

2015-2016

parent handbook

a guide to school and classroom policies



contact information

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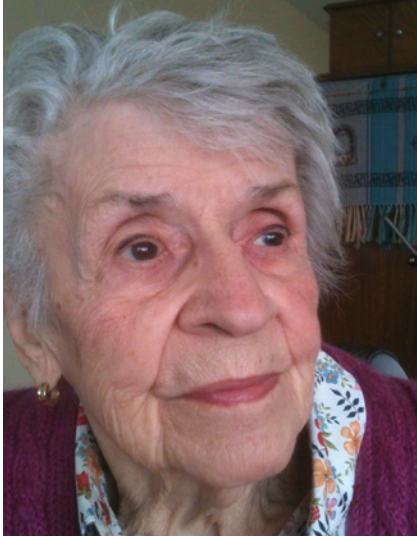
5 Year Old Class: Mrs. Caroline Davis Carbone - cdavis@datzyk.org,
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4 Year Old Class: Mrs. Michelle Molter - mmolter@datzyk.org,
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3 Year Old Class: Mrs. Lauren Finke - lfinke@datzyk.org, and
Miss Rachel Markson - rmarkson@datzyk.org

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School Website: www.datzyk.org



mrs. ruth datzyk, founder

history of dms

By 1963, Ruth N. Datzyk had experienced a creative and rewarding fifteen year career teaching in the Pennsylvania public elementary schools of Bally, Fountain Hill, East Penn, and Parkland school districts. Her dream, though, had been to run her own kindergarten and nursery school. With the birth of her last child, and no suitable school in the area for a two year old, Mrs. Datzyk realized her dream. Her husband helped her transform the first floor of their large, old home into The Datzyk Kindergarten and Nursery School. Soon, parents inquiring about Montessori schools were being referred to the Datzyk School as being the closest embodiment of the Montessori method that the area could offer.

Out of curiosity, Mrs. Datzyk attended a summer workshop given by the noted Montessorian, Aline Wolf. The Montessori philosophy enticed Mrs. Datzyk to continue her postgraduate work. She studied the Montessori method and earned that diploma in 1968. In that same year, the Datzyk Montessori School was established.

montessori philosophy

In order to develop physical, intellectual, and spiritual potential to the fullest, the child must have the freedom achieved through self-discipline and order. The “prepared environment” developed by Dr. Montessori has a certain order. This “prepared environment” allows children to develop at their own speed, according to their individual capabilities, and in a non-competitive atmosphere.

The years between three and six are when children learn the rules of human behavior most easily. Dr. Montessori recognized that the impulse to learn comes from within the child. The teacher prepares the environment (the classroom), and offers the child stimulation by demonstrating the activities and materials in the room. However, it is the child who learns and is motivated through the work to persist in a task. The Montessori elementary student acquires basic academic independence and progresses toward the joy of self-education.

If Montessori children are free to learn, it is because they have acquired an “inner discipline” from their exposure to both physical and mental order. This is the core of Dr. Montessori’s philosophy. Social adjustment, though necessary for learning in a schoolroom, is not the purpose of education. Montessori teaches children to observe, to think, and to judge. It introduces them to the joy of learning at an early age and provides a framework in which intellectual and social discipline go hand in hand.

observing your child

Parents may make an appointment to observe their child in class. All observations must be conducted discreetly so the natural activities of the children are not disturbed.

Communication with any child, other than your own, must be politely, yet firmly, resisted. If a child asks you for help, or engages you in conversation, please direct them to their teacher.

All observations must wait until after the first few weeks of school in order to allow the children to develop a rapport with their teacher and peers.

on learning to read

In a Montessori classroom, children learn the phonetic sounds of the letters before they learn the alphabetical names. The teacher introduces the sounds with the Sandpaper Letters.

Only the lower case forms of the letters are used since most words in books are printed with these letters.

Pre-reading exercises are made more difficult if the child is first taught the upper case letters and their alphabetical names.

“Never let the child risk failure until s/he has a reasonable chance of success.”

