



Dear Room 18 Families,

My name is Alexandra Whelan and it is my pleasure to welcome you to our Room 18 Primary community at Park Road Montessori. I look forward to guiding your child on the path of discovery through the Montessori philosophy. In our community, we strive to build a foundation of respect for one another and for our environment which is rich with meaningful work that will nurture your child's academic, social, and emotional development.

At the start of the school year, we schedule a staggered entry to help your child acclimate to the new routine. Enclosed you will find more information on these first few days and which days your child is scheduled to attend. Below is a list of things your child will need to start the school year. Please bring them to our Open House or on the first day of school.

### **1. Extra Clothes**

In a labeled gallon Zip-lock bag, please provide an extra change of seasonally appropriate clothes to keep in the classroom. The bag should contain LABELED underwear, shirt, pants/shorts, and socks.

### **2. Indoor Shoes**

We spend a lot of time on the floor. To keep the room as clean as possible, your child will need a pair of indoor shoes to wear while in the classroom. Indoor shoes may be unassuming slippers (please avoid bulky or light-up slippers) or simply another pair of comfortable shoes your child can independently take on and off.

### **3. Family and Baby Photos**

We have a classroom photo album that resides in our book corner. The children love to look at their classmates' photos and find comfort in having images of their loved ones in the environment. Each child has a page with a baby picture on one side and on the other side, a group photo of your child with their loved ones. Please provide these two **4x6** photos so everyone is represented in our album.

### **4. Required Classroom Supplies**

- 3 containers of disinfectant wipes
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 1 pack of Crayola watercolor
- 1 pack of Crayola colored pencils
- 1 pack of Crayola markers
- 1 pack of pink erasers
- 1 pack of glue sticks

### **Work Pouches**

At this age, the child is more focused on the process of work rather than the product. However, your child will sometimes have items they would like to bring home. Each child will be provided with a zippered pouch for easy transport of their work, school-wide communication, or paperwork. When brought home, please bring the empty pouch back into the classroom the next day.

### **Daily needs**

All children must bring their own labeled water bottle. Your child may bring lunch from home or purchase lunch at school. For lunch, please provide a cloth placemat, napkin, and any necessary utensils. Not only do these items minimize waste, they also help your child set their lunch space and contain everything to that space while eating. If bringing lunch from home, please provide containers your child can open and close independently. Sugary snacks such as gummies, candy, soda, and fruit snacks are not appropriate for classroom lunches. We will have "Dessert Friday" when your child may bring a **small**, sweet treat in their lunch on Fridays only.

All children should have a backpack (no wheeled backpacks please) that is large enough to hold library books, a lunchbox, a water bottle, and the provided work pouch. Please make a point to go through the backpack daily with your child to share in your child's work, ensure you receive any important communication, and model care and maintenance of your child's personal items.

### Birthdays

Before the big day, I will send you a slide show template to be completed with pictures and important events from each year of your child's life. You are welcome to join us in the classroom during the birthday celebration and may provide a **nut-free** treat to share with the class.

### Snack

Each child will be assigned snack days throughout the year. On your assigned day, please send enough for 24 children to have snack twice. You will be able to check our class site for your assigned snack days. If not provided on the packaging, please send a complete list of ingredients so we can ensure the snack is safe for any children with allergies. We want to offer your children healthy snacks, so please avoid processed foods and high amounts of added sugar. Whole grains, fruits, and veggies are ideal!

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and please do not hesitate to contact me with **any** questions or concerns you may have at [alexandrah.whelan@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:alexandrah.whelan@cms.k12.nc.us). I believe in honest and open communication and look forward to partnering with you to best meet the needs of your child. It is an honor to guide your special treasures and I appreciate your cooperation in providing a peaceful, predictable, enjoyable environment. I look forward to meeting everyone at our Open House!

Fondly,

Ms. Alexandra

[alexandrah.whelan@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:alexandrah.whelan@cms.k12.nc.us)

*Joy, feeling one's own value, being appreciated and loved by others, feeling useful and capable of production are all factors of enormous value for the human soul.*



*-Dr. Maria Montessori*