



COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL  
OF ARLINGTON

MONTESSORI PROGRAM

*established 1959*

Parent  
Handbook &  
Curriculum Guide

2023—2024

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**MISSION SINCE 1959**

Country Day School of Arlington’s mission is to educate the *whole child*; thus we endeavor to *nurture every heart* and *challenge every mind* through the experience of *meaningful inquiry*.



**VISION**

We as a community of leaders seek to develop confident, independent, and caring students with clear intellectual fortitude and a proclivity to question and explore. We seek to be an exemplary school in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

**ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**



- ◆ Accredited by Cognia - the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Northwest Accreditation Commission, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.
- ◆ Member of Texas Private School Association
- ◆ Associate School of American Montessori Society

Country Day School of Arlington (CDSA) is Texas state licensed facility. If at any time there is a licensing concerns regarding this facility contact the Texas Department of Licensing: 1501 Circle Drive #310, Fort Worth, TX 76119 ph: 817-321-8607

CDSA’s most recent licensing inspection and a copy of the Minimum Standards for Child Care Centers can be obtained by request from the School Office or viewed at the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (TDFPS) website: <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>.

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

**“Free the child’s potential and you will transform him into the world.”**  
- Maria Montessori

CDSA has been educating the community for over 60 years. Being in Education for 30+ years, I am still motivated when I see the student’s eagerness to learn in an environment that provides opportunities for them to think, explore, and discover. Montessori pedagogy is self-paced and helps children learn how “they” learn. It is priceless, comprehensive and, in its authentic form, inspires a child to embrace the “joy” of learning. The dedicated staff and engaged parent community at CDSA truly sets us apart! I am delighted to begin my 23rd year.

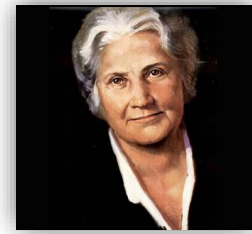


Joyce Hunt, Head of School

## Montessori Education

Country Day School of Arlington (CDSA) follows the Montessori educational approach developed by Dr. Maria Montessori. The Montessori philosophy emphasizes child-directed learning, freedom within limits, and respect for children's natural psychological, physical and social development. Essential elements include:

- ◆ Uninterrupted blocks of time for learning, or “work cycle”
- ◆ Hands on discovery model provided by a trained Montessori teacher
- ◆ Specialized Montessori educational tools or “materials”
- ◆ Mixed-age classrooms
- ◆ Student choice and freedom of movement in a prepared environment



### **DR. MARIA MONTESSORI, 1870-1952**

Dr. Maria Montessori was a unique individual. In her lifetime she achieved status as a medical doctor and an anthropologist, as well as distinguishing herself internationally as a psychologist. She was also a renowned author, an effective teacher, and a lecturer in constant demand.

Dr. Montessori was a scientist with a keenly developed sense of intuition. Perhaps her most significant trait, though, was her power of observation. She sought to learn the secrets of childhood from the children themselves – the only ones who could rightfully teach her. She learned and discovered things about children which had never been perceived, things which are still misunderstood by many educators.

Montessori's work was generally ignored or denigrated by the educators of her time, yet widely acclaimed by many world leaders. For example, a Montessori school was established in the palace of the Tsar of Russia, and America's Alexander Graham Bell became president of an organization to establish a Montessori school in the United States. Today, there are countless autonomous Montessori schools throughout the world and a growing number of independent school districts that boast a Montessori curriculum.

### **THE PURPOSE OF MONTESSORI EDUCATION**

Dr. Montessori felt that the goal of early childhood education should not be to fill the child with facts from a pre-selected course of studies, but rather to cultivate his own *natural desire* to learn.

In the Montessori classroom, this objective is approached in two ways: 1) allowing each student to experience the excitement of learning by their own choice rather than by being forced; and 2) helping each student perfect all their natural tools for learning, so that their ability will be at maximum in future learning situations. Dr. Montessori believed that no human being can solely be educated by another person; they must do it themselves or it will never be done.

### **HOW CHILDREN LEARN**

The use of Montessori materials is based on the young child's unique aptitude for learning, which Dr. Montessori identified as the “absorbent mind.” In her writings she frequently compared the young mind to a sponge—literally absorbing information from the environment. She found that the child retains this ability to learn by absorbing until they are almost seven years old.

Dr. Montessori reasoned that the child's experience could be enriched by a classroom where they could handle materials that demonstrate educational information. In a Montessori classroom, the equipment invites students to do activities at their own periods of interest and readiness. The size and use of the materials are specified to be developmentally appropriate for the intended age range.

Dr. Montessori always emphasized that the hand is the chief teacher of the child. In order to learn there must be concentration, and the best way a child can concentrate is fixing their attention on some task they perform with their hands. The equipment and materials in a Montessori classroom allows students to reinforce casual impressions by inviting them to use their hands for learning

### **SENSITIVE PERIODS**

Another observation of Dr. Montessori's is the importance of the Sensitive Periods for early learning. It is easier for the child to learn a particular skill during the corresponding sensitive period than at any other time in their life. The Montessori classroom takes advantage of this fact by allowing the child freedom to select individual activities that correspond to their own periods of interest. Below are few examples of the Sensitive Periods defined by Maria Montessori.

- Sensitive Period for Movement (birth to 4 years)
- Sensitive Period for Refinement of the Senses (birth to 5 years)
- Sensitive Period for Language (birth to 6 years)
- Sensitive Period for Toilet Training (12 to 18 months)
- Sensitive Period for Order (18 months to 2 years)
- Sensitive Period for Manners and Courtesies (2 to 6 years)
- Sensitive Period for Music (2 to 6 years)
- Sensitive Period for Numbers (4 to 5 1/2 years)

### **THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM**

The Montessori classroom is a "Prepared Environment" specifically designed to put the child at ease by giving them freedom in an age appropriate environment. The tables and chairs in the classroom are movable, permitting a flexible arrangement for many activities. Students also work on small mats on the floor where children are naturally comfortable.

Montessori materials are hands-on learning tools designed to teach both concrete and abstract skills and concepts. Montessori students are presented the materials and then are able to physically investigate and manipulate until they master the inner lesson. Materials are arranged on low shelves to ensure easy reach. Montessori materials can be divided into three main groups:

- ◆ ***Practical Life Materials*** develop motor control, coordination, independence, concentration, and a sense of responsibility in caring for themselves and their environment with grace and courtesy.
- ◆ ***Sensorial Materials*** develop the senses while refining perspective of organization and differentiation.
- ◆ ***Academic Materials*** await each child's moments of interest in reading, mathematics, geography and science.

### **BEHAVIOR OF STUDENTS**

There is always a busy hum of activity in a Montessori classroom. The use of Montessori materials involves mental concentration and many motions – walking, carrying, pouring, speaking, and particularly the constant use of the hands.

All activity, however, is guided by respect for the teacher, respect for the work of others, and respect for the materials. The Montessori classroom is a thriving community where students are treated with respect and dignity and learn to treat others the same.

### **NON-COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE**

Since students work individually with materials, there is no competition in the Montessori classroom. Each student relates only to their own previous work; progress is not compared to the achievements of others. It is a dynamic, interactive learning environment that encourages each student to reason, cooperate, negotiate, and understand. The goal is the development of an autonomous individual, as well as competency in all areas of life.

### **WHY MIXED AGE GROUPS?**

In a mixed age classroom students learn to take responsibility for themselves and each other as a community of learners. Having mixed ages permits the younger students a graded series of models for imitation. Students can grow as their interests lead them from one level of complexity to another; as the Montessori classroom offers the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of graded materials. The older students benefit as they reinforce their knowledge and gain confidence in their leadership abilities by modeling and mentoring the younger students.