-Maria Montessori

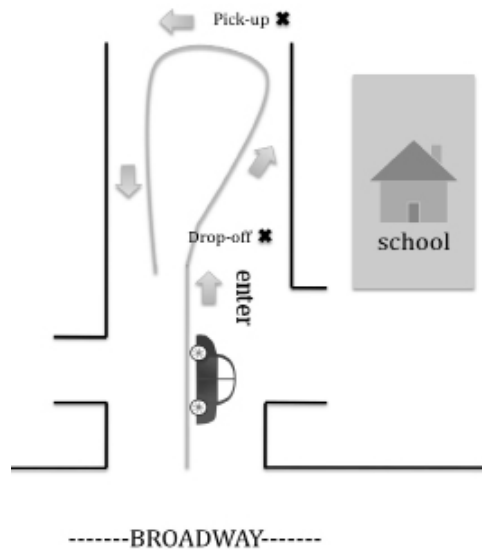
snack time

Families take turns providing simple nutritious snacks for their child's class. A monthly list is sent home listing your child's snack days.

birthdays

Children enjoy bringing a birthday snack to share with classmates. Please refrain from sending whole cakes, or treats with icing. The children learn to get snack for themselves, and to clean up when they are finished. The teacher will not be available to administer slices of cake, and greasy or buttery icing is difficult for the children to clean.

If you are planning a party for your child, please do not hand out invitations at school, unless your child's entire class is invited. Likewise, if your child is attending a party after school, please do not send the gift to school with your child. These situations can cause hurt feelings for those who are not invited or cannot attend.



arrival & dismissal

Agreed upon arrival and dismissal times must be adhered to. Your child should arrive no more than ten minutes before the start of class. The time before class is vital to the teachers' preparation to ensure a smooth and productive day. Children who arrive late or are picked up late feel awkward and uncomfortable. Tardiness is disruptive to the teachers and to the class in session.

drop off & pick up procedure

Parents of full and half day students are to drop off and pick up their children as shown in the illustration on page 11. School staff or parent volunteers will assist your child to and from the school building. We will not release a child to someone that you have not authorized, unless accompanied by a written note from you, the parent.

No one may park or leave their car in the lanes of traffic.

parent/teacher conferences

Individual parent/teacher conferences are held in the fall and again in the spring. You may meet with your child's teacher at any other time by appointment. We encourage communication between parent, teacher and our director any time a question, concern, or problem arises.

communication

Teachers are not available to speak on the telephone during class time. Please call and leave a message with our answering machine, or write an email. A list of contact information can be found on page 2. We will address your question or concern as soon as possible.

clothing

We ask that students keep a pair of comfortable, well-fitting slippers at the school to be worn inside the classroom.

When there is snow on the ground, we require the following gear for outdoor play: waterproof boots and snow pants, jackets, hats, and gloves or mittens.

Rubber-soled shoes are required for outdoor play.

Please mark your child's name on their slippers and any articles of clothing brought to the school. There are numerous duplications of colors and styles.

toys

All students are asked to please leave their toys at home. Books or objects of educational value are welcome in the classroom. Please mark your child's name on any of their personal belongings brought into the school.

participation in your child's class

Parents with a talent, career, or hobby that would be of interest to the children are encouraged to contact their child's teacher any time during the school year to arrange a time to share in the classroom. These "lessons" are always well received.

Parents are also encouraged to volunteer one or more days each week with the morning drop-off routine at the school.

inclement weather

In the event of inclement weather, the school may either close, or have a 2 hour delay.

When there is a "2 hour delay," the school will open at 11:00 for all children. There will be no AM Extended Session, nor will there will be a Morning Session.

Please check the [WFMZ website](#), or listen to the WFMZ station on the radio for any updates regarding school closings or delays. You may also sign up for text alerts from WFMZ.

health policy

Do not send your child to school on days when any of the following symptoms are present:

- Fever (temperature above 98.6°)
- Rash
- Discharge of discolored or profuse mucus from the nose
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Sore throat
- Any contagious disease

All communicable diseases must be reported to the school.

A child must have a temperature of 98.6° for 24 hours before returning to school.

Weather permitting, outdoor play is a part of our daily schedule. A child too ill to participate in outdoor activities will not benefit from other learning activities and should remain at home until well.

medication

Medication to be given during school hours must be given to your child's teacher in its original container, along with signed and dated instructions stating the dosage, and the time it is to be administered.

disclosures

The Datzyk Montessori School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities available to students at the school and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational and admissions policies.

The Datzyk Montessori School observes traditional American holidays and customs in a non-religious manner. We reserve the right to dismiss your child from our school enrollment if his/her or the parents' behavior becomes unacceptable or disruptive.