



CHIPPEWA VALLEY MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER | 2021-2022

## NEWS FROM THE PARENT GROUP

Hello Families!

The Parent Group is happy that we are back to a somewhat normal school year. This year for the Parent Group is a year of reshaping our goals and activities and we are eager to hear from our families. Whether you want to join us in a formal role, informal or casually, we want to hear from you and welcome your input. We are all looking forward to moving forward with a great year and working hard to create opportunities for parents and students.

- Dr. Omar Parks, CVMCS Parent Group Chair

### CURRENT PARENT GROUP OFFICERS

Omar Parks, Co-Chair (interim Treasurer)

Larissa Butters, Co-Chair and Volunteer Coordinator

Jen Monroe, Garden Chair & Secretary

Ashton Dambowy, Fundraising Co-Chair

Tonya Hughes, Fundraising Co-Chair

Pa Thao, Family Advisory Council

Jurgen Schaupp, Family Advisory Council

Lisa Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator

Treasurer, Open

Our school  
NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Many volunteer positions exist.  
See the back page of the  
newsletter to learn more.

### CLASSROOM REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

We are still in need of Classroom Representatives! This role works as a liaison between the classroom and the Parent Group. This is a great way to get involved with the Parent Group. Please contact your child's teacher if you're interested in becoming a Classroom Representative, or contact us at [cvmcsparentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:cvmcsparentgroup@gmail.com) for more information.

### NEXT PARENT GROUP MEETING

Join us Tuesday, November 9, at 6pm in the school library. If you have any questions regarding the meeting or anything else, e-mail us at [cvmcsparentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:cvmcsparentgroup@gmail.com).

### IMPORTANT DATES:

OCTOBER 14

Family / Teacher Conferences

No school for students

OCTOBER 15

Teacher Work Day

No school for students

OCTOBER 18 at 4-7 pm

Culver's Night (Brackett Ave.)

OCTOBER 21 at 8:30-9:30 am

Parent/Guardian Coffee Social at SHIFT

OCTOBER 26

Patricia Hruby Powell Author Visit  
(E2 Students)

NOVEMBER 3 at 6-8pm

Governance Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 5

Hearing Screening  
(K5 and 1st Grade)

NOVEMBER 9 at 6-8 pm

Parent Group Meeting

NOVEMBER 18 at 8:30-9:30 am

Parent/Guardian Coffee Social at SHIFT

NOVEMBER 22-26

Fall Break / No school for students

DECEMBER 7 at 6-8pm

Governance Board Meeting

DECEMBER 14 at 6-8 pm

Parent Group Meeting

DECEMBER 16 at 8:30-9:30 am

Parent/Guardian Coffee Social at SHIFT

DECEMBER 23-31

Winter Break / No school for students

## SCHOOL EVENTS UPDATE

At this time, events like the Footslog and the Winter Festival will not be taking place. We continue to monitor health and safety guidelines and will rely on the School District's guidance as to when we're able to start hosting community events again. This year will be more of a planning year for the Parent Group and we could use all the help we can get to be ready to start hosting events in the future.

## NEWS FROM THE GOVERNANCE BOARD

Dear CVMCS community,

On behalf of the Governance Board, I welcome you to a new school year filled with promise, as we safely return to regular schedules and more traditional Montessori practices in the classroom. We appreciate your continued flexibility and vigilance in keeping the learning environment safe and focused on growing young hearts and minds.

This year, our board is embarking on a new three-year strategic plan focusing on building community, reducing barriers for students of diverse backgrounds, and staying true to the practices of Maria Montessori. We appreciate the hard work of everyone in our community to support this wonderful option for student-centered learning in the Chippewa Valley.

May you and yours be well, and be filled with the courage to grow in new ways this year. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns!

