clothing, shoes/slippers, lunchboxes, water bottles, blankets, etc. The Montessori philosophy provides ample time for child directed imagination and creativity. Many of the fantasy characters on TV and in the media portray scenes of graphic violence and unrealistic life goals – two factors that young children are not fully capable of processing yet. We strive to cultivate a community of peace and developmentally appropriate experiences for the students of LRMS. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

“How is it possible for the child’s imagination to be developed by that which is in truth the fruit of the adult’s imagination? We alone imagine, not they; they merely believe.” -Maria Montessori

FOOTWEAR

All students will be wearing non-decorated, unobtrusive slippers while in the classrooms. The school will not provide these. Slippers should be plain, cover the foot (not over the ankle), have nonskid/non-marking soles, and be easy for children to put on with minimal assistance. Examples of preferred slippers are: Toms, Crocs, Moccasins, Ballet slippers, Montessori Movers, etc. Elementary students will change into their slippers upon entering the classroom from the playground door. Early Childhood students change into their slippers in the main hallway when entering or leaving the building. The younger children will have assistance during normal arrival, dismissal, and play times until they gain independence. We will also be concentrating on required skills in class, e.g. shoe tying. A note on shoes - the gravel on the playground is not “kind” to shoes. It is suggested that dress shoes are not worn to school. Shoes that are easy to manage are best. Boots with zippers, dress shoes/sandals with small buckles, or tie up shoes (before the child is capable of tying their shoes) are frustrating to children who have to wait for help while others are ready to go.

REST TIME

Any child under five years of age (or not in Kindergarten) staying past lunch or more than six hours is required by law to have a rest period. Resting children may bring a small blanket and/or stuffed animal for this peaceful time. Items for rest time should be free of fantasy characters, ex. Superheroes, Princesses, Cartoons, etc. These items will be stored inside tote bag placed in a basket when not in use. Bulky sleeping bags, pillows, or large blankets are not acceptable since there is not enough room to store them. Blankets and stuffed animals will be sent home each Friday to be washed.

- **Blanket** – small blankets (52”x60”) work best. Blankets should be labeled clearly and should be free of fantasy characters ex: Superheroes, Princesses, Cartoons
- **Stuffed animal** – optional

- **Pillow** – must be travel size or smaller (12"x16") to conserve storage space.

TODDLER COMMUNITY

All articles should be clearly labeled.

All children should bring:

- **4x6 framed family photo** - As children are adjusting to being at school, it's comforting for them to have a photo of their family to discuss with their teachers and show their friends. This photo will stay at school all year and be very well loved.
- **1 pair of slippers** – slippers should be plain, cover the entire foot, and have a non-skid, non-marking sole. These will stay at school. (ex: Toms, Crocs, Ballet Slippers, Montessori Movers, etc.)
- **Small reusable water bottle** - please label clearly. To help children manage them independently, water bottles should be 14 oz or less. Filtered water will be provided for refills. Water bottles should be brought home often to be washed. Examples of water bottles: Camelback Kids, Klean Kanteen, Contigo, etc.
- **Lunch box** - please label clearly. Lunch boxes should be small enough for children to carry and fit on our shelves. The kind with a single container to open and access all of the food at once are encouraged as children at this age are still learning to open and close containers. (Examples: Bentgo, Planetbox, Bento, etc.)
- **1 pair of rain boots** - please label clearly.
- **One piece lightweight rainsuit** - please label clearly. We play in all weather! The lightweight rainsuit that can go over their clothes allows us to play in the rain without getting upset that our clothes feel wet.
- **Wet bag** - please label clearly. For returning dirty or soiled clothes at the end of the day. For your convenience, you might want to have multiple that so you have time to clean one and return.
- **Sippy cups are detrimental to dental development and not recommended.** Pacifiers, lovies, bottles, and sippy cups should remain at home.

In an effort to assist diapered and toilet training children be successful, it helps to send bottoms with an elastic waistband – leggings, knit shorts, or sweat pants. Also, please refrain from sending belts as they are a hindrance in undressing quickly to use the bathroom.