### **THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER**

Dr. Maria Montessori referred to the teacher as a “directress”, observer, and facilitator of self-directed learning. In *A Way of Learning* (Anne Burke Neubert, 1973) the many roles of the Montessori teacher are described:

- ◆ Montessori teachers **are the dynamic link** between children and the Prepared Environment.
- ◆ They **systematically observe** their students and interpret their needs.
- ◆ They **are constantly experimenting**, modifying the environment to meet their perceptions of each child's needs and interests, and objectively noting the result.
- ◆ They **prepare an environment** meant to facilitate children's independence and ability to freely select work that they find appealing, selecting activities that will appeal to their interests and keeping the environment in perfect condition, adding to it and removing materials as needed.
- ◆ They **carefully evaluate** the effectiveness of their work and the design of the environment every day.
- ◆ They **observe and evaluate** each child's individual progress.
- ◆ They **respect and protect** their students' independence. They must know when to step in and set limits or lend a helping hand, and when it is in a child's best interests for them to step back and not interfere.
- ◆ They **are supportive**, offering warmth, security, stability, and non-judgmental acceptance to each child.
- ◆ They **facilitate communication** among the children and help the children to learn how to communicate their thoughts to adults.
- ◆ They **interpret** the children's progress and their work in the classroom to parents, the school staff, and the community.
- ◆ They **present clear, interesting, and relevant lessons** to the children. They attempt to engage the child's interest and focus on the lessons and activities in the environment.
- ◆ They **model desirable behavior** for the children, following the ground-rules of the class, exhibiting a sense of calm, consistency, grace and courtesy, and demonstrating respect for every child.
- ◆ They **are peace educators**, consistently working to teach courteous behaviors and conflict.
- ◆ They **are diagnosticians** who can interpret patterns of growth, development, and behavior in order to better understand the children and make necessary referrals and suggestions to parents.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON MONTESSORI EDUCATION**

- ◆ WEB: AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY- [WWW.AMS.ORG](http://WWW.AMS.ORG)
- ◆ BOOKS: *THE ABSORBENT MIND* BY DR. MARIA MONTESSORI  
MONTESSORI: THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE GENIUS BY ANGELINE S. LILLARD
- ◆ MAGAZINES: TOMORROW'S CHILD

# The CDSA Classroom

CDSA serves students from 2 months through Kindergarten in the following mixed-age classes:

- ◆ Infant / Young Toddler
- ◆ Toddler / Transitional
- ◆ Primary / Kindergarten

## **INDEPENDENCE—ENTERING THE CLASSROOM**

Entering a Montessori classroom is truly a learning adventure and we are so happy for your child to be a part of it. Country Day School of Arlington's goal is to encourage students to make independent choices and to guide them to achieve their full extent of potential in their formative years.

Independence is a basic life skill accomplished through respect: respect for the child's ability to do things for themselves and respect for their ability to learn. When adults do things for children that they can do on their own, the adults take away the child's motivation to learn. When a child is encouraged to do things independently, they develop an "I can do it"-attitude.

Please do not do anything for your child that they can do for themselves. Examples of allowing your child the opportunity to gain confidence and become independent while entering the classroom include letting them walk (rather than being carried) into the classroom, open doors, and put away their tote bags and lunches.

Some additional ways to encourage independence include having your child wipe their own nose, feed themselves, dress themselves, help at home with daily chores, clean up small messes, wash or wipe their own face and more. It is never too early to address personal hygiene; after all children are capable of so much!

Many parents and schools are mainly focused on having children learn to read and write. These are important and will happen when the child is ready; however, learning basic life skills lays the foundation for academics and the development of the *whole child*.

## **WORK CYCLE**

Purposeful activity, or "work" in Montessori terminology, utilizes specific Montessori materials and is the foundation of hands-on discovery. Uninterrupted work periods, or "work cycles" allow students to work through various learning objectives at their own pace allowing enough time for concentration, repetition, and deep focus.

Every day a new lesson is given during circle time. Once presented, students have permission to get up from the circle and begin to "choose work" or activity of interest. An uninterrupted cycle of work begins and continues throughout the morning.

### **Ground Rules & Rights**

- ◆ **Free Choice:** Students have freedom within limits to choose work. They are not forced to join group activities unless the activities are required (fire drill, etc.).
- ◆ **Peer Observation:** Students may watch others work as long as they do not disturb them.
- ◆ **Respecting Workspaces:** Students are to walk around the rug or work mat that is being used as a work space; they should never step on it.
- ◆ **Selecting Materials:** Students are to put materials back on the shelf where they found it before getting other materials out.

- ◆ **Purposeful work:** Students may continue any learning activity as long as it is continued with respect and with purpose.
- ◆ **Carrying procedures:** Students are to always use both hands when carrying trays, materials, rugs, mats, and chairs. One piece of material is carried at a time, keeping hands free of objects (pencils, papers, etc.).
- ◆ **Classroom Care:** Students are to contribute to caring for their environment by cleaning up their own spills.
- ◆ **Table manners:** Students are to push their chairs in at the table each time they get up.
- ◆ **Noise level:** Students are to contribute to a peaceful environment by talking quietly and walking with quiet steps.

### **SHARING**

Primary and Kindergarten students are encouraged to exercise communication skills by participating in “sharing”. Sharing is similar to show and tell, but entails a Q&A component of a special interest item; such as those that coincide with a current lesson, things from the natural environment (seashells, pinecones, leaves, insects, and bugs), books, vacation photographs, etc. *Toys are not allowed.* It is suggested that students practice presenting or answering questions about the item at home beforehand.

### **COMMON ACTIVITIES / EVENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

- ◆ Gardening
- ◆ Charity Drives
- ◆ Grandparents or Special Friends Day ...
- ◆ International Day
- ◆ Fall Festival
- ◆ Musicals
- ◆ Field Day

### **YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE**

All classes participate in a school-wide focus of study each month.

| <i>August</i>   | <i>September</i>   | <i>October</i>   | <i>November</i>   | <i>December</i>  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Our Peaceful Classroom</li> <li>◆ Care of Self</li> <li>◆ Care of the Classroom</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Apples</li> <li>◆ Solar System</li> <li>◆ Our Planet Earth</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Pumpkins</li> <li>◆ My Body</li> <li>◆ My Family</li> <li>◆ <b>South America Continent Study</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Leaves</li> <li>◆ Gratitude</li> <li>◆ <b>North America Continent Study</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Winter Holidays</li> <li>◆ <b>Antarctica Continent Study</b></li> </ul>         |
| <i>January</i>  | <i>February</i>  | <i>March</i>   | <i>April</i>  | <i>May</i>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Seasons &amp; Time</li> <li>◆ <b>Asia Continent Study</b></li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Dinosaurs</li> <li>◆ <b>Africa Continent Study</b></li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Birds</li> <li>◆ <b>Europe Continent Study</b></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Invertebrates</li> <li>◆ <b>Oceania Continent Study</b></li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 5 Oceans</li> <li>◆ Marine Life</li> <li>◆ <b>Mexico/Texas Study</b></li> </ul> |



## Infant / Young Toddler

2 months to approximately 17/18 months

Reflective of each child's individual growth, various stimulating teacher-initiated or student-led activities are available and encouraged; including Montessori lessons and American Sign Language. Montessori lessons for the Infant / Young-Toddler student support the following developments: cognitive, motor skills, sensory, and language.

Infant students have the opportunity for sensorial stimulation and development through touch, holding, and singing. Teachers are deliberate with talking to students constantly and communicating with basic sign language to encourage language acquisition. Large and small muscle development activities are provided to enhance hand coordination, grasping, transferring objects, and releasing objects. The daily schedule for Infant students varies, as considerations are made to mimic home life.

Young Toddler students have opportunities for exploration and expansion of sounds and letters to form words. They enjoy social interactions with their peers and adults, begin the development of independence through practical life experiences, and refine and classify sensorial impressions through gradation and matching exercises. Young Toddler students transition to a more defined daily schedule as they mature.

The gross-motor development of students in the Infant / Young Toddler classroom is supported by outdoor play. Weather permitting, students are taken outdoors daily to "Herkermer's Yard", CDSA's outdoor activity area reserved for the Infant / Young Toddler classroom.

### **INFANT CARE PLAN**

A collaboration, guided by the parent, supports the efforts within the nurturing environment of the Infant / Young Toddler classroom and ensures a sound foundation. Your child's individualized care will be guided by the Infant Care Plan. This form enables you to share your child's current needs, as desired and documented monthly. Updating this form monthly, or as needed, **is mandated by the State of Texas 746.2421 and will ensure that teachers are well informed about any changes as your child grows.** You are required to update and sign it monthly.

