



FAMILY HANDBOOK

2016-2017

Treasure Village Montessori's Mission

Treasure Village Montessori nurtures a love and curiosity for learning while developing students' abilities to be successful, contributing members of society.

Welcome

It is our goal to work in partnership with parents, students, educators and community members to provide the best educational environment for our students. It is with that purpose in mind that the family handbook outlines our school's policies and procedures. Please keep this handbook in a convenient place for your reference. It will also be available online. If you need any clarification or if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mission Statement

Treasure Village Montessori nurtures a love and curiosity for learning while developing students' abilities to be successful, contributing members of society.

Montessori Philosophy

At Treasure Village Montessori, learning is based on an individualized academic program for each student that emphasizes self-discovery and student responsibility. Here, students learn by doing. The goal is to foster an enjoyment for learning, and develop self-discipline, concentration, and self-motivation.

The focus of the school's method is a hands-on approach using specially designed materials, a rich and varied curriculum, exposure to classical literature, fostering scientific and mathematic aptitudes, and an overall love of learning.

The Montessori method of teaching is based on the philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori, a noted Italian educator and physician (1870-1952), who revolutionized early childhood education at the turn of the 20th century. She believed and demonstrated that when children are allowed freedom—within a carefully structured environment—to explore and develop their own creative potential, they excel educationally.

Over 100 years ago, she developed a wealth of self-teaching educational materials to make the most of student's potential. As a testament to their utility, many are still found in Montessori classrooms today. The equipment includes hands-on mathematics and science materials, phonetic reading systems, as well as a wide variety of materials and experiences to develop the child's sensory perceptions and refine their sense of awareness.

A Tuition-Free Charter School

In Florida, charter schools are public schools and are free of tuition. Treasure Village Montessori, like most charter schools, was created by local educators, parents and community leaders. The school is funded by the state according to the number of students attending.

Unlike traditional district schools, charter schools do not receive funding to cover the cost of securing a facility. As a result, TVM Board of Directors is responsible for raising additional funding for the facilities.

Charter schools are held accountable for academic growth in a safe and responsible environment. Since TVM is a school of choice, it is held to the highest level of accountability: it is the parents' decision to enroll their children in this program.

Enrollment

Open enrollment is held yearly during the third week of April, with a lottery held to determine waitlist order. As positions in each grade level become available, students are offered a position in the order in which they are listed. After being offered a position parents have 24 hours to decline or accept the position. Once enrolled and attending the program, students maintain their enrollment without having to reapply. Applicants who have not secured a position are required to reapply each year. If current students have not fulfilled financial obligations by the third week in April, if parents have not fulfilled volunteer requirements and if students have excessive unexcused absences they will be unable to automatically enroll and will have to begin the

application process again. Families will be notified in writing of the consequence for non-fulfillment of the Contract of Commitment.

Ambitious and Varied Curriculum

At TVM, a well-rounded student is the result of a balanced, yet rigorous approach to learning.

TVM has a dual curriculum. As it is a state-funded school, it must meet student achievement goals established by the state of Florida and Monroe County, while as a Montessori school also adhering to the Montessori Curriculum. Together, TVM's challenging academic program emphasizes math, language and science, as well as art, music, cultural studies, physical education and community service. All these areas are explored by students with the guidance and encouragement of specially trained and skilled teachers.

In addition to a demanding academic program, TVM works to develop effective communication skills in students, coupled with practical life skills. Exposure to artistic, cultural and scientific matter lays a solid foundation for careers and passions later in life.

Teacher as Guides

Each child is an individual, with his/her own distinct personality and inner developmental time table and potential. The uniqueness of each student is respected by our staff of well trained teachers. The classroom is their community and the teacher's role is not that of an authoritarian but rather a guide. Our teachers are chosen on the basis of educational qualifications, experience and personal qualities that ensure the needs and goals of the program are being provided by the very best. This selectivity has resulted in an outstanding group of professionals who are dedicated to the students, stakeholders and the vision of the school. All lead teachers are Florida certified in their teaching field and have completed or are in the process of obtaining certification from intensive accredited training programs in philosophy and techniques for the Montessori classroom. The support staff includes teaching assistants, and their credentials meet or exceed the requirements for education/training outlined by the Department of Education and Social Services, State of Florida. All of our teachers and staff members are CPR and First Aid certified, and many have Masters degrees; for specific information refer to the staff biographies.

Multi-Age Classroom Benefits

The various stages of development in children occur in roughly three-year cycles. That is why at TVM, classrooms consist of multiple-year age groups. Most educators agree that younger children learn well from older children, and older children learn, in part, by teaching younger children.

The multi-age classroom environment allows children to work cooperatively as they play the roles that correspond to the different positions within the classroom community. The multi-age classroom offers an educational environment rich in social and academic variety.

High Standards, Higher Expectations Lead to Achievement

TVM sets high standards for our students, and supplies them with the educational setting, guidance, instruction and resources to meet and exceed those standards. Likewise, the bar is set high for our teachers and staff. Parents are also held to high expectations in order to support their children and the school by attending school activities and fulfilling volunteer requirements. TVM believes that high standards and higher expectations for our students, teachers and parents lead directly to academic excellence, achievement and success.

Parent Involvement Essential, Expected

TVM is like a village with families and students who are enthusiastic about learning and willing to actively participate in the school.

TVM encourages parent involvement in all aspects of their child's education, including the reinforcement of Montessori principles at home. An outstanding education requires commitment not only by the school, but by the family and community as well.

Parents (and that can include extended families and friends) are expected to volunteer 15 hours per family per year. Activities include chaperoning field trips, preparing classroom materials, room parent, reading with students, assisting in the library, fundraising, and serving on various school committees.

Ultimately, it is the partnership of the student, the family, and Treasure Village Montessori that will offer the most effective route to a great education.

Enforceability

Consistent with F.S. 1002.33(10)(e)5, the parent volunteer contract (TVM Contract of Commitment) is enforceable under Florida law, and failure of a family to uphold or fulfill their responsibilities under said contract would be sufficient grounds for denial of admission to the school the following year. As a public school of choice, Treasure Village Montessori relies on a strong home-to-school connection for the success of its program. Failure on the part of the family to uphold the contract of commitment jeopardizes not only the school's overall performance, but may affect the child's educational potential as well. Families will be notified in writing of the consequence for non-fulfillment of the Contract of Commitment, which is placement of his/her children in the lottery drawing, to determine enrollment for the coming school year. A family may request benevolence in writing from the TVM Board of Directors, who will address cases of hardship on a case-by-case basis.

Staff

Staff are chosen on the basis of education and experience and are at the heart of the success of the program. As a part of the philosophy, staff is hands on and available as needed. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the staff by reviewing website and reading their biographies.

Board of Directors

The Board Members (the Board) formulate the mission statement for the school and is dedicated to the implementation of the mission and goals outlined by the various school committees. The Board is also charged with stewarding and strengthening school programs and services, enhancing the school's public standing, ensuring legal and ethical integrity and accountability, recruiting and orienting new board members. Other responsibilities include, selecting and collaborating with the Principal to provide adequate and competent resources, and to ensure and promote effective organizational planning and monitoring for the exemplary delivery of a quality Montessori education. The Board generally meets at the school the third Wednesday of each month. Board members are elected by the current Board of Directors and provide strength to our current program. As a part of the philosophy, board members are available as needed. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with board members by reviewing the website and reading their biographies.