Diapered Children

- 1 pack of disposable diapers OR multiple (5+) prepped cloth diapers.
- 1 pack of wipes
- 3 full changes of clothes (weather appropriate tops, bottoms, and socks)
- Diaper rash cream (accompanied by medication form)
- Comb or Brush

Toilet Training Children

- 1 pack of pull up style disposable diapers (we prefer the side adjustable type) OR multiple pairs (5+) of cotton training pants
- 1 pack of wipes

- 3 full changes of clothes (weather appropriate tops, bottoms, and socks)
- Comb or Brush

A reminder will be sent home when supplies have been depleted and need to be refilled.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY

All articles should be clearly labeled.

All children should bring:

- **1 pair of slippers** – slippers should be plain, cover the entire foot, and have a non-skid, non-marking sole. These will stay at school. Children must be able to walk normally without shuffling while wearing their slippers. (ex: Toms, Crocs, Ballet Slippers, Montessori Movers, etc.)
- **Small reusable water bottle** – please label clearly. Water bottles should be less than 16oz. so children can hold them comfortably. Filtered water will be provided for refills. Water bottles should be brought home daily to be washed. Examples of water bottles: Camelback Kids, Klean Kanteen, Contigo, etc. *Please do not send sippy cups.*
- **Lunch box** – Lunch boxes should be small enough for children to carry comfortably and containers should be easy for children to open with minimal assistance.
- **2 full changes of clothes** – weather appropriate tops, bottoms, underwear, and socks.
- **Comb or Brush**
- **1 pair of rain boots** – these will stay at school. Please label clearly.

In an effort to assist diapered and toilet training children be successful, it helps to send bottoms with an elastic waistband – leggings, knit shorts, or sweat pants. Also, please refrain from sending belts as they are a hindrance in undressing quickly to use the bathroom.

Diapered Children

- 1 pack of disposable diapers OR multiple (5+) prepped cloth diapers.
- 1 pack of wipes
- 3 full changes of clothes (weather appropriate tops, bottoms, and socks)
- Diaper rash cream (accompanied by medication form)
- Comb or Brush
- Waterproof slippers (ex: Croc type shoes)

Toilet Training Children

- 1 pack of pull up style disposable diapers (we prefer the side adjustable type) OR multiple pairs (5+) of cotton training pants
- 1 pack of wipes
- 3 full changes of clothes (weather appropriate tops, bottoms, and socks)
- Comb or Brush
- Waterproof slippers (ex: Croc type shoes)

A reminder will be sent home when supplies have been depleted and need to be refilled.

ELEMENTARY

Elementary students will need to bring the following:

- **Lunch box** – please label clearly.
- **Reusable water bottle** – please label clearly. Water bottles should be less than 16oz. and should go home daily to be washed.
- **1 pair of slippers** – slippers should be plain, cover the entire foot, and have a non-skid, non-marking sole. Children must be able to walk normally without shuffling while wearing their slippers.

LUNCHESES/NUTRITION

Little River Montessori is working towards becoming a Zero Waste School. This means that we try to be as environmentally responsible as possible. We teach children about the importance of recycling and composting. Lunchtime is a fantastic time to practice these skills. For this reason, LRMS asks that parents and children take the time to pack environmentally responsible lunches. Lunches should be sent to school in reusable containers. Plastic sandwich bags, single serve prepackaged containers, etc., are convenient, but are expensive and much less environmentally friendly.

Whole milk and filtered water are provided by the school. Due to time constraints we cannot heat lunches for students. The school will also provide glasses, cloth napkins, and silverware so these do not need to be sent with children. Lunches can be brought from home in a standard lunch box labeled with the student's name. **Plastic or stainless steel bento type boxes, reusable snack bags, and thermos containers are all good choices. Lunchskins, Bumkins, Planet Box, Bentaware, Ziploc divided containers, Rubbermaid Lunch Blox, and Yumbox are all highly recommended options and all reinforce our lessons about less waste in lunches.**

Good nutrition is necessary for the optimal development of your child's brain and intellect. Little River recognizes this importance and restricts the consumption of the following foods at school:

- **Candy/Fruit snacks/Energy Bars** – due to high sugar and excessive packaging
- **Foods containing chocolate (including granola bars)** – too much caffeine
- **Foods with the first ingredient in the sucrose family**
- **Foods with high levels of artificial coloring**
- **Carbonated drinks/juice boxes** – due to high sugar content
- **Lunchables** – as they do not reflect environmental responsibility
- **Squeeze fruit pouches/yogurt** – as they do not reflect proper utensil usage

Sharing lunch with your child is an excellent way to become more a part of the school experience. If you plan to have lunch with your child, just let us know ***the day before*** so that we can coordinate arrangements.

