



CHIPPEWA VALLEY MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER | 2021-2022



PARENT GROUP MEETING UPDATE

To avoid potential conflicts with the school district calendar, we've moved our meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of each month. All meetings will be held both in-person at the school and virtually. These dates are tentative, and updates and invites will be posted on the school's website and on the CVMCS Parent Group Facebook page. These meetings are open to all parents/guardians.

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING UPDATE

The CVMCS Governance Board will meet via Microsoft Teams on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend via the MS Teams link available on the school's website. There will not be an in-person attendance option at this time. On an every-other-month basis, the Governance Board meeting will adjourn early for committee work sessions focused on achieving our 2021-2023 strategic goals. Members of the public are invited to join the meeting as well as our committee work sessions. Agendas for the meetings can be found on the school's website.

The season of giving is upon us. Visit <https://bit.ly/StaffWish> to see what the teachers and staff are asking for this year.

NEW GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBER

Please join us in welcoming Becky Johnson as the newest Community Representative of the CVMCS Governance Board. We're excited to have her input and help as we shape the school.

My name is Becky Johnson. My husband, Andy, and I have two children at CVMCS in 4K and 1st grade (Luke and Ava). I am a public health veterinarian working for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in the Division of Animal Health. I recently finished my Master of Public Health degree and specialize in zoonotic and emerging disease outbreaks and surveillance. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, wilderness canoing/camping, winter sports, making art quilts, and reading with my kids.



FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

Hopefully you've heard about the exciting school visits we had from some older students recently. The Memorial Orchestra visited CVMCS on November 19. Our E2 students joined them in the gym, and we live streamed/recorded for everyone else. E2 also got a chance to explore/play some instruments. Looking ahead, we're excited about hosting the Delong Choir on January 14.

IMPORTANT DATES:

DECEMBER 23-31
NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

DECEMBER 21 at 6:00 pm
Parent Group Meeting

JANUARY 4 at 6:00 pm
Governance Board Meeting

JANUARY 11 at 5:00-10:00 pm
Dairy Queen Fundraiser (Birch Street)

JANUARY 17 + 18
NO SCHOOL - Staff Professional Development/Instructional Planning

JANUARY 18 at 6:00 pm
Parent Group Meeting

JANUARY 20 at 8:30-9:30 am
Parent/Guardian Coffee Social at SHIFT

FEBRUARY 1 at 6:00 pm
Governance Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 3
Grade 4 Field Trip to Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Trail

FEBRUARY 8 at 5:00-10:00 pm
Dairy Queen Fundraiser (Birch Street)

FEBRUARY 15 at 6:00 pm
Parent Group Meeting

FEBRUARY 16 at 8:30-9:30 am
Parent/Guardian Coffee Social at SHIFT

FEBRUARY 24
NO SCHOOL - Family/Teacher Conferences

FEBRUARY 25
NO SCHOOL - Staff Professional Development/Instructional Planning

MARCH 15 at 8:30-9:30 am
Parent/Guardian Coffee Social at SHIFT

MARCH 21-25
NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

APRIL 15 & 18
NO SCHOOL

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

The 2021-2022 school year brings changes to the Eau Claire Area School District Emergency School Closing Guidelines. We will have two options this year:

1. For approximately the first two emergency school closures, families will be notified that schools will be CLOSED for a traditional snow day with no in-person or virtual learning. The first two closures may be adjusted, however, due to loss of instructional time if there are any two-hour delayed starts. Two-hour delays could increase the amount of virtual learning and lessen the amount of traditional snow days.
2. On the third and any subsequent emergency school closures, families will be notified that school will SWITCH to a Virtual Learning Day.

Details of the schedule for Virtual Learning Days to students and families will be provided by schools via Skyward, Canvas or SeeSaw message no later than 1 hour after the regular start to the school day. The addition of the Virtual Learning Day option provides our families with a firm end date to the school year to help with summer childcare and other planning.

OUTDOOR RECESS IN THE WINTER

Students will go outside for recess if the air temperature is 0° or above, or if the windchill is above -10°. Please send your children in appropriate winter weather clothing for those types of temperatures. Also, if you could send extra masks, that would be great. We are using up our supply quickly because kids' masks are wet when they come in from the playground.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

- In the event of a full day closing, we will inform families before 6:30 am.
- In the event of a two-hour late start, we will inform families before 6:30 am and school will start exactly two hours after the normal start time.
- In the event of a two-hour early dismissal, we will inform families by 11 am. Dismissal will take place two hours prior to the normal dismissal time.