Treasure Village Montessori School Calendar 2016-2017

2016	August	10	Wednesday	All Staff Report
		17	Wednesday	Students Report
	September	5	Monday	Holiday/No School – Labor Day
		28	Wednesday	Half Day 11:45 Dismissal – Professional Day
	October	26	Wednesday	Half Day 11:45 Dismissal – Professional Day
November		1	Tuesday	Professional Day
		11	Friday	Half Day 11:45 Dismissal – Professional Day
		21-25	Monday-Friday	Holiday/No School – Thanksgiving Break
December		22	Thursday	Half Day – 11:45 Dismissal
		23-31	Friday-Friday	Holiday/No School - Winter Break
2016	January	2-6	Monday-Friday	Holiday/No School – Winter Break
		9	Monday	No Students – Professional Day
		16	Monday	Holiday/No School - Martin Luther King
February		20	Monday	Holiday/No School – Presidents Day
		22	Wednesday	Half Day 11:45 Dismissal – Professional Day
March		8	Wednesday	Half Day 11:45 Dismissal – Professional Day
		9-17	Thursday-Friday	Holiday/No School – Spring Break
April		14	Friday	Holiday/No School
		26	Wednesday	Half Day – 11:45 Dismissal – Professional Day
May		29	Monday	Holiday/No School – Memorial Day
June		6	Tuesday	11:45 Dismissal – Last Day of School
		8	Thursday	Last Day for Teachers

Non-discriminatory Policy

Treasure Village Montessori is a Florida Charter School that admits students of any race, color, nationality or ethnic origin and honors all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, athletic and other school administered programs.

Student Information – Eligibility

Any child is eligible for admission into Voluntary Preschool (VPK) if he/she is four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of the school year. A child who transfers from another state shall be admitted under the same age requirements as established in the state where he/she was previously enrolled, as long as curriculum requirements have been met and extensive proof of this can be provided. Any admissions decision made will be at the discretion of the Principal.

Students entering kindergarten must be five (5) years old on or before September 1 of the school year. Before admitting a child into the program, administration shall require:

1. Evidence of the child's date of birth in the manner provided by Section 232.03, Florida Statutes to confirm grade assignment; transferring student's birth certificate must correspond and confirm grade assignment;
2. Evidence of a health examination (completed within twelve months prior to the school entry or evidence of an appointment to have such exam within 30 days) in accordance with state board of education rule 6a-6.024;
3. An up-to-date immunization record and physical;
4. Documentation of residence including lease agreement, mortgage acceptance letter, electric or water bill verifying current residence in Monroe County.

Florida Statute 232.032 and 232.0315 requires each child who is entitled admittance to kindergarten or any other initial entrance into Florida public school to present a certificate of immunization for the prevention of those communicable diseases for which immunization is required; a school-entry health examination performed within one year prior to enrollment is also required by the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Services.

The statute further requires these documents prior to enrollment and prohibits a school from admitting a student, regardless of grade level, who does not comply with the law. State statutes hold parents or guardians of school-aged children responsible for compliance with the law.

The law does provide a temporary 30-day exemption for a student transferring from another state, or country in order to allow time for the transfer of records.

Through a letter signed and dated by the previous school's principal, a child can be granted a temporary 30-day exemption as provided by law. However, thirty-one (31) days from the date of entry into school, your child will be excused from further attendance after the date indicated, if the proper records of certification are not on file at school.

Admissions Procedures

Application week is scheduled for the third week in April for the upcoming year. The number of available spaces for every grade level is based on the number of students who are returning/graduating. Applications are accepted during this week, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00PM.

If more applications are received than spaces available, a lottery will be held to determine which applicants will be admitted immediately and which applicants will be placed on the wait list and in what order. The lottery will be held the Monday following the last Friday of application week @ 4:30 pm. Applicants will be notified of a student's status in writing (whether admitted or in what position on the wait list as determined by the lottery) within two weeks following the lottery. Parents must notify the school within one (1) week of notification on their decision to accept or reject the position; immediate acceptance or the wait list position.

Admission preference is given to siblings of students currently enrolled in the program at the time of registration. Preference is also given to children of the school's full-time employees, children of current board members, and to siblings of students drawn by lottery. No preference is given to foster children. No preference is given to students who reside under the same roof as students currently enrolled and are not siblings. Students continuously enrolled in the program will not be subject to the application process year after year. However, paperwork pertaining to student services and consent forms are required each year; school physical must be submitted every two years and families must not have any outstanding balances.

Upon notification of enrollment and acceptance of a position, every family must submit all required paperwork, which includes but is not limited to, an original immunization certification and school physical, proof of current residency, consent forms, birth certificate if not on file, etc. Students who have been accepted, but do not register and provide proper documentation by the deadline (within one week of notification and acceptance of a position) shall forfeit their position in the charter school.

Families are responsible for providing working and current contact information should a space become available. Families are also welcome to contact the school at any time regarding wait list status. In addition, the wait list is valid for the upcoming year only. All wait-listed students, if not admitted by the following April, will be subject to open enrollment.

Exceptional Student Education

ESE/ESOL

Exceptional students assigned an Individual Education Plan will be provided with programs implemented in accordance with federal, state and local policies and procedures. This includes, but is not limited to:

A non-discriminatory policy regarding identification, location, evaluation, and selection, Free and appropriate public education (FAPE), Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to include IEP meetings with student's family, the district and the school staff.

Exceptional students shall be provided with programs implemented in accordance with federal and state policies and procedures. Specifically, the school will comply with the Individuals Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Sections 228.2001 and 230.023 (4)(m) of the Florida Statutes, HB, and Chapter 6A-6 of the Florida Administrative Code.

Students with disabilities will be educated in the least restrictive environment. For those students whose special needs are so severe that the needs cannot be adequately addressed at the school, the child will be appropriately referred to another educational setting.

The school believes that the philosophies adhered to include, but are not limited to, attention to learning styles and behavior management which reflects an inclusive educational environment. Students, whose disabilities require accommodations at a level that alters the philosophy of the school, classroom structure, policies and procedure, and safety guidelines, shall be referred to an appropriate program. Parents of students with disabilities will receive procedural guidelines and guidance in their native language.

Limited English Proficient students will be under the supervision of an ESOL-certified person and will follow or exceed the curriculum guidelines and accommodations outlined by the district. The school will adopt and abide by the LEP District Plan in Effect in the county and will abide in all respects by the requirements of the LULAC et.al. Vs. State Board of Education Consent Degree (1990).

The school currently contracts with several agencies to ensure that federal, state and county guidelines for exceptional student education are followed. In addition to providing services for these students, services for teachers and families are also incorporated into the program on a regular basis. Other services such as speech therapy, physical and occupational therapy are also offered through the school on a contractual basis or if these services are required by law.

Gifted

The school does not provide testing for gifted students. The school curriculum naturally adheres to the needs of gifted children by providing an environment that is individualized and progressive for the more assertive learners.

Screening

The school and the State of Florida want to ensure your child is prepared for entry into Kindergarten. All kindergarteners will be screened by school faculty, using the approved district assessment, within the first 60 days of school. Upon completion, these results will be turned into the district for further evaluation. Parents will only be notified should the need arise. Should you have any specific questions about this process you may contact your child's teacher.

VPK students also will be screened by school faculty within the first 60 days of school, using the approved Wesley House assessment, Ages and Stages. Upon completion, these results will be turned into Wesley House for further evaluation. Parents will be notified should the need arise.

Student Code of Conduct-Disciplinary Procedures

The school will incorporate the Discipline Policies and Code of Conduct designed by the administration and supported by Monroe County Board of Education. Each class, guided by the teacher, will develop a classroom code of conduct focusing on developing and demonstrating respect for others, the materials, the environment, and the individual. The code includes the basic rules of behavior and consequences for infractions of those rules. Disciplinary actions will be documented through incident reports that will be sent home to the parents and a copy will be kept in the student's file as part of the student record. Every student attending the school is expected to abide by the following student rules and routines which are based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the school and can be found in Appendix A.

Right to Learn

All students have the right to a meaningful education that will be of value to them for the rest of their lives. This includes the opportunity to master the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics, which are essential to function successfully in today's society. Students have the right to pursue an education without interference from other students, or from other factors which create distractions to the student or other students, while engaged in the learning process.