MENU SUGGESTIONS FOR LUNCHESES

Please do not send foods that need to be heated.

- **Protein:** Cheese, chicken, beef, turkey, ham, tuna, boiled eggs, peanut butter, yogurt, etc.
- **Fruits:** Bananas, strawberries, oranges, blueberries, grapes, applesauce, dried fruits, raisins, etc.
- **Vegetables:** Carrots, celery, green beans, cucumbers, broccoli, cauliflower, pickles, tomatoes, bell peppers, etc.
- **Bread:** Whole wheat or brown bread, pastas, crackers, cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins.
- **Other:** Hummus, Ranch dip, granola, nuts, salsa, etc.

Lunchtime is an enormous opportunity for children to practice grace and courtesy lessons. Having lunches properly prepared for children makes such a big difference in helping them be successful and develop confidence during meals. Involving children in planning and packing their lunches is yet another way to reinforce healthy habits at home and at school.

RELIGION & POLITICS

Teachers do not discuss religion or politics with the children, except in a social studies context. The purpose of this policy is to protect the children from any undue influence by the teachers as authority figures. Children come to this school from many different backgrounds. The staff at Little River Montessori School will make every effort not to infringe upon the parents' influence in these matters but children will be exposed to current scientific theories, including evolution. The children are allowed to discuss religion and politics among themselves as long as they do so in a manner that respects the opinions, beliefs, and feelings of others.

MEDIA EXPOSURE (TV, Video Games, and Computers)

It is important to realize that children should have very limited exposure to television, computers, and video games. Little River recommends that all flat screen exposure be limited to three hours per week total for children under the age of 10 years. The recommendation for children younger than six is two hours per week.

FIELD TRIPS

All field trips require permission slips signed by a parent or guardian. Elementary parents who decide not to allow their student to attend the field trip must find alternative child care for that day. Kindergarten children not given permission to attend field trips will continue their day with their regular class.

STUDENT MEDICATION

Any and all medication requires written approval submitted to the school. If possible, please try to schedule the administration of medication so that it is not necessary to do so at school. When necessary for medication to be administered at school, written instructions are required by law. Please use forms provided by the school. These include:

1. Child's name
2. Date
3. Name of medication
4. Purpose of medication
5. Time to be administered

6. Dosage
7. Known side effects

The medication must be labeled with the child's name and name of medication. It must be sent to school in the original container. Deliver it personally into the hands of a staff member. For liquid medication, please provide a calibrated dispenser, which will be returned with the medication. Note that all medication, including topical treatments, will be kept in locked containers. Do not send medication in the child's lunch box. (This includes medication such as cough drops.) Non-prescription medication such as Tylenol or cough drops must be accompanied by a parent's written order for administration. They must be sent in the original unopened container.

ILLNESS

Please do not send any child to school that is showing signs of illness. A child who feels ill cannot function well in the classroom. Children who are ill need to be isolated from the rest of the class to eliminate the spread of the illness. If a child becomes ill after arriving at school, the parents will be notified, and in some cases, asked to pick up their child. Signs of illness include: sore throat, fever (100.4°) diarrhea, vomiting, rash, and discharge from the eyes, ears, or nose. If your child is exposed to, or contracts a contagious disease or parasite, please notify the school promptly. Children must be fever-free (without the use of fever reducing medications) for 24 hours before returning to school.

HEAD LICE

Please notify school at first exposure. Head lice are highly contagious and when one member of a family is infested, all members need to be treated to prevent spreading. All sheets and bedding need to be washed in hot water and soap. Additional treatment may be needed. The Director will inspect the student upon returning and make sure that they are lice free before they may return to school.