### **DAILY PROCEDURE**

- ◆ The Infant / Young-Toddler classroom is a "NO SHOE" room. Shoe covers are available outside the doorway.
- ◆ Place all items (i.e. nap-mat, tote-bag, food, etc.) at the student's cubby hook located outside the classroom; the teachers will retrieve them after arrival and return all items to be taken home at the end of your child's day. Nap-mats are sent home weekly for laundering.
- ◆ Inform the teacher on the last time your child ate.
- ◆ All food and drink is provided by the parent. The classroom is equipped with a refrigerator, microwave, and bottle warmers. The hot lunch program is not offered for this class.
- ◆ All diapers and wipes are provided by the parent.
- ◆ Montessori Compass is the preferred parent-teacher communication tool, however, for quick instructions at drop-off written notes are preferred to verbal instruction. The communication forms are available on the table outside the classroom door.

# Toddler / Transitional

Approximately 17/18 months to 3.0 years

The Toddler / Transitional environment is designed to be an extension of the home; the child's primary environment. For the student in the Toddler / Transitional classroom play and work are one; they are explorers of the senses, unconsciously absorbing every aspect of the environment, language, and culture. Work in the Toddler / Transitional community is individually and developmentally appropriate, providing variety, novelty, and challenge. Students are introduced to the world around them through the constant use of all five senses.

The child-centered focus within the Toddler / Transitional classroom includes:

- ◆ individuality of each student
- ◆ positive attitude toward learning
- ◆ self-care and independence
- ◆ care for the classroom environment

The classroom is specially designed and carefully prepared to allow the young student growth, development, and independence in a safe and secure atmosphere. At any given moment, Toddler / Transitional students can be seen exploring every aspect of the environment, language, and culture. Students may be seen working with colorful puzzles and balls that emphasize learning the primary colors, spending time with nomenclature materials, or working with the materials that can sharpen hand-eye coordination.

Students in this class have opportunity to be engaged in directed group experiences including songs, physical education, finger play, snacks, outdoor play, reading, and loco motor activities throughout the day. As a student grows, the teacher's focus is to provide more independence and choices of Montessori work that is individually and developmentally appropriate; providing variety, novelty, and challenge.

## **DIAPERING & TOILET TRAINING**

Diaper changing and toilet training are a regular part of the daily routine in the Toddler / Transitional classroom. Teachers are careful to *follow the child* for signs of biological readiness and interest in toilet training. A timed collaboration between parent and teachers will help to fully support each child's individual stage of development—ultimately allowing the child to successfully take a big step forward in their early childhood independence.

## **TODDLER / TRANSITIONAL TYPICAL ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES**

- ◆ Physical Education with Stretch-n-Grow — twice weekly ...

## **TODDLER / TRANSITIONAL MONTESSORI CURRICULAR AREAS**

- ◆ Language
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Practical Life
- ◆ Sensorial
- ◆ Cultural

**Language** The Montessori Language curriculum provides opportunities for development and expansion of language skills including the student's use of sounds and letters to form words. These opportunities for expansion continue throughout the day within all activities. A student, in order to become familiar with sounds, will often experiment with identifying, matching, patterning and rhyming sounds, letters, and numbers. Once readiness for advancement is demonstrated, students are involved in prewriting and counting exercises that demonstrate language concepts from a concrete to abstract form.

**Mathematics** The Montessori Math curriculum provides a hands-on, sensorial base for storing mathematical concepts. The goal is to prepare the student for abstract thinking, so that when the time comes to deal exclusively in abstract terms the understanding is already there. Introducing mathematical concepts and then allowing space for repetition frees the child to truly manipulate and grasp the concept behind each concrete material, to name it, and to then apply it to the environment; thereby perceiving their universe with greater awareness.

Math in the Toddler / Transitional classroom is truly a hand-on experience. Students explore concepts such as shape, size, scope, and quantity using touch. Counting objects helps develop one-to-one correspondence and language acquisition of numerals. These activities help develop skills necessary for enhancing counting, sequencing and comparing skills.

**Practical Life** The Montessori Practical Life curriculum provides a safe and wholesome range of activities which purposefully encourage students in gaining confidence and ability to function in the world, develop social skills, and foster a desire for independent care of self and the environment.

Practical Life activities focus on concentration activities that give purpose and a sense of order to movement. Age appropriate activities, for example, include working with dressing frames of zipping, buttoning, string beading, bow tying, lacing and fastening clothing. Each wood-framed piece of clothing isolates this skill by repeating the motion over and over, thus developing attributes of character, which forms the basis for all learning.

**Sensorial** The Montessori Sensorial curriculum allows young explorers to develop sensory perceptions: encounter materials to sort things by size, shape, color, touch, sound, temperature and weight. The goal here is to develop good listening and muscle control skills.

Students, for example, use Montessori Materials which grade from dark to light and from large to small. Students explore the richness of the senses by working with colorful geometric solids and shapes and knobless cylinders and cylinder blocks that progress in height and diameter from small to big, thin to thick, tall to thin, and short to long with the diameter remaining constant. As the student grows they encounter materials that assist in classifying, matching, and grading sensory experiences while progressing sensory perceptions such auditory and muscle memory skills.

**Cultural** The Montessori Cultural curriculum integrates art, music, and movement into the student's day. The exploration of culture in combination with a guided look at the natural world provides many opportunities for enriching young minds. Students experience finger painting, loco motor movement, singing, and dancing. As the child grows other cultural studies include an introduction to science and geography.

## Primary

Approximately 3 years (and **completely potty-trained**) to 6 years

**“Help me to do it myself”** The Primary classrooms is generally a quiet, harmonious environment where concentration and involvement can deepen and grow. Each student is acknowledged as an important member of the classroom community and is recognized as a builder of humanity.

Primary students are given significant freedom in a secure atmosphere which promotes their independence and development. Through the observation and guidance of a skilled facilitator students are introduced to the world around them by use of all five senses. Free choice allows students to follow their interest as well as options to work independently or in collaboration with others.

Throughout any given day, Primary students can be seen exploring the untold reaches of every aspect of the environment, language, and culture. The teacher’s primary role is to steers interest and activity towards work that is individually and developmentally appropriate, provides variety, novelty, and challenge.

### **READINESS FOR PRIMARY**

Several factors are considered when assessing a student’s readiness for the Primary classroom. The recommendation for appropriate placement of each student is determined by the Toddler /Transitional teacher, Primary teacher, and the Head of School. Some students benefit from additional time in the Toddler / Transitional classroom to gain more maturity needed to be successful. Specific benchmarks for Primary readiness include:

- ◆ Toilet trained — The student’s care-of-self is age-appropriate and reflects independence. The student is in underwear (not pull-ups), is biologically aware, and is successful with clothing and cleaning. Accidents occur infrequently (once or twice a week).
- ◆ Follows basic, age-appropriate instruction
- ◆ Ability to focus is age-appropriate
- ◆ Motor development (gross and fine) is age-appropriate
- ◆ Shows signs of emotional readiness

### **NAPS / AFTERNOON WORK CYCLE**

After a busy morning, full-day students are given an opportunity to rest and reset. Older Primary students that have developmentally outgrown naps and show readiness to work with focus and independence have the opportunity to participate in the afternoon work cycle. Student readiness for the afternoon work cycle is determined by the teacher and Head of School.

### **PRIMARY ENRICHMENT ELECTIVE**

- ◆ Physical Education with Stretch-n-Grow — twice weekly ...

### **PRIMARY MONTESSORI CURRICULAR AREAS**

- ◆ Practical Life
- ◆ Sensorial
- ◆ Mathematics
  - ◆ Language
  - ◆ Cultural Studies
  - ◆ Science

**Practical Life** activities give purpose and sequence to movement and assist the child in gaining the confidence and ability to function in the world. Primary students are introduced to how to take care of themselves, as well as the environment around them. For the Montessori preschooler, there is something special about tasks such as washing dishes, pouring water, and polishing shoes in the classroom; these tasks are exciting as it allows them to imitate adults. Dressing frames of zipping, buttoning, and fastening clothing are practiced. Each wood-framed piece of clothing isolates skills by repeating the motion over and over; helping the students towards independence in dressing. As students become more coordinated in activities, such as scrubbing a table top, their span of concentration gradually lengthens. Furthermore, students learn good habits and to pay attention to details.