- Mark Lundin, CVMCS Governance Board President

## CURRENT GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Lundin, President & Community Representative  
Sara Meeks, Vice President & Parent Representative  
Josh Christianson, Secretary & Community Representative  
Jillian Gottsacker, Treasurer & Parent Representative  
Melissa Manor, Teacher Representative  
Jeremy Harrison, Teacher Representative  
Anna Sexton, Teacher Representative  
John Kleven, Parent Representative  
Mindy Braun, Community Representative  
Jeffery Whitfield, Community Representative  
Pam Hermodson, Ex Officio

## GET INVOLVED

The Governance Board is currently seeking Community Representatives. If you or anyone you know might be a good fit, please email [cvmcsboard@gmail.com](mailto:cvmcsboard@gmail.com). You can be a parent of a student and still be a Community Representative. Not quite ready to dive into a board position? We've got committees that might be a good fit for you. Interested in our Montessori identity, increasing diversity in the school, or communications? We'd love to have more folks engaged in these committees.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

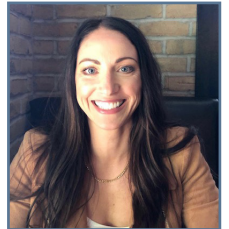
MINDY BRAUN, Community Representative

My name is Mindy. I have two children, Rylee and Grayden, who attend the Altoona School District. They both attended CVMCS in the past. While they were in attendance, I served on the Parent Group for three years as the Volunteer Co-Coordinator and Secretary. I work as a Clinical Social Worker at Mayo Clinic in Eau Claire. My hobbies include spending time with family, hiking, working out, snowshoeing, traveling, and reading. When I'm not doing those things you may find me volunteering in the community with Feed My People, Ruby's Pantry, my daughter's American Heritage Girls Troop, and the Eau Claire Figure Skating Club. I am looking forward to working more with the Governance Board to continue to make CVMCS a great educational choice for students and families.



JILLIAN GOTTSACKER, Parent representative

I graduated from UW-Stevens Point majoring in psychology and moved to the Chippewa Valley with my husband to start our business, Superior Fresh, an aquaponics facility that raises sustainable organic leafy greens and Atlantic salmon. I have three kids, ages 7, 5, and 3, and two of them attend the Montessori Charter School. I joined the Governance Board to feel more connected to the school and the community. I appreciate Montessori philosophies and have seen first hand how it motivates kids to take control of their education and to love learning. My hope is that through my position on the Governance Board, I can help inspire other parents to love and promote Montessori education too.



JEF WHITFIELD, Community Representative

I am a combat (Operation Iraqi Freedom) veteran who has worked for nearly 15 years in the field of substance abuse counseling. I have experience counseling youth, having managed a juvenile AODA outpatient program, as well as volunteered as a youth leader at my church, Jacob's Well, until March 2020. I have an Associate's Degree from Chippewa Valley Technical College in AODA Counseling, a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and Family Studies from UW-Stout, and am currently working on earning my MSW degree from Walden University. I look forward to working with the board and the school.



## COFFEE SOCIAL - SAVE THE DATES

Our first parent/guardian coffee social was a huge hit. We're excited to be partnering with SHIFT CYCLERY & COFFEE BAR to host the upcoming fall coffee socials on the third Thursday of every month. All are welcome (including non-school-age children)—whether it's just to pop in and say hi or to stay and chat.

**OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18, and DECEMBER 16 at 8:30-9:30am at SHIFT Cyclery & Coffee Bar**





## CURRENT QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

Thank you for your patience and graciousness as we work our way through another Covid fall. As expected, we've had a number of students isolate, quarantine, or go home because of specific symptoms or close contact with a positive case. If we have a positive Covid case in the school, it is not unusual for 5-15 students needing to quarantine. Our social distancing and mask protocols have lessened the number of close contacts, but it's still possible for students to share space for a longer amount of time, such as in the lunchroom or on the bus.

If you happen to receive a call because your student is a close contact, the latest guidelines are:

**OPTION 1:** Quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure. The student does not need to test (unless they are showing symptoms) and may return to school on the 15th day, assuming no symptoms.

**OPTION 2:** Quarantine for 7 days from the last date of exposure. The student may test on Day 6 or 7 from an approved testing facility and return to school on Day 8 if the test is negative and they are showing no symptoms.

Other scenarios:

- If your child tests positive, it is a 10-day quarantine from the first day of symptoms, or the day of the positive test result if they are asymptomatic.
- If a family member tests positive and cannot isolate, your child would need to quarantine the 10 days with the positive person, and then another 7 (option 2 above).
- If a family member tests positive and CAN isolate, your child would need to do Option 2 above from the last day of exposure (that being Day 0).