You will be notified of inclement weather closings, delays or early dismissals via the following: Skyward email, district Facebook and Twitter pages, district website, local television and radio outlets, and Skylert (if signed up).

STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Ms. Pam with her son, Ryan (19) and daughter, Kayla (21)

GET TO KNOW MS. PAM

How long have you been principal? This is my second year as principal at CVMCS.

How long have you been at the school? I taught E1 (1st -3rd grade) at CVMCS for 15 years prior to becoming principal.

What do you love most about the Montessori approach to education? I love having multiple grades in one classroom. That meant I only had around 8 new students every year and the returning students could hit the ground running. I also could really count on the older students to be mentors and helpers which helps with creating a community rather than just a classroom. Keeping kids for multiple years also allows us to really get to know families, which is very important in a child's education.

Which of the traditional school events (pre-Covid) do you miss the most and why? I always loved Winter Festival. It was great to see staff offer engaging activities for kids, and it offered a time for families to come in and see their child(ren) in their school environment. There is always a lot of exciting energy on that night.

What's your favorite part of being a principal? I love being with the kids and now I have an opportunity to interact and build relationships with many more kids. I love being out at drop off, recess and the end of the day. I walk the halls to see what exciting things are happening each day. Most days I'm in the lunchroom, too. I also do enjoy being able to be a part of the planning, problem solving and moving initiatives forward at the building and district level.

What's your favorite junk food? I could eat pizza every day.

What's your favorite movie? Depends on the genre. My favorite kid's movie will always be the original Annie, and my favorite animated will always be Shrek.

How do you take your coffee? I'm very boring. Made at home, black, with a splash of milk so I don't burn my mouth.

NEW COFFEE SOCIAL DATES SCHEDULED - Mark Your Calendar

The parent/guardian coffee socials have been a great success. Help us keep this trend going in 2022! Please note we're mixing up the day of the week moving forward in hopes of accommodating more schedules.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20 • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 • TUESDAY, MARCH 15
at 8:30-9:30am at SHIFT Cyclery & Coffee Bar



SICK CHILD GUIDELINES

As a quick reminder, if a child exhibits any of the following symptoms at school, a parent/guardian/emergency contact will be notified to come and pick up the student:

- Fever-Temperature of 100.4° or more
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Persistent coughing

In addition to our district sick child guidelines, the ECASD will also be following the COVID-19 sick child guidelines as outlined by the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. If a child exhibits any of the following COVID-19 symptoms at school, a parent/guardian/emergency contact will be notified to come and pick up the student. We offer free COVID testing at school. If you would like for your student(s) to be tested, you will need to sign consent for testing to occur. This testing is available to family members as well.

Symptomatic students/staff will be masked while waiting for pick up. Please see below for Symptom Based School Exclusion for COVID-19.

One of these:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

Two or more of these:

- Fever, chills, or shivering
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue

Please keep your child home if he/she currently has or has had any of these symptoms in the last 24 hours above what is normal for them. Please contact the school with any questions.

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 virtually at 6pm. The public is encouraged to join.

PARENT GROUP MEETINGS

Held the third Tuesday of every month at 6pm in the school library and virtually. 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.



HOLIDAY POLICY REMINDER

Our school is a diverse community that includes families with many different beliefs and customs connected to holidays, celebrations, and other cultural traditions that occur throughout the year. It is our intent to honor this diversity of beliefs in our community as well as the diversity of beliefs around the globe. Therefore, we approach holidays primarily from an educational perspective, using holidays to teach about topics such as history and culture while not taking time away from education to celebrate holidays.

Generally, we recognize but do not celebrate religious holidays such as Christmas, Diwali, Easter, Eid, Halloween, Hanukkah, Kwanza, St. Patrick's Day, and Valentine's Day. It is up to grade-level teams to determine how that level (Children's House, E1, or E2) will recognize each particular holiday, consistent with educational objectives and this policy. Families are encouraged to not give teachers gifts but they may give a gift to the classroom.



From all of us
at CVMCS,

**WE HOPE YOU HAVE
A SAFE AND HAPPY
WINTER BREAK**

Thank you for choosing
Chippewa Valley Montessori
Charter School and thank you for
letting us spend every school day
supporting and encouraging
your children.