Grace and courtesy lessons demonstrate interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. This focus sets a foundation for respect, empathy, emotional awareness, self-regulation, and conflict-resolution which are critical to the Montessori environment and the development of citizens of this world.

**Sensorial** The Sensorial area allows the young explorer to encounter materials that assist in refining, classifying, matching, and grading sensory experiences. Students explore the richness of the senses in this area by working with colorful geometric solids and shapes, knobbed cylinders, peg boards, a pink tower, sound games, and constructive triangles while developing auditory and muscle memory skills.

**Mathematics** The Math curriculum provides students with a base for understanding math concepts using their senses. The purpose is to introduce math concepts sequentially so that a student progresses from the concrete to the abstract, from the simple to the complex, from the quantity to the symbol. Students explore mathematics in the classroom while working with number rods and spindle boxes for the purpose of developing counting, one-to-one correspondence, number recognition, and an understanding of quantity. Students learn mathematical operations and the decimal system through the golden bead materials.

**Language** Montessori Language offers opportunities for exploration and expansion of students spoken and written language. Students learn to write not by performing a number of purposefully structured activities that build pencil grip, wrist strength, pincer grasp, and the formation of various lines. The metal insets are one of these materials. On any given day, Primary students can be found tracing numbers and letters in sand, learning phonetic words using patterning and rhyming, and reading simple phonetic word books. Students utilize sandpaper letters and play sound games to develop a strong phonetic foundation. Encoding words precedes decoding words, creating strong readers, spellers, and writers.

**Cultural Studies** Cultural studies for Primary students include: Geography, Art, Music, and Movement; and are integrated into the primary student's day. The exploration of culture, in combination with a guided look at the natural world, provides many opportunities for enriching the young mind. Students are exposed to and experience art, music, and dance from many cultures.

Geography, history, study of the continents and the United States map take students on a virtual journey around the world while teaching appreciation of the local and global community. Students work with specially designed maps and begin to learn the names of the world's continents and countries. This is augmented through a variety of cultural experiences throughout the year and includes CDSA's International Day celebration.

**Science** The Montessori Science curriculum includes a limitless wealth of exposure to the world around, as students are exposed to a mass of information to whet their interest in the very appealing decor provided by nature. Sensorial exploration of scientific foundational principles, botany, zoology, biology, astronomy, and geology materials teach students to identify and refine perceptions of the natural world.

# Kindergarten

Kindergarten students are the leaders of the student body at CDSA. Concepts and skills that have previously been solidified by repetition come together in this classroom as the students enter a stage that Maria Montessori described as an “explosion of learning”. Leadership skills and self-esteem also rise from success in building upon accomplishments, concepts, and skills such as concentration, independence, presentation skills, and problem solving.

## **KINDERGARTEN MONTESSORI CURRICULAR AREAS**

- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Language Arts
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Cultural Studies
- ◆ Sensorial
- ◆ Practical Life

## **KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT ELECTIVE**

- ◆ Physical Education with Stretch-n-Grow — twice weekly ...

## **DAILY ROUTINE**

In-line with the Montessori philosophy of a mixed age environment, Kindergarten students are integrated with Primary students. Students have freedom to explore by subject in the multi-room environment dedicated solely to their learning objectives.

A typical day begins with gathering for morning Circle Time, a teacher-led group activity focusing on the calendar and current events. Following after is the Morning Work Cycle in which students engage in Montessori Work individually or are invited into small groups. The lessons or activity chosen for a work cycle is directed by student interest or by the individual’s educational needs as observed by the teacher. An Afternoon Work Cycle and whole group Montessori lesson presentation by the teacher onset the second half of the day.

The whole group Montessori lesson presented uses hands on materials which relate to math, language arts, science, and/or social studies concepts. The students again engage in individual and small group Montessori lessons that allow them to move at their own pace, to explore, and discover presented concepts.

The Montessori curriculum and materials provide opportunities for students to move at their own pace, to explore, and to discover concepts such as:

### *Language Arts*

Phonemic Awareness  
Spelling Patterns  
High Frequency Sight  
Words Practice  
Reading and  
Comprehension  
Journal Writing and  
Response Writing  
Grammar  
Handwriting Practice

### *Science*

Observing  
Classifying  
Measuring  
Exploring  
Scientific Method  
Predicting  
Interpreting Data  
Problem Solving  
Tools for Exploration

### *Cultural Studies*

Land Forms  
Map Skills  
Cultures & Customs  
U.S. History

### *Math*

Linear Counting  
Decimal System  
Memorization of  
Operations  
Beginning Geometry  
Measurement  
Clock Skills  
Counting Money  
Simple Fractions  
Problem Solving Strategies  
Exploring Data

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

A full list of Kindergarten learning objectives is available upon request.

CDSA utilizes a Montessori Scope and Sequence

The Curriculum aligns with TEKS Scope and Sequence on Montessori Compass

# Policies & Procedures

## **ANIMALS**

As part of occasional on-site field trips, animals may be brought on campus. Parents will be notified in advance when animal visits are scheduled. Please notify the School Office in writing if there are any concerns for your child.

## **ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL POLICY**

Students are signed in at arrival for school attendance by administration. This step is also required at dismissal, as attendance information is tied to Business Office billing.

***Parents of students at The Suite*** Attendance is taken by the teacher and sent to the main office. In order to maintain a natural flow to smoothly start our day and begin our routines,

Upon admission to CDSA, parents and individuals planning to regularly pick-up the child, as authorized in the Application for Admissions, are to setup a ProCare fingerprint ID with the School Office.

***Early Arrival (Before 8:00AM)*** If it is necessary on any day to arrive earlier than 8:00AM, Drop-in Morning Extended Care is available between 7-8AM in the main building. Drop-ins, without reservation, are accepted but advance notice is appreciated to ensure we are properly staffed. Morning ED is billed at the rate of 10 cents per minute. However, if at any time in the school year you find that you need Extended Care regularly, please contact the Business Office to obtain Extended Day plan information. ED plans begin in September.

***Tardiness (After 8:15AM) \* Ring door bell at this time*** Students in the Main Building are to be signed-in using the regular procedure and then escorted directly to their classroom. Students in "The Suite" #150 are to enter directly into the suite.

We ask that you take into consideration that the school day has already begun.

***Dismissal*** Half-Day students dismiss before naptime in the main building, therefore, it is important to arrive promptly at 12:25PM (or 11:55AM for Infant / Young Toddlers) so as not to interrupt classroom routine.

Full-day student dismissal / pick-up is between 3:15—3:30PM.

***Parents are asked to text 817-253-994 when entering parking lot and students will be brought outside.***



**Late Pick-up (After 3:30PM)** After 3:30PM students on campus join the Extended Day after school program. Drop-ins, without reservation, are always accepted for families not enrolled in a Monthly Extended Day Plan and will be billed at the drop-in rate of 10 cents per minute, starting promptly at 3:30PM.

If you know that your child will need to Drop in to Extended Day please contact the School Office as soon as possible before the end of the school day. Please note that School Office and Business Office will close daily at 4:30PM. The Ed cell phone 817-253-9994 can be accessed until 6 pm .

If you find that your child requires Extended Day regularly, but is not signed up for a plan, please contact the Business Office to obtain Extended Day plan information.

**Unplanned Changes to Dismissal** If it is necessary to pick up your child early, please contact the School Office or communicate directly with your child's teacher via Montessori Compass. We encourage contact as early in the day as possible.

If there is a change in pick-up, any individual who is not on the authorization pick-up list filed with the school will not be able to take a student from the premises unless Administration has spoken to the parent directly. In addition, all authorization is to be documented prior to pickup. A phone call will not suffice; however, a faxed or emailed signed document authorizing the individual for pick-up along with driver's license information is accepted. **There are no exceptions to this rule.** Thank you for your attention to these important safety guidelines. **Parents are asked to text 817-253-994 when entering parking lot and students will be brought outside.**

### **BIRTHDAYS & CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

Students are celebrated on their birthday by having the "CELEBRATION OF LIFE" ceremony. Parents are welcome to join the class in this celebration; please coordinate with the teacher at least one week in advance before the ceremony to schedule. If the birthday falls on a weekend or school vacation day, the student will be acknowledged on the next attended school day. The ceremony is held in the morning during circle time and typically lasts about 15 minutes. Plenty of pictures will be on Montessori Compass.

