



444 Detroit Street | Denver, CO 80206 | 303-322-0972 | www.cgmontessori.com

August 2023

Hello Children's Garden Family!

As the summer turns its way into August, we are looking forward to the start of a new school year. We are pleased to introduce this year's Primary program teaching teams and welcome you and your child to our school community! This is to bring you a few important things to know as you prepare for the weeks ahead.

If your child is new to the Primary program, one of your child's teachers will contact you to arrange for a **home visit** close to the start of school. This brief visit allows us to meet and begin getting to know your child in their most comfortable setting, as well as provide you an opportunity to broach any general questions you may have about the program, your child's preparation, and your expectations*. Your child may want to invite the teacher to see some of their favorite things or they may prefer to observe quietly while you talk. The visit should last about 20-30 minutes. Teachers will also ask you to take some time before the start of school to download and fill out a [New Student Profile](#) which will help us get to know your child a bit more. Printed copies are available.

*If there are sensitive or in-depth items to discuss we prefer to arrange an additional conversation time when your child is not present.

Teachers will get in touch with new Primary student families about a home visit soon!!

Please gather the following items ahead of the start of school (for pick-up at a home visit or email to your classroom email (see below).

- ✓ **4 close-up photographs of your child**, 4x6 vertical orientation. They will be used to identify your child's cubby, studio attendance, and in a community installation to share our faces with our community.
- ✓ **A pair of inside shoes** for your child to wear at school. For safety and comfort, we recommend sturdy loafer, Mary Jane, Croc or Native type slippers which are not overly bulky. Anything that is easy for a child to put on and take off independently, and which fits well, to support gross motor navigation of the classroom. **LABELED**
- ✓ **2 complete changes of clothes** for your child to keep at school (easy for your child to manage and change themselves). **LABELED**
- ✓ **Any updates or information** for the office.

Children should bring to school:

- ✓ **Extended Primary (XP)** children should bring a backpack packed with a lunch (and ice pack) in a reusable lunch box daily.
- ✓ **Half-day Primary children** do **not** need to bring a backpack to school.

--- Please LABEL all clothing and belongings with your child's name so we can help them keep track! ---

Snacks are available to children during their daily sessions. The school will provide a snack for the first week of school and a rotation schedule for families will be sent home the week ahead of the start of school. Please talk with us if your child has a specialized diet, allergies and if you prefer to bring specific food items for your child.

School officially begins the week of August 28th with an Orientation schedule. Primary children attend 2 days during Orientation week, half of the class at a time. This first week is a “soft start” for the children, as is typical for the start of school at CGMS. Along with this letter you will have received your classroom assignment, Ward-Hobbs House or BJ’s House (formerly known as the 440 room) and an Orientation schedule with your child’s attendance group # and attendance days for Orientation week, **either Monday/Tuesday OR Wednesday/Thursday**. Please try to keep your scheduled Orientation dates so we can have a good balance in the groups to work with both sets of days!

Classroom Visit drop-in on Friday, August 25th (formerly known as meet -n- greet). Plan to stop by with your child for a brief visit during the designated time. You do not need to stay the whole time. Rather than a social gathering, this is a time for teachers to show you and your child the environment and a few features, and answer questions your child might have before the first day of drop-off at the gate. Toddler sessions are timed such that those with children in both programs may first visit Primary before visiting Toddler. **XP** children and parents are welcome to come by during either their AM or PM class designated time.

Classroom visit open times

- Primary AM (Ward-Hobbs and BJ-440) classes: 9:00 to 10:00 am
- Toddler AM (2, 3 and 5 day) classes: 9:30 to 10:30 am
- Primary PM (Ward-Hobbs & BJ-440) classes: 12:00 to 1:00 pm
- Toddler PM (2, 3 and 5 day) classes: 12:30 to 1:30 pm

You will also want to plan to join us for the kick-off of the school year **Family Picnic**. Save the date for **Thursday, August 31st, 5:00 – 7:00 pm at Alamo Placita Park**. More details in the School Newsletter.

More to Come: Back to School Nights for Parents (look for dates on your school calendar), Parent Coffee Socials, School Directory (distributed in the fall after the start of school).

Stay up to date. Your first **2023-24 School Newsletter** is coming to your inbox soon! This informative email is sent weekly throughout the school year. Also, see the [Parent section of the website](#) for additional items including the [Start of School Schedules](#), [Parent Orientation](#) presentation and your [Parent Handbook](#), which has lots of information you will want to read and refer to during the school year.

We look forward to our school year together!
Your Primary Teaching Team

BJ440 AM/PM/XP class: Claire Jackson, Samantha Matthews, Irina Mitchell-assistant
WH AM/PM/XP class Michelle Bower, George Michael Karas, Meghan Robertie,
Support teachers: Kirsten Goode, Liz Wyld, Leslie Green, Kelly
Studio: Angelina Lloyd, Amy Laugesen

Contact your Primary class teachers:

BJ-440 House: 440am@cgmontessori.com

Ward-Hobbs House: wham@cgmontessori.com

Additional contacts:

Bhowell@cgmontessori.com

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Cramey@cgmontessori.com

Studio@cgmontessori.com

info@cgmontessori.com

Bekke Howell, Head of School

Jamie Boes, Associate Director and Admissions

Catherine Ramey, Office Administrator

Angelina Lloyd, Studio teacher and coordinator

Kirsten Goode, Administrative assistant