Students have the responsibility to apply themselves and take advantage of all the educational and recreational activities provided so that their school experience prepares them for the future. Students should actively engage in the daily work assigned, uncompleted work needs to be done at some other time of the day, including but not limited to home. Students will not engage in disruptive or distracting behavior which interferes with other student's right to learn.

Students whose behavior in the classroom or other learning environment is disruptive, disrespectful or uncooperative shall be subject to disciplinary and corrective action by the classroom teacher or school administration. Repeated and serious disruptive behavior may result in a warning, out-of-school, or in-school suspension for the day, or in extreme situations, suspension for up to one week.

Participation in School Programs and Activities

Students have the right and are encouraged to participate in the programs and activities at their school in accordance with the guidelines established by each school for student participation.

If students elect to take part in a club or group at school, they have the responsibility to be an active participant and to abide by the applicable requirements and rules. Students should conduct themselves on field trips, assemblies and other school-related functions in a manner which brings credit to themselves, their families and their school.

Students who do not abide by the applicable requirements and rules in regards to these functions will be in jeopardy of losing the privilege to participate and may also be subject to disciplinary actions if this conduct continues to violate school rules and guidelines for behavior.

Attendance

Every student has the right to attend school and pursue education as long as the student is properly enrolled and has not had attendance privileges suspended by disciplinary action.

Every student should be regular in attendance and prompt in arriving to class since dependability and punctuality are the desirable traits of a good citizen. As well, the school has a responsibility to educate each and every child. Poor attendance is a barrier to this responsibility and prevents the staff from completing their job. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their child is in attendance every day and is punctual.

Students who follow the attendance procedures established by the school can receive an excused absence at the discretion of administration by providing the school with documentation for the absence, including reason for absences or tardiness, securing permission to leave school grounds before regular dismissal and prearranging absences. However, excessive absences, even if excused, and tardiness still affect a student's ability to learn valuable information. The school has a responsibility to make sure each child has the necessary information and mastery required to be promoted to the next grade level. Excessive absences and tardiness are sure to affect this learning process. As many studies have shown, students who miss more than eight days in a school year will be affected, academically and socially.

Students may not miss more than **15** occurrences throughout the school year without jeopardizing their ability to progress to the next grade level the following year. Excessive tardiness of over **15** occurrences during the school year may also affect a student's ability to promote to the next grade level. Three tardies are equivalent to one day of absence. Students with 15 or more absences are not eligible to participate in school dances or field trips. Educational vacations are still considered absences. Students that are absent during the course of an academic day are not eligible to attend after school functions on the same day.

Any student absent as a result of having a contagious disease such as measles, mumps or chicken pox must have a doctor's release slip before resuming attendance.

If an absence is expected to be **3** or more days, parents must notify the office in advance to ensure that their child is not released from the program. The notification must be in writing and approved by the Principal. Just cause for extended absences includes illness (subject to notification by a doctor); death in the family or other extreme situation, provided there is proper documentation. Without proper notification and after **3** days absences from the first day of school, a student may be released automatically from the program. A student absent from the program over **5** days in a row during the school year may also be released from the program.

Observation of School Rules

It is necessary in any school where large numbers of students congregate to develop and learn appropriate rules of behavior to facilitate the orderly conduct of the educational purpose of the school. Each class will establish, write and abide by the rules throughout the school year. When appropriate, students will have some involvement in determining these rules. It is the student's responsibility to know and abide by these rules of conduct.

Students will conduct themselves in accordance with the rules established in the classrooms and in the school. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action including but not limited to, removal from class, other school functions, possible suspension from school or in-school suspension for the day, or in extreme cases suspension for one week. Any physical acts of violence will be reported to the proper authorities and become a part of the student's permanent academic school record. The school has a no tolerance policy for violence.

Respect for Persons and Property

Students have the right to physical safety and to the protection of their personal property while attending school.

Students must conduct themselves in a manner which will not endanger the safety of their fellow students and should refrain from any horseplay, physical contact, or deliberate acts of assault or battery which would inflict harm onto others. As stated earlier, any physical acts of violence will be reported to the proper authorities and become a part of the student's permanent academic school record, as TVM has a no tolerance policy for violence.

Students will show respect for the authority of teachers, administrators, support staff and other adults affiliated with the school. Students will be courteous to adults and students at all times.

Students will respect other students and the property of other students by displaying honesty and integrity while at school, and will refrain from possessing any item which is not theirs unless given permission by the owner.

Any student who defaces, cuts, damages, marks or destroys school property, or the personal property of other students, shall pay for the damages done and may also be subject to suspension or expulsion from one day up to a week, depending on the severity of damages. Other consequences could include an inability to use certain school materials, and exclusion during periods of time when certain property will be utilized.

Students who endanger other students safety, resort to physical means of problem solving, steal, damage or abuse other persons property or persons are subject to disciplinary actions which could include isolation from classmates, being prohibited from participating in school events and functions or suspension from school.

For **third grade students and up**, physical altercations such as punching with a closed fist will warrant a form of detention or suspension for the rest of the day or the day following. The incident will become subject to the student's academic record, as well as the school's record. At school, students are taught that it is unacceptable to hit back, whether provoked or not. ***As a policy, any student punching will immediately be subject to strict disciplinary procedures.***

Students will also refrain from bringing in materials such as music or literature that may possess language or pictures that are of an inappropriate or offensive nature. Please be sure to screen materials your child has in their possession or has access to. Materials will be permanently confiscated by the school and will not be returned, no matter what the financial implications.

It is essential that schools be safe and orderly to provide an environment conducive to learning. Students should be made to understand that any of the following offenses on school property, school sponsored transportation, and/or school sponsored activities shall result in suspension and possible expulsion: homicide, sexual battery, armed robbery, aggravated battery, battery on a teacher or other school personnel or student,

kidnapping, or abduction, arson, possession, use or sale of any weapon or explosive and possession, use or sale of illegal substances. Local law enforcement agencies will be notified when a student commits any of these offenses.

Students who are found to have engaged in sexual harassment will also be subject to disciplinary action which may include isolation from school activities and/or classmates, suspension or expulsion and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed by the proper authorities.

Students should pride themselves in a neat, personal appearance at all times and have high standards of personal cleanliness. As guidelines, students should wear shoes or some type of foot wear that is practical and safe for elementary activities, PE and/or other active school functions. All students should wear closed toed sneakers to be eligible to play on the playground. Platforms, high heels and stiff dress shoes are not appropriate school attire. Students choosing not to abide by the shoe dress code may be prohibited from participating in playground, PE and field trips. Clothing showing bare midriffs, hats and bandanas (inside the school), bathing suits, unless specifically warranted, chains and other cumbersome or dangerous jewelry or clothing that promote drugs, violence or lewd and lascivious behavior are not allowed. While students have wide latitude in their choice of attire, the staff does have the authority to act on specific cases which disrupt good order and discipline in the school or that create safety concerns or distractions from daily activities at school. Violations of the dress and grooming guidelines as established by the school may lead to disciplinary actions, including isolation and exclusion from school activities where safety is an issue, or suspension.

Students considered by school personnel to be in violation of these rules will be provided with alternative attire if available or will be sent home to change.

Clothing can inhibit your child from fully participating in the program. The following is a guideline to ensure that this does not happen.

Free Speech and Student Publications

Students have constitutional rights for freedom of expression. Students have the right to speak or publish and distribute their opinions even if what they say is unpopular or controversial. Students also have the right to wear buttons, armbands and other items associated with freedom of expression but that are not distracting to the normal operation of the day. All of these rights, however, must be practiced within the limitations of the school's rules and procedures. Such reasonable limitations are necessary in order to provide a good learning environment and to prevent disruptive behavior. Students have the responsibility to observe the following whenever they speak or write:

Don't be obscene.