Please note, while we look forward to celebrating your child's special day with the Celebration of Life ceremony; birthday parties are not held at school. Students are enthusiastic about sharing a favorite simple snack that they have helped prepare and can serve to classmates independently. Individually packaged popcorn, fruit, cheese and crackers, veggies sticks with dressing, and plain muffins are a few great options. Thank you for not any sending party favors or sweet treats, such as cupcakes or cookies. A list of any current student allergies in the classroom can be obtained from Administration.

**Toddler / Transitional Students**— For the celebration, parents are asked to prepare a poster for the class depicting their child's life. The poster is to highlight special moments, milestones, as well as important people in the students life (e.g. sonogram, 1st birthday, grandparents, siblings, pets etc.). Young students will be handling, sharing, and exploring the poster; please do not include original photo-copies.

**Primary / K Students**—During the ceremony, the student being celebrated holds a globe and walks around a picture of the sun. The teacher explains that it takes the earth a year or 365 days to rotate around the sun. The class is encouraged to acknowledge the student's special milestone; pictures or a poster board are a great way to share. After a few celebrations, students begin to understand the concept.

### **BREASTFEEDING**

The Texas Minimum Standards Rules for Licensed Child Care Centers state that "parents have a right to breast feed or provide breast milk for their child while in care". Please contact the School Office to make arrangements for this accommodation.

## **CONTACT CDSA**

- ◆ Phone: 817-275-0851
- ◆ Fax: 817-275-0263
- ◆ Extended Day & School Cell Phone - 817 253-9994 ( text to pick up students)
- ◆ Address: 1105 West Randol Mill Road Arlington, TX 76012
- ◆ School Office email: admin@cdsa.org
- ◆ Business Office email: businessoffice@cdsa.org
- ◆ Head of School: Joyce Hunt Email: joyce.hunt@cdsa.org
- ◆ Assistant Head of School Email: kathryn.mcnorton@cdsa.org
- ◆ Website: www.cdsa.org
- ◆ Facebook: @CountryDaySchoolOfArlington

Parents communication directed to CDSA Administration is to be sent to the School Office or in the “Parent Communication” bin located in the foyer of the main building. **Montessori Compass** is the preferred method for direct communication with your child’s teacher. Teachers have planning sessions in the afternoon; Montessori Compass emails are accessed during those times. Notifications of student absence or messages needing action or attention are to be sent to the School Office—admin@cdsa.org. or can be texted to the school cell phone 817-253-9994. **We request communication regarding your child is sent to only school devices– not to staff cells phones.**

## **DAYS OF OPERATION & HOURS**

A current school year calendar can be obtained from the School Office or www.cdsa.org

- ◆ **School Day:** 8:15AM — 3:30PM
  - ◆ Arrival: 8:00AM — 8:15AM
  - ◆ Dismissal: 3:15PM — 3:30PM
- ◆ **Half Day Dismissal**
  - ◆ Toddler / Transitional, Primary, Kindergarten: 12:20-12:30PM
  - ◆ Infant / Young Toddler: 11:50—12:00PM
- ◆ **Extended Day:** 7:00AM—8:00AM and 3:30PM—6:00PM

## **DISCIPLINE**

The Montessori classroom is based upon children working spontaneously with materials that are self-teaching and correcting, allowing students to develop inner discipline. Teaching the skills of peaceful conflict resolution, appropriate to the student’s developmental stage, is of foremost importance.

When teacher intervention is needed, we strive to use gentle words in hopes of resolving the situation in the spirit of peace, acceptance, and love. Teachers use age-appropriate and consistent strategy to carefully guide the student(s) through the following Five-Step Problem Solving Method:

- 1) Recognizing a problem → 2) Identifying the problem → 3) Brainstorming for solutions →
- 4) Choosing the best solution → 5) Checking back to make sure it is working

Mirroring the *Five-Step Problem Solving Method* at home will allow for consistency in the child’s ability to work through a situation. On rare occasion, when a student cannot be redirected, they may need to take a break. The student is then invited to find a space where they can calm themselves down and re-focus for as long as needed before re-joining the group. At a neutral time, the teacher and student discuss the matter—stressing acceptance and love. CDSA does not use corporal punishment. Humiliation, threats, pinching, shaking, rejecting, or yelling at students is not tolerated.

The parent will be notified if persistent or extreme behavioral problems pose a threat to other student’s or staff’s safety. Furthermore, the student may be sent home for the day or a longer period if the behavior is dangerous. If needed, the school has a referral process to begin socio-emotional and physical/medical evaluation service. In

## **ELECTRONIC MEDIA / TELEVISION**

Television viewing is not allowed at CDSA. Teachers may occasionally supplement learning objectives with electronic media.

## **EMERGENCIES**

Severe weather and fire drills are practiced by students and staff on a regular basis. Each classroom has an Emergency Evaluation Plan and an Evacuation Route posted by the exit doors. A detailed Emergency and Procedures Manual is also available for review by request from the School Office.

***Evacuation Location*** In the event of an emergency requiring re-location, the alternative assembly sites are located across the parking lot at the dental office of Dr. Sehat (adjacent to CDSA's Suite) and The Center for Therapeutic Change (adjacent to the Main Building):

Randol Mill Family Dentistry  
1115 W. Randol Mill Road  
Arlington, TX 76012  
Ph: 817-801-9311

System Protection Partners  
1101 W. Randol Mill Road Arlington,  
Texas 76012  
Ph: 972-602-0744

***First Aid/CPR*** Staff members have current First Aid/CPR certifications. The school maintains first aid equipment recommended by the state in an accessible area, out of the reach of children.

***Weather Related Closing*** In the event that inclement weather forces the closing of school or a delayed opening, the following television stations will broadcast the announcement at regular intervals:

KTVT Channel 11  
KXAS Channel 5  
WFAA Channel 8

Decisions regarding open, closing or delaying school are made by 6:30AM. Please check the news stations listings to secure closing or delayed-opening information. Additionally, school closings will be posted on [www.cdsa.org](http://www.cdsa.org) and Montessori Compass by 6:30AM.

## **ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES**

***Application for Admissions*** CDSA enrollment is on-going year round and based on space availability; Applications for Admissions are accepted year round. CDSA admits qualified students without regard to gender, race, color, and national or ethnic origin

***Changes in Information*** **To be in compliance with the State of Texas**, all required registration forms must be present in the School Office. The parent is responsible for providing and maintaining current records with the school; this includes written changes to: parent contact information, emergency contact information, list of individuals authorized for pick-up, and student medical information.

***Family Referral Discount*** An existing, enrolled family will receive a \$250 credit towards their account for every new, non-enrolled family they refer to CDSA that enrolls for the current or next school year. Details:

- 1) "New, non-enrolled family" is defined as a family that does not contain any members currently enrolled at CDSA.

- 2) "Existing, enrolled family" must have at least one enrolled child at CDSA in the current school year.
- 3) No reimbursements will be given; the \$250 credit is applied towards future expenses with CDSA.
- 4) Discount is \$250 per new, non-enrolled family referral, regardless of the number children enrolled by the new, non-enrolled family

**Termination.** 1. Country Day is not staffed to provide individual attention for children who may have special needs. Such children will be referred to Administration. Administration (Head of School) will meet with the student's teacher/s to determine the next step of recommendation for a follow up or a specialist intervention. Upon reviewing the report, the Head of School, in sole discretion, will evaluate whether the school can continue to provide services or not. If a follow up report by a professional clinician is requested and is not submitted to the director, then it will be sufficient cause for termination.

2. Violent, abusive and/or hyperactive behavior will also be referred to the appropriate specialist and follow up reporting will be required as specified above.

3. Frequently disruptive behavior by a child which interferes with the staff's performance or the daily class activities, will be sufficient cause for termination.

