



Country Montessori School

PARENT PARTICIPATION POLICY 2008-2009

Since its founding in 1989, CMS has prided itself on making a Montessori education available to almost everyone through competitive tuition rates and fees.

An equally important key factor in CMS's success is parent participation. Participation fosters a strong community spirit as people work toward a common goal and models for our children the Montessori principle of being a responsible, giving member of one's community. In addition, participation allows us to keep costs down for services that would otherwise require payment.

Historically, parental volunteer participation has been somewhat low. Although we appreciate the volunteers who have thus far participated, we need to increase the parental involvement in this program to 100 percent, which will enable CMS to provide affordable and competitive services while fostering community spirit through appropriate modeling behaviors. CMS has numerous opportunities for participation; we are confident that we have appropriate opportunities for any interest.

To help address this issue effectively, CMS has implemented a mandatory Parent Participation Policy that will require each family to provide 20 hours of service to the school for the 10 months between August 1 and May 31. Single parent families will be required to provide 1/2 that amount. Each family will be responsible for:

1. Providing the required hours of service;
2. Having their hours validated by an authorized person using the Parent Participation Validation (PPV) form (which will be distributed at a later date, along with a variety of detailed Participant Opportunities);
3. Submitting the PPV form to a PTC Classroom Ambassador for the family's participant record; and
4. Paying the school \$10 for each missing hour under the stated requirement.

Please understand that this policy is not intended to make a profit; its purpose is to control costs and provide an opportunity for parents to model community spirit through increased parent participation.

For those parents who choose not to or are otherwise unable to fulfill their participation hours, we ask that they support the costs of CMS financially. By May 31, the Classroom Ambassador will tabulate the hours for each family and send notices to the families whose commitment was not met. Payment-in-lieu-of-hours will be expected immediately upon receipt. There will be no carry-over to the next school year for extra volunteer hours. If any family knows now that they will not be able to provide the participant hours, then they may pay the appropriate amount now.

CMS is continuously identifying areas for parental involvement. General areas of participant opportunities include, but are not limited to: serving on the Board of Directors or as an Officer on the PTC; heading a committee under either of those two groups; serving on a committee; using your professional or personal skills for physical property maintenance or classroom materials; and providing traffic duty. A detailed list of wide-ranging Participant Opportunities will be distributed prior to the start of the 2008-2009 school year, at which time you will be asked to sign up for as many jobs as necessary to meet your annual hourly requirement. If you know of additional ways in which you can participate, please speak to your Classroom Ambassador. We look forward to enabling families to become more involved in the school environment.

I have read and understand the Parent Participant Policy as stated above and agree to abide by its terms.

Ours is a: _____ Single parent family (10 hours/year) _____ Two parent family (20 hours/year)

Child's Name _____ E-mail address _____

Family Name (printed) _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Classroom _____