Don't ridicule.

Don't injure or smear a person's reputation.

Don't be the cause of unlawful behavior or serious disruption to normal school operation.

The administration has the right and responsibility to preview materials to see that acceptable legal standards are met.

Students who violate and abuse their freedom of expression may be subject to disciplinary action including loss of freedom, privileges, or suspension.

Illness/Medication

Please report any contagious diseases in your family so that the staff can address the situation accordingly. When a child has a fever, diarrhea or is vomiting, they must be kept home until free from these symptoms for 24 hours. Please call the school to report any prolonged absence or unusual illness which might spread through a class.

The presence of any communicable disease for which immunization is required by the Department of Health in Florida schools shall permit the county health department director or administrator, or the State Health Officer to declare a communicable disease emergency. Those children identified as not being immunized against the disease for which the emergency has been declared shall be temporarily excluded from the facility by the TVM staff, or the governing body, until such time as is specified by the county health department director or administrator.

Do not bring your child to school when ill. Illness includes any condition that prevents the child from participating comfortably in facility activities, illness that results in greater care than our staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children, or if the child has any of the following conditions: temperature of 100 degrees or greater, unusual lethargy, uncontrolled diarrhea, vomiting, mouth sores, rash with fever, pink eye, scabies, lice/nits or other infestation, tuberculosis, impetigo, strep throat, chicken pox, pertussis, mumps, hepatitis A, measles, rubella, respiratory illness, shingles or herpetic gingivostomatitis. More specific information may be obtained from the office on these conditions. In any of these cases, you will be called to pick up your child immediately. Your child must be picked up within 30 minutes of notification. Parents whose children have never been in school before should expect that their children may be ill more than usual during the first two or three months of school.

All medications must be administered in the front office with required paperwork. Under no circumstances should students have any medication in their possession, including but not limited to over the counter medications, inhalers, and homeopathic remedies.

Head Lice

The school will call parents if lice are found on their children. Parents are required to be at the school within 30 minutes of the phone call to prevent further spreading of this infestation. Lice are non-discriminatory and have no bias for gender, race, religion or socio-economic status. If we have two or more cases of lice, notices warning and educating parents on the detection and treatment of lice will be sent home. Lice have a 14 day incubation period. Lice prevention is the responsibility of the parents. Students will not be able to return to school until all living nits are removed from the child's head.

Food/Nutrition

It is the responsibility of the parents to prepare lunches that provide approximately one-third of the student's nutritional requirements, as required by state law. Students have several options for lunch. County lunches are available on a daily basis with notification to our main office. Coral Shores High School cafeteria provides these lunches. Families must fill out a form for Free and Reduced Lunch Program in order to determine eligibility. These forms are available as part of the enrollment package and can be further explained by the Office Manager.

Education on good nutritional habits is a part of the school curriculum. Lunch time discussions center on eating protein first. Many of the students are away from home for up to ten hours during the day. It is extremely important that the food which they consume fosters excellent growth and development. Many recent studies show that sugar, dyes and preservatives may create reactions in students that inhibit the learning process. Various food-related activities take place in the classroom. These activities provide students experience with grace and courtesy, manners, application of measurement, reading directions and team work.

Low Sugar Policy

Food containing sugar as one of the first three ingredients is not permitted at school. Please be aware that sugar may be listed in several different forms. None of the following sweeteners are acceptable; fructose, maltose, sucrose, dextrose, honey, glucose, raw sugar, brown sugar, corn syrup, high fructose, corn sweetener, sorbitol, saccharine, or aspartame (equal or nutri-sweet). Please read labels carefully. Many foods labeled as "natural" snacks are loaded with sugar. Yogurts sweetened with honey (e.g. Continental, Alta Dena

or Mountain High brands) are permitted. Fruit juices must be 100% juice with no sugar added. We do not permit "natural" or diet sodas. If you are in doubt, check with us.

We encourage the children to bring their lunches in a labeled, standard size lunch box unless there is an all day field trip. For field trips, lunch should be packed in a labeled disposable lunch bag including a bottled or boxed drink. Any uneaten food will be sent home to help parents determine the appropriate amounts of food needed for their children.

Also, please do not send:

- Foods which require preparation at school (cup-o-noodles can be brought pre-made in a thermos, fruit can be quartered at home and wrapped tightly in plastic wrap, etc.)
- Foods which require refrigeration. We do not have space in the refrigerator for storing cold foods for all the children. Yogurt, cottage cheese, drinks, etc. will remain cool if packed in a small snack thermos designed for this purpose and found in most drug and grocery stores. Yogurt (placed in the freezer the night before) will have thawed to a yogurt texture by lunch time.
- Foods for children before and after school must also be sugar free. Sugared breakfast foods are not acceptable, and breakfast must be in a disposable container or plastic container which can be returned home.
- Microwaves – The children do not have access to a microwave, so it will not be possible to send warm-ups to school.

Before School/After School Adventures

School hours are 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM for VPK-3, 8:00 to 3:30 for grade 4-8 students. The building is open from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Morning care is free. After School Adventures is scheduled from 3:30-6:00 PM and is offered to students of the school for a fee. Applications and costs for this program are included in the introduction packet and must be filled out and submitted to the school before your child can be admitted into the program.

After School Adventures is a structured and active program. Programs ranging from art to gardening, science, sports and cooking are provided. Monthly calendars, featuring daily activities and snacks are posted on the After School Adventures board, located outside the main office.

After School Adventures is offered through three different plans:

Plan A - from 3:30PM until 4:30PM. This plan includes snack and the daily scheduled activity.

Plan B - from 3:30PM until 6:00PM. This plan includes snack, the daily activity, an hour of academic study hall and a half hour on the playground.

Siblings get a reduced rate. The first child pays full price of either Plan A or Plan B. The second child gets 15% off the initial full price and the third child gets 30% off the initial full price.

Both Plan A and B need to be paid by the 5th of each month before a **15% late fee** will apply.

Plan C is Occasional Care and is designed for unforeseen emergencies. It is available, with permission, at a cost of \$20 per day. This applies any time after 3:30 PM daily or after 12:00 PM on Early Release days.

Students picked up after 6:00 PM will be charged \$15.00 for every 15 minutes the student(s) is at the school after 6:00 PM.

In addition, a variety of after-school programs may be offered to the students of TVM for an additional fee, paid directly to the instructors and vary in availability and type during the year. These programs may include such activities as Dance, Guitar, Keyboarding, Art, Spanish and more. Schedules of the specific programs will be made available during the first month of school.

Parent Information/Volunteer Hours

The school encourages active parent involvement in all aspects of their child's education, including reinforcing Montessori principles at home. Excellence in education requires an extraordinary commitment on the part of the family, school and community. We believe that families are ultimately responsible for their child's growth and development aided by a sound educational system. Parent involvement provides support to the inspiration that fires a love of learning.

The school requires that parents, grandparents, legal guardians and/or friends of students volunteer 15 hours per family, per year. Projects may include but are not limited to participation in field trips, making materials for the classrooms, volunteering as a reading listener or a room parent, attending parent education nights and/or board meetings, fundraising, and serving on the public relations or other committees. You can also receive credit for attending school sponsored events.

As part of the volunteer program, each person who participates directly with students **must enroll** in VISA (Volunteer in School Activities). This Monroe County School District program is designed for the protection of the students. Registration in Level II, the only level we require, is for volunteers who will chaperone, transport students, and engage in student-related activities. Level II requires that the volunteer be finger printed or hand scanned through the county school system. The cost for this program is about \$60.00. An application can be made by logging onto the County's web site at www.KeysSchools.com. Approved VISA participants will log into the school computer located in the front office whenever entering or exiting the school to work as a volunteer.