4. Following are also causes for immediate termination: a) Failure to uphold or not cooperating with the preschool policies. b) Use of obscenities by the child or the parent/guardian. c) Rude or inappropriate conduct, behavior, or attitude directed at the school, staff, or other clients/children by a child or parent/guardian. d) Failure to pay tuition within the required tuition due date and/or late tuition charges as per the school policy. When verbal reminder for tuition is not responded with payment within one day, it will be sufficient cause for termination. e) When parent/guardian does not follow up on the corrective action agreed upon at any conference.

### **EXTENDED DAY**

School hours are from 8:15AM to 3:30PM, however, CDSA meets the needs of additional care. The Extended Day Program offers before school care from 7 to 8 AM, after school care from 3:30 to 6PM, and provides care from 8AM to 6:00 PM on most holidays. Please refer to the school calendar to view Extended Day offerings. **Parents are asked to text 817-253-9994 when entering parking lot and students will be brought outside.**

***Extended Day Contract*** The Extended Day Contract consents acknowledgment of the terms and conditions of Extended Day Program and allows for a selection of one of the three options:

- 1) Monthly care plan— see *Extended Day Rates* sheet for all options
- 2) Full-Extended Day or "Any-time Plan" - for unlimited use of all offered dates and timings
- 3) Drop-in Care— to be used and billed only if needed

All families need to complete an Extended Day Agreement. The contract is included in the *Application for Admission* and must be signed for enrollment. Any changes to an existing monthly plan must be submitted in writing via the *Extended Day Change Request* form obtained from the School Office. All changes are effective the following month.

***Contact*** Extended Day Staff can be reached on the Extended Day cell phone at 817-253-9994 after 4:30PM. Prior to 4:30PM please contact the School Office at 817-275-0851. **You can also text the school cell 817-253-9994.**

**Discipline** CDSA's Discipline Policy applies to the Extended Day Program. Extended Day privileges may be revoked for repeated violations.

**Drop-in Instructions** Please contact the School Office to confirm space availability for any planned drop-in care needed at a future date. However, if unexpected care is needed that day, parents are requested to contact the School Office before 3:00PM in order to ensure appropriate coverage. The safety of students is of topmost importance and relies on manageable ratios, as well as ratios that comply with State of Texas standards.

Student dismissal is between 3:15-3:30PM. Students that are not picked at 3:30PM join Extended Day and Drop-in fees applies. Late pick-up from Extended Day, after 6:00PM, will be charged \$1 for every minute after 6:00PM. Questions regarding billing and monthly plan options should be directed to the Business Office.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

CDSA provides a variety of extra curricular after school opportunities on school campus for students 3 years and older. Each activity starts in the Fall Semester and incurs its own monthly fee paid directly to the company that runs the program.

### **FOOD & NUTRITION**

CDSA believe that healthy foods = healthy kids! Parents are encouraged to send nutritious food options to fuel their child's concentration and learning throughout the day. Water, in a labeled (first name, last initial) thermos, is recommended for hydration. Avoid sending any sugary items such as cookies, cakes, or sodas. **Due to the severity of peanut allergies**, please do not send foods that contain peanuts.

**Morning Snack** A light morning snack is required daily for consumption mid-morning. The morning snack is not intended to provide breakfast; rather it is simply a "little something" to tie students over until lunchtime. It is preferable to label (first name, last initial) and pack the morning snack separate from lunch.

**Lunch** Lunch is an opportunity for full-day and half-day students to practice table manners in a group setting. Teachers support students in setting their food, warming items, and join the class to model good etiquette. Lunch brought from home needs to include a cold pack, as refrigerator storage space is limited. Keep in mind to send food in easy-open, child-friendly containers; as this promotes independence.

**Lunch Catering Service** CDSA has an optional lunch catering service through Jason's Deli for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the school year (September thru May). Entrees are served with fresh fruit and juice or milk. Menu order forms are sent home by mid-month for the following month or attained from [www.cdsa.org](http://www.cdsa.org) and hold firm to the "due by" date listed. The catered lunch option is not available for the Infant / Young Toddler class, as ALL FOOD is provided by the parent. Below is a sample of possible menu options:

#### TUESDAY:

##### JASON'S DELI

- 1) Chicken Tenders
- 2) Grilled Cheese
- 3) Mac & Cheese
- 4) Turkey with American cheese
- 5) Jr.. Baked Potato

#### WEDNESDAY:

##### JASON'S DELI

- 1) Chicken Tenders
- 2) Cheese Pizza
- 3) Penne Pasta & Chicken Alfredo
- 4) Turkey with American cheese
- 5) Jr. Baked Potato

#### THURSDAY:

##### JASON'S DELI

- 1) Chicken Tenders
- 2) Cheese Pizza
- 3) Penne Pasta & Meatballs
- 4) Turkey with American cheese
- 5) Jr.. Baked Potato

*A Few Suggestions* Planning healthy, exciting, child-friendly lunches is a continuous struggle for many families; we hope to help with a few suggestions.

Help your child make healthy choices for breakfast, and ensure that breakfast is finished before entering the classroom. Mornings are made a little less hectic when you help your child pack their morning snack and lunch the night before. Getting children involved in meal prep sometimes increases their interest in eating.

The way the lunch box is packed can also make a difference in how much is eaten and how much is thrown away; it is very important to remember to pack no more than your child will eat.

For many children, the least favorite category is protein. A key to success in this area is to make it as much fun as possible. Sandwiches of all kinds become more interesting if they are cut into bite-sized squares, circles, or fun shapes with cookie cutters. Many items can be prepared ahead of time in individually wrapped portions and frozen, to be popped into a lunch box and thawed by lunchtime. Lunchables and frozen dinners are not recommended.

A healthy lunch box includes: Protein rich food, fruit and vegetable, grains, dairy, a special\* treat (often the first thing eaten), and a drink. Below are a few lunch box ideas.

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### *Lunch box ideas...*

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#### *Protein*

- tuna salad
- chicken / turkey (cubes or drumsticks)
- meatballs / meatloaf
- Greek yogurt
- cottage cheese
- cheese spread in celery sticks
- hardboiled egg / egg salad
- hummus / chickpeas
- fish sticks

#### *Fruit / Vegetables*

- cherry tomatoes
- carrot sticks
- berries
- apples/applesauce
- mandarin orange
- vegetables and dip
- bell pepper strips
- pineapple chunks
- olives
- cubed melon
- cucumber slices
- dried fruit
- edamame

#### *Grains*

- rice
- quinoa
- pocket pita
- multi-grain crackers
- granola bar

#### *Dairy*

- cheese
- yogurt

#### *Drink*

- water
- milk
- natural juice

#### *Special Treat*

- raisins
  - granola bar
  - sunflower seeds
  - popcorn
  - cheese and crackers
  - pretzels
  - Jell-O gelatin
  - banana muffins
  - fig bars
  - graham crackers
- 

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

**Allergies** Parents are responsible for informing the school in writing of allergies at the time of enrollment or as allergies are diagnosed. Although it is not possible to achieve a complete allergen-free environment, CDSA recognizes the importance of measures to minimize the risk of a severe allergic reaction. Note: Peanut products are prohibited.

Students with severe allergy / Anaphylaxis requiring either an Antihistamine or EPI Pen must provide labeled (first and last name) medication to keep on campus. For EPI pens, provide two labeled EPI pens; making sure to replace before expiration. CDSA has an EPI Pen Storage and Administration policy. All allergies must be accompanied by a written note from a medical professional to be noted on the application.

**Child Abuse & Neglect** Mandated by the State of Texas (Texas Family Code 261.101), staff is required to report any suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation.  
**Texas Abuse and Neglect Hotline 1-800-252-5400.**

**Illness** Student cannot attend school or remain at school ill (fever of 99.5+, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.). Please call the School Office at **817-275-0851** or email **admin@cdsa.org** when your child is going to be absent. **Students must be well and symptom-free (without medication) for 24 hours before re-attending school after an illness.** Please contact the School Office if your child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, such as strep throat.

If a student becomes ill at school the parent is contacted and asked to pick up at that time. Ill students are sent to the school office to rest under the supervision of a staff member until a parent or authorized individual arrives.