Contact Ms. Pam (phermodson@ecasd.us) if you need help determining specific timelines.

## QUICK REFERENCES

**SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER**  
(715) 852-6950

**SCHOOL WEBSITE**  
<http://ecasd.us/CV-Montessori-Charter-School/Home>

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

All school events including field trips, meetings, and days off can be found on the school calendar linked below.  
<https://bit.ly/Montessorievents>

### GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETINGS

Held the first Tuesday of every month at 6pm in the school library. Please note the November meeting is on a Wednesday due to Election Day. The public is encouraged to join.

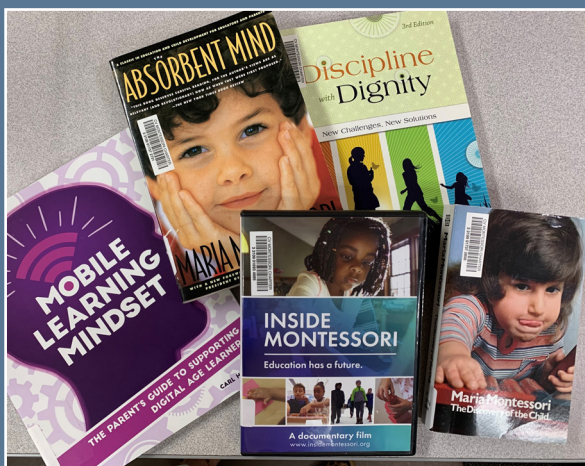
### PARENT GROUP MEETINGS

Held the second Tuesday of every month at 6pm in the school library. The public is encouraged to join.

### OUR MISSION

To provide an innovative learning environment to the Eau Claire community that promotes the social, intellectual and emotional development of each child based on the foundations and methods of Maria Montessori.

## LIBRARY MONTESSORI RESOURCES



Did you know you can check out Montessori resources from the school's library? Whether you've got a new student here or just want to have a better understanding of the Montessori philosophy, we can help. We've got the titles below and more. Contact Ms. Jane at [jchristenson1@ecasd.us](mailto:jchristenson1@ecasd.us) to check one out.

- *The Absorbent Mind* by Maria Montessori
- *The Discovery of the Child* by Maria Montessori
- *Inside Montessori; Education has a future*— A documentary film on DVD
- *Discipline with Dignity* by Curwin, Mendler and Mendler
- *Mobile Learning Mindset—The Parent's Guide to Supporting Digital Age Learners* by Carl Hooker

# Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School GET INVOLVED!



We're not quite back to normal, but there are still some great ways to get involved at the school. The opportunities below are fun ways to meet other parents and guardians as well as give back to our school community. If you have questions about the best fit for you, please contact Jane Christenson at [jchristenson1@ecasd.us](mailto:jchristenson1@ecasd.us).

	Frequency			
	Monthly	Weekly	One Time Event	Children Welcome
<b>PARENT GROUP</b> The Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School has an active parents' organization. The Parent Group plans and carries out fundraising events, helps with school activities, provides volunteers when necessary, and assists the students and school as needed.				
Board Member (must be elected)	1-2x month			•
Attend Monthly Meetings	•			•
Teacher Appreciation Week			•	
End of Year Carnival			•	
<b>GOVERNANCE BOARD</b> The Governance Board is the group that is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School. For example, the Governance Board makes and implements policies, monitors contracts, reviews the school budget, provides feedback to the district regarding performance of the principal, etc.				
Governance Board Member (must be elected)	1-2x month			•
Attend Monthly Meetings	•			•
*Committee Member • Identity Committee • Communications Committee • Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee <i>*You don't have to be a board member to join a Governance Board committee.</i>	•			•
<b>OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES</b>				
Scholastic Book Club Inserts		•		•
Library Assistant		•		
Garden Helper (seasonal)		•		•
School Grounds Clean Up (seasonal)			•	•

PLEASE NOTE: any volunteer position that has direct interaction with children will require a background check on file with the school.