If volunteering during school hours is not possible, there are plenty of opportunities that can be done at home during evening or weekend hours. Re-enrollment into the school will be affected if this requirement cannot be met.

Open Door Policy

The school has an Open Door Policy for parents whose children attend the school. An Open Door Policy is defined as a parent's ability to come to school during school hours provided the parent or other person does not interfere or disrupt the class routine. Parents should not discipline students, but should instead refer students to the teacher or other staff member. Teachers determine the level of involvement a parent may have when exercising this right based upon the student, the schedule and the rest of the students in the classroom. Parents may not bring siblings into the classrooms, as this also disrupts the flow of the classroom. As well, when picking up or dropping off students, parents need to remain in the front office until dismissal time to minimize distractions.

Communication

We recognize the importance of communication as the basis for effective teaching. The Administration and all teachers are available by appointment to address issues, concerns or whatever you may need that is educationally relevant.

If the issue concerns the classroom, we ask that you first communicate directly with the teacher. Please schedule an appointment outside of class time – attempting to discuss issues during class time is not appropriate and affects the classroom routine.

Conferences

Formal Parent/Teacher conferences are held at least twice a year – October and April. Student progress in our program is discussed at these conferences. Parents are required to attend these two formal conferences.

GOAL OF OUR PROGRAM

The goal of the program is to provide academic excellence that exceeds the minimum grade level requirements expected at the State levels. In addition to a rigorous academic program, it is just as important at the school to develop effective communication skills, coupled with effective life skills. Lastly, exposure to artistic, cultural and scientific matter will lay a foundation for careers, hobbies and passions later in life; also a central focus of the overall goal of the program. Developing well-rounded, productive members of society begins at an early age and the schools' goals help promote this ultimate goal.

Throughout the day there are many different skills being nurtured and developed. These skills are grouped into various areas of development. By following the Montessori curriculum as well as utilizing diverse child centered activities the teacher is able to focus on these skills at an individualized level.

Curriculum areas include but are not limited to:

Language Arts

Students will develop both receptive and language arts skills. This includes the curriculum areas of reading, writing, and grammar.

Mathematics

Students will develop math concepts in the areas of number sense, measurement, geometry, algebraic thinking, and data analysis.

Practical Life

Students will develop the skills necessary to participate in social activities in both the home and the community. Students incorporate life skills lessons into their routine in order to establish a sense of ownership and responsibility at home and in the classroom. Students begin to understand their role in the community and take a more active part.

Sensorial

Students will begin to understand the world around them as well as ways to live comfortably surrounded by a variety of environmental stimuli.

History

Students will develop the skills necessary to understand the concepts of past, present, and future. The events of the past have a direct impact on our lives today. Students will be able to determine how their decisions today can impact their future.

Geography

Students will gain an understanding of the world around them as well as different cultures and customs.

Science

Students will build a basis for the study of science through discovery and explanation. Science also includes the areas of botany and zoology.

Grace, Courtesy, and Health

Students will learn how to lead healthy lives and help develop lifelong habits of appropriate social norms. Students will develop appropriate use of manners throughout the classroom as well as the extending community by fostering a responsibility for their own work and behavior.

Physical Education

Students in grades VPK-3 complete 120 hours of Physical Education per week as mandated by legislation. For these students PE takes place in the courtyard/field and occasionally at various community parks in coordination with field trips. Students in grades VPK -3 focus on sports such as volleyball, baseball, soccer, field hockey, etc. PE is taught by a certified PE instructor for this age group.

Students in grades 4-8 complete 120 hours of Physical Education per week as mandated by legislation. PE classes take place every Friday at Founders Park. Students are taught a variety of sports, teambuilding and communication skills. The sports include Tennis, Swimming, Diving, Soccer and Lacrosse.

Goals of the ESE (Exceptional Student Education) Program

The ESE programs set high expectations and high standards for students that need remediation as with all students. These programs prepare them to enter life as confident, productive, responsible individuals and citizens while moving them through the system. The program thoroughly addresses a variety of learning styles and levels of development in meeting the needs of pupils, as stated in individualized education plans. The classes offer an affective, as well as an inclusive and comprehensive academic, social, and functional curriculum, while meeting state requirements specified in the core curriculum content standards and special education mandates.

The ESE program has been created to provide classified children including those with disabilities a developmentally appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. We have incorporated an integrated approach to the curriculum, which recognizes that development and learning are interrelated. Through the use of an individualized program, the curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of any particular student. The flexibility of our programming enables students to access the curriculum at their level. Meeting individualized student's needs combined with high expectations and excellence in teaching and learning result in positive student outcomes at all school levels.

Student Progression Plan

The school program for pupil progression has been developed in response to the Educational Accountability Act of 1976. It has been updated to reflect current statutes and school policy. Student progression shall be based upon an evaluation of each student's performance, including how well he/she masters the performance standards set by the State Board of Education. The student progression plans for Monroe County can be found on the website, www.keysschools.com.

Additional Criteria for Promotion VPK-8

There are pertinent factors to be considered by the teacher before determining that a student will progress from one grade to another which must be prescribed by TVM. To this end, the following criteria for being promoted from grades VPK-8 are established:

Teacher Judgment and Other Factors

Student promotion is based upon an evaluation of each student's achievement in terms of appropriate instructional goals. The basis for making the determination should reflect teacher judgment based on consideration of the following; student progress reports, classroom assignments, daily observations, standardized tests, student portfolios, attendance, AIP(Academic Improvement Plan) or IEP(Individualized Education Plan, county approved) where appropriate, and other objective data as appropriate or required. The primary responsibility for determining each pupil's level of performance and ability to function academically, socially, and emotionally at the next grade level is that of the classroom teacher and/or a promotion and retention committee which may include a review by the Principal and Assistant Principal.

VPK - 8 Progress

Students who do not satisfactorily achieve established objectives for the grade to which they are assigned, may be assigned to the same grade for the next school year or given an alternative assignment. A student's level of proficiency in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics must be reviewed and the student's progression must be based, in part, upon this proficiency. Students not meeting desired levels of proficiency as determined by the school and/or as evidenced by the results of state mandated tests are to be provided remedial instruction designed to foster their progress toward mastery of essential concepts and required standards.

The school is committed to a continuous progressive program and utilizes additional instructional mediums to improve student achievement, including extended instructional time, at-home summer school coursework, parent tutorial program, contracted academic services, exceptional student services, specialized curriculum efforts and use of computer- assisted instructional labs.

Retention of students must be considered if the student has been provided remedial instruction and upon reassessment, falls below determined proficiency levels on a district measure of assessment or on the state assessments, in reading, writing, and mathematics given at the 2nd grade level. Students who after remediation do not attain proficiency in reading at the end of 3rd grade must be retained.

The school does not recommend that a student be retained more than one time during the elementary years; however, on occasion and when in the best interest of a child, he/she may be retained up to two years. Students must not be retained without documentation that remediation was provided in a timely and comprehensive manner, and it is documented by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Student's may also be retained at the discretion of the classroom teacher, provided that teacher can show proof that the student is not and cannot reach grade level requirements, regardless of whether that child achieves grade level scores on the state assessment tests.

Students must be evaluated using locally determined assessments by the end of each grade in the area of reading, math and writing. Students are identified as substantially deficient in reading or math by one or more of the following: Standardized tests (below 50th percentile), student progress reports, student portfolios and referral by teacher recommendation. They then must receive diagnostic assessment and intensive instruction until the deficiency is addressed. It should be noted that no one measure taken alone should be used to assess a student's level of proficiency. Multiple criteria will be used when considering placement into remedial programs or other remedial alternatives.

A student identified at the end of 3rd grade as non-proficient in reading based upon school proficiency performance criteria on the statewide assessment, must be provided remediation. **If at the end of grade 3, after remediation, the student does not meet the State's performance criteria on the statewide assessment (above the 25%); he/she must be retained and receive intensive remediation.** This intensive instructional remediation program must be different than the previous year and one that considers the student's learning styles. The retention committee will make a recommendation to the principal and the board regarding promotion to the next grade or retention.