**Hearing & Vision Screening** Students 4 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> are required to have vision and hearing screenings. CDSA will schedule a hearing and vision screening test opportunity or you may submit documentation of this screening from your pediatrician. It is required to be on file within 120 days of Admission.

**Immunizations** All preschool children are expected by the State of Texas to have current immunizations and an annual exam. Each student's complete immunization record is to be submitted at the time of admission, and is required to be updated by the parent as new vaccines are administered. A Medical Information and Consent Form must be signed at the time of the annual exam by the student's physician confirming that the child is in good health to attend school.

CDSA accepts students that are not immunized— your child may be in contact with another student who is not immunized. If exempt from immunizations, the parent must provide written reason to the school along with a physician's statement that the child is in good health.

**Incident Reports** In the event that a student gets hurt at school, the parent is informed as soon as possible via the primary email on file. An incident report form, giving details of the incident, is sent home for the parent's review and signature. The signed form is to be returned to the School Office.

**Medication** In order for over-the-counter or prescription medication to be dispensed at school, the parent MUST sign the Medication Authorization book located at the School Office. Medication will not be taken or dispensed without a signature.

Medications must be labelled with first and last name and are stored in a clean, locked cabinet out of children's reach. Refrigeration is available if needed. Over-the-counter medication must be labeled clearly, with the child's first and last name and be accompanied by written instructions. Prescription medication must be clearly labeled, in its original container, and accompanied by a script signed and dated by the doctor clearly stating dispensing instructions. Please never pack medications, vitamins or supplements in your child's lunch.

**Non-Smoking Environment** CDSA campus and parking lot are a non-smoking, non-vaping, and tobacco-free environment.

## **NAPS**

Full-day student (excluding Kindergarten) have rest time daily. Naptime is held after lunch for approximately two hours. For the older students, the length of time varies developmentally. Students that have developmentally outgrown naps and show readiness to work with focus and independence have the opportunity to participate in the afternoon work cycle. Student readiness for the afternoon work cycle is determined by the teacher and Head of School.

Parents are to provide a labeled (first name, last initial) nap mat with an attached blanket. They are to be of standard size, no larger than 4' x 2' x 2". Nap mats are sent home to be laundered weekly.

## **PARENT OBSERVATIONS / VISITS (ON HOLD AT THIS TIME)**

Parents are encouraged and welcome to observe the classrooms. We ask all visitors to respect the children, their environment, and routines when observing. It is important to the integrity of the classroom that observations do not disrupt the children and their work. A parent observation consists of sitting and watching the classroom quietly or observing from the viewing window. CDSA has a parent observation form to follow.

Throughout the school year CDSA features a continent study of the month. This one way parents can share and enhance student's learning experience of cultures afar. Please connect with your child's teacher in advance to schedule a suitable time for this or other activity visits.

## **PARENT – TEACHER COMMUNICATION**

*Montessori Compass* Montessori Compass is the online parent-portal used by teachers to communicate academic progress and student growth. From your smart phone or any web-enabled device, parents can directly email their child's teacher, view classroom photos, and access their child's activity reports, progress reports, as well as the school calendar.

Montessori Compass is the preferred parent-teacher communication method. Parents are encouraged to consistently check Montessori Compass to stay abreast of their child's progress and classroom activity.

*Conferences* Parent / Teacher conferences are held twice in the academic year. The conference provides opportunity for the parent to discuss the development and well-being of their child. Please consult the school calendar for Fall Semester and Spring Semester conference dates. Circumstances may necessitate additional conferencing; please contact the School Office or your child's teacher to schedule.

## **PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)**

A partnership between school administrators, teachers, and parents is vital to the success of each student and the school. All parents are members of the Parent / Teacher Organization (PTO).

There are a variety of ways parents can volunteer, i.e. school events, continent study, and classroom support. A full list of volunteer opportunities is listed on the PTO Sign Up form available from Administration.

## **PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

All student belongings must be labeled with their first name and last initial. This includes, sippy cups, water bottles, food containers, lunch boxes, nap mats, and clothing items such as jackets. We ask that students not bring toys or electronics to school. A lost and found box is located in the main building.



**Tote Bags** Upon admission, students are ordered a personalized CDSA tote bag. It is recommended that students use this tote bag for transporting all work and personal items. Please do not send commercial backpacks. Parents are advised to check and remove items sent home in the tote bags daily.

**Cubbies** Each student is provided a personal cubby space for keeping tote bags, jackets, work, or other items. Parents are asked to maintain a weather appropriate complete change of clothes in a labeled (first name, last initial) shoe box at their child's cubby area.

### **POLICY / PARENT HANDBOOK**

Each enrolled family receives a copy of CDSA's Parent Handbook. A signed acknowledgment form indicating receipt and review of the Parent Handbook is required. CDSA will notify parents in writing of new policy or any changes in current policy appended in the Parent Handbook.

### **RELIGION**

Country Day School of Arlington has no affiliation with any religious orientation or organization.

### **SECURITY ( NOT IN USE AT THIS TIME)**

Upon enrollment, the School Office will program our integrated security system with a 4-digit "family" security code. The code is the last 4 digits of the mother's driver's license. This code is used to gain access to the outside front doors of the Main Building and the Suite. Each family will have one "family" security code and it is to be used by *only those authorized to pick up your child*. Please notify the School Office with any security questions or problems.

The 5-digit entry code to the door *inside the foyer* of the Main Building will be changed periodically. We ask that you not share the code with children or allow them to utilize the keypad. The School Office will notify you of this entry code when you arrive the first day.

Parents and authorized individuals planning to regularly pick or drop students are to setup a ProCare fingerprint ID. Please section on Arrival and Dismissal pg.16 for more info about ProCare.

### **STUDENT SCHEDULES**

Student schedules are confirmed prior to the start of the semester. Any permanent or temporary schedule change requests must be submitted for approval and are dependent upon availability. *Change of Schedule Request* forms are obtained from the School Office [admin@cdsa.org](mailto:admin@cdsa.org).

**Absence** In the event of a student absence, the parent is requested to contact the School Office as soon as possible to report the reason for the absence and the anticipated duration of the absence.

**Attendance Policy** Adhering to your child's planned schedule allows for optimal growth. Good attendance allows your students to consistently participate and advance in academics; thus building self-esteem. Furthermore, good attendance allows students to socially establish themselves as a stable member of the classroom community.

**Kindergarten** – The State of Texas requires all Kindergarten students to follow Compulsory Attendance Laws. The 90% Rule states that the student must be present for 90% of the total days offered in the Academic School Year. This includes both excused and unexcused absences.

**Switch Day** Part-time students are permitted **one** switch-day per school year to be redeemed on an academic school day. Switch-day changes are dependent upon space availability.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

CDSA does not transport students.

### **TUITION / TUITION EXPRESS**

CDSA offers the safety, convenience, and ease of Tuition Express— a payment processing system that allows secure on-time tuition and fee payments to be made from either your bank account or credit card.

Tuition payment accounts utilizing a monthly payment plan are automatically drafted on the 15th of each month if you are on a monthly plan as contracted. All accounts receive a statement from the Business Office, between the 1st and the 10th of the month, for review prior to drafting.

Any questions concerning billing or statements should be directed to the Business Office or Head of School. [businessoffice@cdsa.org](mailto:businessoffice@cdsa.org)

### **UNIFORMS**

During the academic school year Primary and Kindergarten students are required to wear school uniform Monday through Thursday. Friday is a free dress day. Infant, Toddler, and Transitional students are not required to wear uniform. To ensure safe outdoor-play, students should wear closed toe shoes daily.

Uniform requirements will be enforced and parents are asked to kindly abide by the options provided. Lands' End is the preferred uniform company; however, it is acceptable for students to be in similar uniform from other retailers.

A complete list of approved uniform options is available from [www.LandsEnd.com/School](http://www.LandsEnd.com/School). Complete the brief inquiry to access options for Country Day School of Arlington or enter CDSA's preferred school number: 900067786. CDSA also has an assortment of gently used uniform pieces available for purchase on site for \$10 per item.

