



August 09, 2019

Dear Vail Families,

Welcome to a new school year! Below you will find information on important items that will be helpful throughout the school year.

Contact Info

The Parent/Teacher partnership is extremely important for your child. Communication is key for success, so please feel free to contact Ms. Julia at any point if you have any questions or concerns. The best way to contact me is through email at jmccluer@jeffcoschools.us I check my email at least twice a day and will respond within one business day, but am usually quick. If a face to face conversation is more appropriate, please email me to set up a time that works best.

Helping the Class

There are many ways you can volunteer for our class. We need parents to fill Thursday folders, administer spelling tests, and chaperone on field trips. For field trips, I choose new parents to volunteer every field trip. We also have our annual Spring Fling in March, that will need chaperones and a parent leader, I will contact parents for interest in January. To chaperone or volunteer in the class, **you must complete** a full background check and the Volunteer Orientation. Please go to the FHM website for more information.

Birthday Celebrations

Each child has an opportunity to celebrate their birthday, or half birthday, in the classroom this year. Families are encouraged to attend and share in this special day. The week before your child's birthday celebration please let Ms. Julia know what a good day and time is good for you. Along with this form, **we also ask that you take the time to make a timeline with your child.** Please make sure it is a *timeline*, not a collage or a book, as this is a beginning stage in your child's linear understanding of the passage of time. You may want to consider scrapbook paper, one page per year tied together at the corners to be folded accordion style. I am also okay with a powerpoint with pictures. This way each year only one page will need to be added. The timeline should include pictures and important/interesting details from each year of their life, beginning with birth. Please bring the timeline on the day of your child's celebration.

No treats are allowed anymore under Jeffco policy. Please understand this is a district-wide mandate, and there can be no exceptions. However, we would like for each family to donate a book to our classroom library, *This is a suggestion*, as no families are required to donate a book to the classroom. Pencils, erasers, and anything small and useful is great too.

Celebrations will last about half an hour. As you can see, celebrating your child's birthday is a big deal in our classroom. It is important for us to honor each child's life and let them know that we are thrilled they were born.

Snack

Snack time will be from 9:15-9:30 am and students are asked to bring in their own snack from home. A healthy snack is most desired, and please also keep in mind that this should be just a snack and should take children no more than fifteen minutes to eat. A water bottle in class is also *highly* recommended. Water bottles can come in on Monday, and are sent home on Friday to be washed and brought back to school the following Monday.

Absences

Since Montessori materials can't be put in a togo box home, I will determine what appropriate work should be done or made up based off how much time you are away. Reading as much as you can over the trip/absence will always be highly recommended for the consistencies of your child's reading growth.

Homework Policy

Homework folders will be sent home on *Mondays* and need to be returned the following Monday. Please help your child be responsible for their own homework folders as it is a necessary practical long life skill to keep track of belongings.

- **Reading Log** - We expect your child to read for a minimum of 15 minutes every night and fill out a Reading Log. There is a quick and easy reading follow up to be completed by the student. Also, there is a parent section for parents to leave a comment each week.
- **Spelling**- Students will get a new spelling sort to be sent home every Monday and will be tested every Friday. As students can study in the classroom, they are also encouraged to study their sorts at home as homework.
- **Practical Life** - A graph with many different choices to do at home for the month will be sent home. Students will color in two boxes a week.
- **Math** - Practicing math facts throughout each week is highly encouraged.

Curriculum Overview

Along with following the children in math and language, this year we will be focusing our cultural studies on Africa and South America. If you or anyone you know has been to one of these continents and has pictures, objects, or experiences you could share with us, please let me know. I have also attached our curriculum map for this year's rotation for science.

General Reminders

- School begins at 8:15. Please have your child at school on time so they can be ready to start their day!
- Please be mindful of and follow car line procedures and new bus procedures and understand that we will do the best we can to make it as smooth and efficient as possible.
- **Work Plans-** Children will be given a weekly work plan to guide their learning and to assist in making appropriate work choices. These will go home in the Thursday folders, so parents can see what works their children have been working on.
- **Great resources for information:** the school website, Fox Flash (weekly), and **class newsletters-** these are sent out twice a month and are **a direct update on our classes events, and activities and any important dates coming up**, please let me know if you don't think your email is on our newsletter list, and I will make sure it gets on there :)
- There is also the CSN website and Facebook page, Student/Parent Handbook, and **Thursday Folders- all your child's work and important school events/information will be going home on Thursdays.**
- **Assessments-** Assessments are used to guide our instruction throughout the year. The following assessments will occur this year: MAP, DIBELS, Writing, CMAS(3rds only)
- **Toys- No toys in class.** Toys can be distracting and have the risk of getting lost or broken.
- **Conferences-** Our first round of conferences will be held on October 14-18, further details will be notified in our Class Newsletters, and Fox Flashes.
- **Please take all medicine to the front desk, both prescription and over-the-counter, to be sure you have all necessary paperwork. Be sure prescription medicine has the pharmacy label on the medication, not on the box.**

It is going to be a wonderful year and we are looking forward to working with you to best serve all the students!

With Kindness,
Ms. Julia and Mr. John

Free Horizon Montessori 6-9 Curriculum – Year 1

	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Social Studies	Fundamental Needs & Map Skills	Africa	Africa	Africa	Africa	S. America	S. America	S. America	S. America
History	~Story of the Universe ~Timeline Intros	~Timeline of Life	~Coming of Man	~History of Holidays ~Coming of Man	~Story of Numbers		~Story of Writing	~Story of Writing	
Earth Science	Intro to Layers of the Earth	~Atmosphere	~Atmosphere	~Climate-Weather	~Climate-Weather	~Climate-Clouds, Water Cycle	~Climate-Seasons	~Earth Conservation	~Earth Conservation
Physical Science	~Intro Scientific Method	~Scientific Method ~Forces	~Scientific Method ~Balance	~Scientific Method ~Energy	~Science Fair	~Energy	~Light	~Light	~Sound
Botany	~Intro to Plants ~Harvest	Leaves	Leaves	Stem	Root	Flower & Pollination	Pollination & Fruit	Seeds	Practical Application of Botany
Zoology	~6 Kingdoms	Classes of invertebrates	~Birds	~Birds	~Classes of Vertebrates	Mammals	Mammals	Human Body	Human Body
Other	Constitution Day Peace Day	Word Parade	Veterans Day		MLK	President's Day Friendship Week		Earth Day	Mother's Day