All students in grades 6-8 must maintain a grade of D or higher, or must fulfill required county assignments to help bridge the academic gap. Students with a grade below a D must complete credit projects by subject area during cultural studies. Students that must complete these subject area projects will be identified after every quarterly progress report.

VPK-8 Reporting Student Progress

Quarterly Progress Reports are given out in October and March. These reports provide a snapshot of student progress. A more comprehensive report is given in January and in May. The parents will be notified in writing if it is apparent that the student may need to be retained or is doing unsatisfactory work. Parents will sign and return notification and request a conference with the teacher to set goals and plans for the student's academic progress.

- Report cards for grades VPK through 3rd will reflect the student's ability to progress at grade level and contain achievements made in the area of language, math, writing, cultural studies and social/emotional development. 70% of the marks given in each area will amount to Above Grade Level (E) and At Grade Level(S). Should any area exceed 30% in the areas of Below Grade Level (N) and Failing (U) a student will be considered for retention.
- Students in grades 4 and 5 will receive letter grades. The grading scale will be broken down as follows: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-70 (C), 69-60 (D), and 59-below (F). 70% of the marks given in each area will amount to A, B, or C. Should any area exceed 30% in the areas of D or F a student will be considered for retention.
- Students in grades 6 through 8 will be given a grade point average as well as letter grades and students with a 2.5 or below will be considered for retention.
- The final report card will indicate end-of-the-year status regarding performance or non-performance at grade level, acceptable or unacceptable behavior, attendance and promotion or non-promotion to the next grade level. (F.S. 232.2452)

Report Cards for Certain Exceptional Students (VPK-8)

All students will participate in the development of a portfolio in the areas of reading, writing, and math to show grade level mastery of concepts which support test scores and report cards. Portfolios demonstrating focus, progress and activities for students with moderate to severe disabilities will be used as the primary method for recording achievement as dictated in an IEP.

Limited English Proficient Students

Limited English Proficient (LEP) students must meet proficiency level expectations. The requirement measures the student's ability to read and write, regardless of whether that ability is shown in English or the student's home language. A student may be retained if he or she is unable to read satisfactorily in any language, but not simply because the student is unable to read in English, if the student is satisfactorily proficient in his or her home language.

For LEP students who have been in an English Language program for less than two years and fail to meet TVM expectations on the state assessments in reading at grade 4, the district may exempt such students for good cause, based on TVM policy, for mandatory retention.

Field Trips

During the academic year regular field trips are held for academic enrichment and an occasional recreational outing. In order for your child to participate in these events, the school must have a completed Field Trip Permission form and Consent for Medical Treatment in the event of an emergency. Students must wear a school uniform when attending a field trip. If an admission charge is involved, a field trip fee may be required and will be collected in advance. When parental assistance/drivers are needed, the teacher will post a sign-up sheet in the classroom. Seat belts are required, and field trip drivers must provide a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and VISA Level 2 clearance.

Parent Pick Up and Drop Off at the School

A traffic pattern has been designed to protect the safety of the children. If parents or guardians are picking up or dropping off children at the school, the driver must follow the designated route.

- Enter in the North parking lot and drive around the back of the school.
- Park in the South parking lot and walk your child into the school.
- All students arriving late or dismissing early must be signed out in the front office.
- When exiting the parking lot, **turn right** onto the Old Road.

Note: Parking on or near the driveway is a safety hazard and damage to personal property will be the responsibility of the owner.

Emergency Care Procedures

The school is committed to ensuring that each student and employee has a safe and healthy work environment. All staff members have been trained and are certified in First Aid and CPR. All staff members are fingerprinted and receive clearance, through county, state and federal agencies, to work at the school, and are monitored for infractions.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are conducted on a monthly basis in compliance with the Department of Children and Families and other safety conscious organizations. These drills are mandatory and are conducted without notice. Fire drill routes for students are posted next to the exit nearest the fire extinguishers. All equipment including the fire extinguishers, alarm systems and exits are checked on an annual basis by the Fire Department and alarm company. Proof of these inspections can be found on the actual equipment.

Fire Emergency

- All fires are reported immediately. Fire emergency numbers will be called and the location of fire given.
- All employees know the location of the fire extinguishers.
- Tampering with fire extinguishers is forbidden.
- Fire extinguishers, fire alarms, fire exits or risers are not blocked by supplies at any time.
- Open flames are prohibited in any area where flammable materials are used or stored.
- The school building is designated a "No Smoking" area. People, who smoke, must smoke outside at least 500 ft. away from school property, as per Florida state law.

Evacuation Procedures

- Initiate drill procedure
- Follow escape routes to emergency exits
- Staff will escort student out the back or side of school and off school property
- Head count of staff and children once outside (match against attendance record)
- Call 911 at closest phone and give operator name and address
- Staff should remain in contact with police dispatch until officers arrive.

Weather Related School Closures

When a storm warning or watch is announced in our area, please listen to SUN 103.1 for announcements pertaining to school closures for Monroe County.

Storm Watches or Warnings during the School Day

If a storm warning or watch is announced in the middle of a school day, call the school office for the recommendation on whether to pick up your child from school. It is important that you have a backup plan in case of such an emergency, and to notify the school of such plan.

In An Emergency

Parents are welcome to sign out students from school. We ask that you call in advance so that administration can notify and prepare the teacher and child with minimum disruption to the class. The school asks for your cooperation in any emergency situation.

Report to the office and check in with administration.

Sign your child out, in the appropriate book.

Allow the staff to bring your child to you in the office to minimize disruption of the class.

Note: If you pick up your child due to an emergency, it is important that you remember to sign your child out; attendance at school is done on a sign-in, not a sign-out basis.

Release From School

The school will not release a child to anyone whose name does not appear on the Release Form. Please send a written and signed note with special instructions if information on the release of your child changes or if your child is to be picked up on a single occasion by another person. The school requires appropriate picture I.D. including license, passport or other official picture I.D. before releasing any child.

The main entrance to the school is through the front office. Parents and students must enter and exit through the main door (for sign-in and sign-out purposes). Students will not be allowed to leave the building without supervision from an approved adult.

Birthday Celebrations/Holidays

Birthdays are a very special occasion for children. The staff enjoys acknowledging this day for our students. In an effort to provide minimal disruptions to the classroom, birthdays are celebrated on a monthly basis, with all celebrations taking place on the last Friday of the month. *We do not allow any type of food or treat containing sugar at school for a child's birthday.* We celebrate with an alternative ceremony held by each class honoring the birthday of a child. Each teacher has a preferred method for birthday celebrations and may include time lines of the child's life, donation of a book or other material or a special presentation on their life. Talk to your child's teacher approximately two weeks before your child's birthday celebration to make the necessary arrangements.

Classroom Coin

Parents and friends of the school often ask how they can contribute to the education of our students. To accommodate this desire, the Classroom Coin program was initiated. Throughout the year, cash or cash-equivalent contribution can be made to a classroom to help the teacher enhance the environment, purchase special items directly related to instruction, off-set miscellaneous expenses incurred by the teacher and a host of other projects. Teachers have discovered there is a competitive spirit to being "adopted." Students enjoy it and of course, the teachers are thrilled. Checks may be issued in the school's name with the teacher/classroom designated on the memo line; the office manager will collect the checks.

Donations

For art projects, collages, and other classroom applications, the school may be able to use a variety of items, many of which you might discard. Please ask at the office or speak to the teachers. Particularly useful are old National Geographic or Wildlife magazines, buttons, fabric scraps, yarn, small wood scraps, rolls of paper or stickers, nature objects with educational merit, etc.