# Four Effortless Ways to Support CDSA

## At the store



• **TOM THUMB** 1% of your purchase will be donated to CDSA by linking your Tom Thumb Rewards Card to our exclusive account number: **8428**. You can link CDSA to your Tom Thumb Rewards Card by completing a Good Neighbor Charity Addition/Deletion Form in store.

• **TARGET** If you use a Target® Visa® Credit Card and/or Target Credit Card<sup>SM</sup>, CDSA will receive a percentage of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation from Target through the *Take Charge of Education Program*. Visit [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe), or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. **Our ID# is 24341**.



• **OFFICE DEPOT & OFFICE MAX** 5% of your purchase will be donated to CDSA by providing our school **ID# 70094441** at checkout.



## While shopping online



• **AMAZON SMILE** A simple & automatic way to support CDSA every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same prices, vast selection & convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to CDSA. Using **AmazonSmile** is just like ordering on Amazon.com, except on your first visit to the site you will be prompted to select **Country Day School of Arlington** as your charitable organization. After that, every eligible purchase you make on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate **0.5% of the purchase price** to our school.

## From your cupboard

• **BOX TOPS** an easy watch to earn donations for CDSA. Please clip and bring in the pink Box Tops from hundred of participating products to provide 10 cents each to CDSA.



## While banking



• **BBVA COMPASS BANK** The Compass For Your Cause Program allows you to support CDSA by use of their debit card for everyday purchases. It's easy to get started. Simply open a BBVA Compass Checking Account and a Compass Visa® Debit Card and sign for purchases using the Debit Card. CDSA will earn a royalty of \$50 for each account opened and additional donations for all qualifying purchases.

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## 2023-24 Tuition Refund Plan Information

The Tuition Refund Plan is explained in more detail below and in an available brochure.

Note: *Parents who choose -- monthly payment option -- are required to participate in the Tuition Refund Plan.*

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### **What is the Tuition Refund Plan?**

The Tuition Refund Plan protects both you and the school. You are contracting with CDSA for educational programs and services for the entire 2023-24 academic year and therefore, you are responsible for the payment of the contract in full. However, you may find that you may need to relocate on short notice, your financial status has changed, or there are other circumstances that result in your child(ren) being withdrawn from the school. The Tuition Refund Plan pays 50% of the balance of your unused insured fees. The percentage is dependent on the reason for withdrawal and determined by the Dewar Tuition Program. Typically, reimbursement is 50-60% for a non-medical reason and between 50% to 60% for an approved medical reason. You pay a premium equal to 3.2% of the annual tuition amount of your agreement and then, if you must leave during the school year, the Tuition Refund Plan typically pays 50-60% of your remaining financial obligation to the school. The premium is a one-time required fee paid in September (school year monthly enrollment agreements), not a monthly fee. See the 2023-24 Tuition and Fee Schedule for exact premium amounts. A student must attend school at least 14 consecutive days if withdrawing for reasons other than medical as explained in the tuition refund brochure.

### **Who must participate in the Tuition Refund Plan?**

All parents who choose the monthly installments payment option must participate in the plan and pay the premium (3.2% of the annual tuition). The 3.2% Tuition Refund Plan premium can be thought of as a finance charge for monthly payers, which is less than most credit card or other revolving account rates. It also provides peace of mind as most of the circumstances which result in a student's withdrawal, such as relocation or financial hardships, are not planned in advance.

### **What if I pay the full annual tuition in May?**

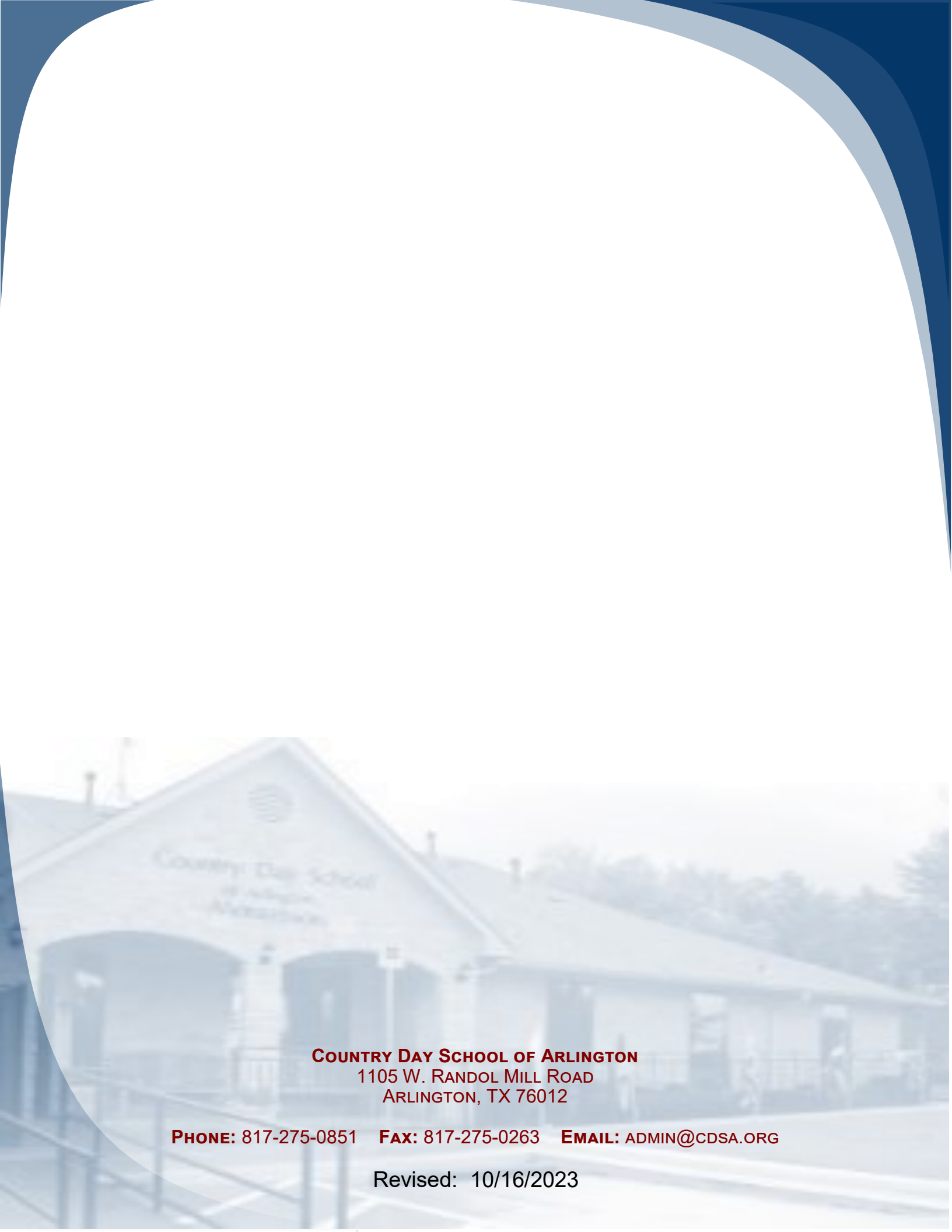
If you pay the full annual tuition in May, (or when you enroll if mid-year) the Tuition Refund Plan is **optional**; you do not have to pay the premium. However, should you have to withdraw your child, for any reason, CDSA will not reimburse you. If you choose to pay the premium and participate in the Tuition Refund Plan, you will be reimbursed a portion of the balance of your unused insured fees. The amount is dependent on the reason for withdrawal and determined by the Protect My Tuition company.

### **What do I have to do?**

There is no additional paperwork required. By signing and returning the Enrollment Agreement and paying the premium in full by September 2023 (school year contracts) you are enrolled in the plan. Each student contract requires a separate premium to insure it.

### **What if I have questions?**

First, please read the Tuition Refund Plan brochure provided by DEWARS company for more information. Then, if you still have questions, contact the Business Office at 817-275-0851 ext. 224



**COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL OF ARLINGTON**

1105 W. RANDOL MILL ROAD  
ARLINGTON, TX 76012

**PHONE:** 817-275-0851 **FAX:** 817-275-0263 **EMAIL:** ADMIN@CDSA.ORG

Revised: 10/16/2023