We accept donations in the form of money, equipment, or services. The school is a non-profit, 501C3 entity and the administration can furnish you with the required receipts documenting your donation for tax purposes.

Solicitations

Treasure Village Montessori has a no solicitation policy. Requests to post or advertise are at the sole discretion of the Principal who must preview all materials in advance. Students are prohibited from soliciting parents, staff and teachers at any time on school property, during school hours. If a student is selling an item(s), he/she may submit a copy of the appropriate order form to the main office where it will be displayed in a visible location, available to anyone interested in purchasing such items.

Religion

The school is a non-denominational school and does not affiliate itself with any religious organization. Religion is personal to each family and best learned in the home. In the classrooms, teachers stress cultural diversity and encourage the children to share with their classmates that cultural, language, religious and ethnic differences which make each of us so special. Though the school does not promote or preach any particular religious doctrine, the school “celebrates” other cultures to encourage tolerance and understanding by recognizing the cultural occasions of the various children represented in each class. Parents who may wish to help us explain the festive occasions of their cultures or religions to the class are always welcome.

The school realizes that because of different religious beliefs, this policy might interfere with a particular parent’s religious philosophy. Please let us know if there are certain activities in which you would prefer your child not to participate in, or are uncomfortable with. In various years, parents have shared the festivities of Chinese New Years, Persian New Years, Santa Lucia Day (Danish), Chanukah, as well as special festivals of Mexico, India, and Japan. Students can also express interests in researching or studying other religions as a part of their natural curiosity and interests, which is encouraged, but monitored. Religious awareness, tolerance and understanding go hand-in-hand with cultural awareness and understanding is a cornerstone to the Montessori philosophy.

Recommended Reading Books

Authors

The Secret of Childhood	Maria Montessori
The Child in the Family	Maria Montessori
Positive Discipline	Jane D. Nelson, PHD.
Montessori: A Modern Approach	Maria Montessori
A Parents’ Guide to the Montessori Classroom	Aline D. Wolf
Children: The Challenge	Rudolph Dreikurs
How to Raise a Brighter Child	Joan Beck
The Hurried Child	David Elkind
The Tao of Montessori	Catherine McTamaney
I Love You Rituals	Becky Bailey
Elephant in the Playroom	Denise Brodey

Final Note

The purpose of this handbook is to keep you informed and involved in the policies and procedures necessary for the education, safety and well-being of your children. As parents of the children who attend the school, you are key to the school’s success. With your continuing support, our possibilities as a Montessori school are limitless. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to address them to the Principal. We welcome your ideas and suggestions to help us on our path of achieving excellence.



Rules and Routines

Treasure Village Montessori
86731 Overseas Highway Islamorada, FL 33036
(305) 852-3482 Fax: (305) 852-2432
Treasurevillagemontessori.com

Welcome!

Welcome to Treasure Village Montessori Charter School. Let the Adventure begin! Our staff has been working hard to prepare lessons that will capture your interest, inspire your learning, and satisfy your curiosity. In order to provide you with a quality hands-on education, we do need to create an orderly learning atmosphere and enlist your cooperation. Please read on...

Why are rules necessary?

It would stand to reason that when you have fewer people you need fewer rules. The early settlers had fewer laws to follow as compared to modern day Americans. Laws (like rules) are designed to protect the rights of the individual while still maintaining the freedoms of the many. One of the best examples illustrating the benefit of rules involves the “rules of the road.” Can you imagine what it would be like to drive from place to place if there were no rules? If people just drove their vehicles however and wherever they liked; without regard for the other drivers there would be chaos on the roads. Classrooms, like roads, are similar; a student who habitually blurts out comments or answers disrupts the orderly “flow of traffic” in the classroom. If everyone in the classroom behaved in this manner, no learning could occur because the teacher would not be able to teach in an atmosphere of chaos.

What are the school rules?

TVM has several common-sense classroom rules, these rules are similar to the rules used whenever groups of people are assembled. The rules are the same in each classroom and are as follows:

- 1 **Wait to be recognized** if you wish to speak, ask a question, and answer a question. Once you take your seat at the beginning of class you are expected to stay in that seat unless given permission to move about. If the teacher has assigned your seat you are expected to sit in that assigned seat whenever the class meets.
- 2 **Use silent hand signals** if you wish to use the restroom or get a drink of water. (These silent signals will be explained to you during the first week of school.)
- 3 **Respect the personal space and property of others.** The space surrounding another student is his/her personal space; this includes his/her desk and his/her property. If you put your feet on another student’s desk you are invading their personal space, likewise if you borrow another student's pencil without asking you have disrespected the property rule.
- 4 **Calling all artists.** Everyone likes to doodle and drawing can be fun but it can also be considered disrespectful if done during class. Therefore, please refrain from drawing, doodling or sketching when your supposed to be learning, listening or working in class. Also, be sure not to doodle, draw or mark on school property unless you like cleaning, erasing and sanding on your weekends.
5. **Be prepared for class!** Can you imagine what would happen if a carpenter showed up to work without any tools? As a elementary/ middle school student, your “tools” are the few items you are REQUIRED to bring to class each and every day; these include but are not limited to: (1) homework (2) pencils (3) a positive attitude.
6. **If you make a mess, clean it up.** When eighteen or twenty-two students gather in the same classroom, there is bound to be a mess from time-to-time - especially if those people are involved in projects and activities. Sometimes it may be unclear as to which portion of the mess came from you. In any event the mess needs to be cleaned up so please pitch-in, pick-up, help-out, and the mess will disappear.
7. **Dress for success.** Out of all the rules, the school dress code is the one that has to be redefined over time to adapt to various trends and fads. Who could predict gel bracelets, dog collars, and black lipstick? We have devoted a special section just for the school dress code included later. In short, dress conservatively, wear sensible shoes, and you won’t have to worry about this rule.

8. **Use appropriate language in all situations.** Appropriate language is language that does not offend, provoke, irritate, annoy, stereotype, or hurt-the-feelings-of, another person. You may have heard the phrase “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me.” Well... this would be true if the word “physically” were added to the end. Let’s face it - words can hurt, and in some instances are carefully crafted to be purposefully hurtful. Here’s another old phrase: “If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all.” This is a great position to take. We take verbally abusive comments very seriously, especially when they are used intentionally. There is a very fine line between verbal teasing and verbal abuse, please report any excessive teasing to the administration before it escalates. We are very effective at putting a stop to this type of behavior.

9. **Practical Jokes can be funny but...** Practical jokes often hurt other peoples’ feelings and result in unintended, unpredictable and unnecessary results. These “tricks” and “jokes” often escalate to consume your time and our time. So practical jokesters please find another creative outlet!

10. **Horses play rough, students don’t!** Horseplay is a common term that is loosely defined as unnecessarily rowdy or rough play. Horseplay usually starts as touching, poking, pulling, fighting, running, yanking, bopping, pushing, kicking, shoving,... you get the picture! In almost all cases of horseplay school setting the result is often as follows: broken items; bruises; rips; fights, marks; hurt feelings; and tears. Please exercise the self-control necessary to avoid horseplay and involve a staff member before entering into a situation that will result in an office referral. Please note that horseplay resulting in physical injury or damage to property will be immediate grounds for a suspension. Leave the horseplay to the horses!

11. **Do not retaliate!!** The staff and administration are skilled in handling school disputes quite well. If you take matters into your own hands by retaliation, you may find yourself in a situation where the tables are turned and you are perceived as the aggressor. Physical retaliation (punching, kicking, biting, etc.) can get you suspended from school. Always involve a TVM staff member before matters escalate to this point.

12. **Leave your gum at home.** Gum is destructive. It sticks to everything and stays stuck. It destroys carpets, sidewalks, furniture, and clothing. It gets stuck in hair. Gum is not sold in theme parks like Disney World, Universal Studios, and Bush Gardens for these reasons. The bottom line: do not bring gum to school, do not bring gum to school events, do not bring gum on school trips. Do not bring gum here nor there, do not bring gum anywhere!

13. **Do your homework and turn it in on-time.** Students who do their homework and turn it in on-time earn maximum credit and typically earn higher grades. The best way to stay ahead of the curve in school is to be organized. We will provide you with a schedule so that you can plan your week. Your planner is a fantastic place to write down the due dates for assignments so that you may budget your time.

14. **Make-up your work if you are absent.** Quite a bit happens at TVM in any given day. If you miss a day of school or even a class you will need to make-up your missing work. Missing work is to be made up by meeting with the teacher and receiving assignments. It is your responsibility to seek out missing assignments.

15. **Be Proactive: Respond to low grades.** Grades can be accessed at any time on OnCourse. Low progress report grades indicate missing work, low test scores, or incomplete projects. Any student who receives a grade of “D” or “F” on his/her progress report is REQUIRED to meet with the corresponding teacher for assistance.

16. **When you arrive to school, report to your class or check into morning care.** Remember this is not time for you to wander around the school; this is time to prepare for your day.

17. **If you are late, sign-in and get a tardy pass.** Teachers are instructed to disallow late students from walking into their class without a pass. If you arrive late please report immediately to the office and sign-in. Once you have signed-in, you may request a tardy pass. Repeated tardiness will result in an unexcused absence.

18. **Field trips are fun ...** but schoolwork comes first! Please understand that a field trip is a class with learning objectives, written work and tests. Therefore, if you have a “D” or an “F” in any class, if you are missing excessive work, or if you have excessive absences your field trip day can be forfeited and you will remain at school for the entire day accomplishing your make-up work. Any time a field trip day is missed you must complete the required alternative assignment. TVM Polo shirts must be worn on all field trips (on or off campus).

19. **Don’t forget your Uniform on PE Day!** The TVM school uniform gives you a sense of identity as part of the team. Whenever groups of people come together for a common goal one of the most important expressions of their team spirit is common dress. The Yankees don’t wear those pinstripes for nothing! Dressing the same on PE day also helps our teachers keep the group together and focused. For these reasons you are required to bring and wear your TVM uniform on your designated PE day. Uniforms must be worn as the outermost layer of clothing and must not be modified in any way.

20. **Can you hear me now?? -- Good.** Cell phones have certainly become part of our society. Perhaps you’ve seen the video entitled “Inconsiderate Cell Phone Man” while waiting for a movie to begin. Students should not bring cell phones to school. Teachers are authorized to confiscate cell phones that become “visible” due to their use during class, ringing, buzzing, or use as a gaming device. Confiscated cell phones will be held in a secure location until picked up by

the parent.

21. **CD players, IPOD's, MP3 Players, and electronic gaming devices should not be brought to school.** Since TVM cannot guarantee the safety of these devices you bring them at your own risk. Like other electronic devices, if misused (for example if you continue to use an electronic device while the teacher is giving instructions) it will be confiscated and held for 30 days.

22. **"You Gotta' Eat!"** A proper sac lunch should include a non-carbonated drink along with an element of protein, a fresh fruit or vegetable, and a snack. We have a NO SUGAR POLICY. Do not trade or sell your lunch. Do not touch another person's lunch. All lunches should include an ice pack to keep your lunch safe from bacterial invasion.

TVM Dress Code

Treasure Village Montessori's dress code policy is designed to provide an environment where appropriate social and learning skills are developed for lifetime use. The school setting should model a social structure of mutual respect and cooperation. We strongly feel that appropriate language and dress are essential to effective teaching and student success. Treasure Village Montessori will enforce this dress code in addition to the dress code policy established by the Monroe County School Board for all students in attendance. This dress code states: Students are required to wear appropriate clothing according to the situation and the grade level involved. Students may wear shorts, although, spandex-style "bicycle" shorts, cut-off jeans, short shorts (past your fingertips), running shorts, and see through boxer type shorts are not allowed. All shirts worn by students must be long enough to be tucked in at the waist and stay tucked in even when the students' arms are raised above their heads. While we do not require students to wear their shirts tucked in, the shirts must be long enough to remain tucked in in these circumstances. Shirts that expose skin at the waist will not be allowed in school and students will be sent home to change or face disciplinary actions should they wear inappropriate attire to school. Any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming by which virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark or other attribute denotes membership in a gang or advocates drugs, tobacco products, alcohol, violence or disruption is prohibited. Jewelry shall be worn in a way that is not distracting or does not present a safety or health hazard and does not disrupt the educational process.

The following provisions will also be enforced at TVM:

- No hats or headwear will be allowed (includes caps, bandanas or headbands) in the classroom. Note: Students may wear hats/ sunglasses outside in the courtyard or for PE.
- Halter tops, cut-off shirts (boys or girls), tank tops with cut-out shirts are all prohibited.
- Undergarments are not to be exposed.
- Shorts, shirts and dresses must extend to at least mid-thigh (past your fingertips).
- Strapless dresses and tops are prohibited.
- Sandals, "flip flops", clogs, "Jellies", Crocs or any open-toe or open-heeled shoes are prohibited on the playground.
- "Big Johnson" or other innuendo t-shirts are prohibited.
- Hair may not be colored, clumped, spiked, or worn in a "Mohawk" or other distracting style; if hair is colored it must be pulled back and discrete.
- Stuffed animals, toys, balloons, and other items that are determined to be distracting are prohibited.
- Uniforms are to be worn on field trip and PE days as the outermost layer.
Shoes must have a closed toe and closed heel for foot protection.

Clothing determined by the administration to be unsafe, inadequate, disruptive or indecent will be prohibited at school functions and on school grounds. Students must follow the dress code when attending school functions such as activities, dances, fundraising events, overnight trips, and/or other field trips. Students will be required to wear the school uniform on field trips.

TVM Code of Student Conduct

A disciplined orderly learning environment is an essential component of a quality educational program. The administrators of TVM and the Governing Board will work together to create and maintain this environment through the implementation and enforcement of the school's discipline policies. Disciplinary reaction on the part of the TVM administration will be governed by: the severity of the offense, the impact on student learning, the impact on the reputation of the school, and the

impact or infringement on the rights of the other students in the school.

There are three distinct disciplinary levels, they are:

1. Zero Tolerance
2. Major Discipline Issues

Zero Tolerance: The TVM administration will not tolerate the presence of persons who engage in violent criminal acts on school property, on school sponsored transportation, or during school sponsored activities. Those students who are found to have committed the following offenses shall receive the most severe consequences provided by the TVM Governing Board: Robbery, Aggravated Battery, Arson, Possession of controlled substance or weapon, or false reporting of an emergency situation.

Major Discipline Issues: Major discipline issues are actions or behaviors that have a substantial negative impact on: the school's learning environment, the school's reputation, and/or the rights of the other students in the school. Examples of major discipline issues include but are not limited to the following: classroom disruptions, bullying or intimidation, threatening another student or staff member, vandalism, improper treatment of animals, laboratory safety violations, harassment, discrimination, and/or repeated or accumulated minor disciplinary infractions.

All behaviors may be dealt with at the discretion of the school's administrators.

Treasure Village Montessori

2016-2017 Parent Handbook

Parent Acknowledgment

I am acknowledging that I have received a copy of the Handbook and it is my responsibility to read and abide by its contents. If I have questions or concerns with regards to its contents, I will discuss them with the Principal. In the event I am not satisfied with the answers, I will put my questions or concerns in writing and address them to the Board of Directors for a response.

I further agree to return a signed copy of this acknowledgment to the school within ten (10) days of receipt.

Student Name

Student Signature

Student Name

Student Signature

Student Name

Student Signature

Parent Name (print)

Parent Signature

Parent Name (print)

Parent Signature

Date

Date