



Back to School Parent Night

September 21, 2011

Tonight's Schedule

South Campus

6:00 – 6:25 School Gym

Welcome, Presentation and Title I by Anthony Pirrello, CEO

6:30 – 6:55 Student Classrooms

Presentation by your child's teacher(s)

North Campus

7:00 – 7:25 School Gym

Welcome, Presentation and Title I by Anthony Pirrello, CEO

7:30 – 8:00 Student Classrooms

Presentation by your child's teacher(s)



MRCSS Mission Statement

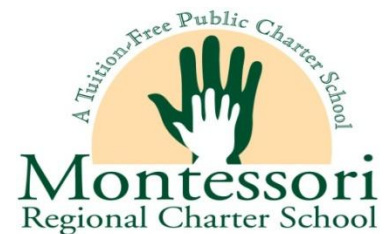
Our mission is to provide a superior Montessori program of study that will develop lifelong learners.

Our children will be prepared academically, emotionally, and socially by creating a love of learning through meaningful and fulfilling educational experiences.



How we achieve the mission of MRCS

- At MRCS our core principles are centered around what we are:
 - We are a student centered organization.
 - We are a discrete item on the educational menu of our community.
 - We understand the parents role is to support their child's education.
- MRCS is moving to the front of the educational community with our student centered approach and using data to improve instruction.



What's News

- MRCS has made AYP for the 7th consecutive year!
- Our expansion has gone as planned.
- Our culture has developed from a private school model to a successful public, charter school model.

What's New

- MRCS has a renewed focus on student achievement.
 - New Academic Tools:
 - AIMSWeb and MAP
 - New Policies:
 - Homework and Electronics
 - New Specials Schedule
 - New Academic Program:
 - Study Island

New Data Tools

How can you follow someone you cannot see?

- Our new data tools allow us to see our students academic needs before they become academic concerns.
- AIMSWeb and MAP

AIMSweb

- AIMSweb
 - What is it?
 - A paper and pencil assessment for grades K – 6.
 - What does it measure?
 - It measures student progress as compared to the average grade level.
 - How does this empower our teachers to better meet the student's needs?
 - It shows the teachers where the students are strong and where they are weak.
 - Allows teachers to target their instruction to meet the needs of the individual students within our MRCS curriculum.

Measures of Academic Progress

- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)
 - What is it?
 - A computerized assessment for Grades 2-6.
 - What does it measure?
 - It measures student progress as compared to the Pennsylvania State Standards.
 - How does this empower our teachers to better meet the student's needs?
 - It shows the teachers where the students are strong and where they are weak.
 - Allows teachers to target their instruction to meet the needs of the individual students within our MRCS curriculum.

New Policies

Our core mission is student achievement, development and growth.

Homework

- Why make a change?
 - We found through our data tools many students were not growing academically.
 - When we looked at the individual students to see what we could do to support their growth, the number one area was homework.
- At MRCS, we believe that homework is important to reinforce the concepts students are studying and to encourage the independence and self-reliance that is a foundation of a Montessori education.

New Policies

- With your home based encouragement and support, we can ensure that homework is meaningful and supportive to student learning.
- Over the next few weeks, please check your child's backpack and discuss his/her homework requirements. Your support is important as students' get accustomed to the homework requirements.
- After this initial phase-in period and beginning the week of October 3, 2011, students whose homework is not turned in will begin receiving Peace Room referrals at a Level 2.

Improved Specials Schedule

Our Specials Schedule was improved to give our students greater depth.

- Students have the same special class for 45 school days straight.
 - Students will have Art, Music, Latin and Health/PE
- All specials are now by grade instead of by class.
 - This allows for small group instruction to occur.

New Academic Program

- Study Island
 - This computer based program is designed to target specific skills and move the student forward.
 - The program will be available after school.
 - All our 2nd – 6th grade students will be eligible.
 - It is designed for all learners – no one is too advanced or too far behind.
 - Program is set to open in late October/early November.

MRCSS is a Title I School

- MRCSS has a School Wide Title I program.
 - This allows all students to participate in the additional instruction, regardless of their academic standing.
 - MRCSS assesses all students for eligibility, however if you would like your child to participate in the Title I program and are not targeted for eligibility please contact Christine Chrostowski.
 - This is a free program provided by funds from the federal government.

MRCSS is a Title I School

- There are two places MRCSS needs your signature:
 - The sign-in sheet.
 - The Parent Compact.
- Both are here today in your child's classroom. Please sign before leaving.



Where to communicate?

If you have a question or a concern, the appropriate people to contact are:

- Your Child's Academic or Behavioral Needs:
 - e-mail your child's teacher
- Afterschool, Transportation or Attendance:
 - either call the office at 833-7771 or e-mail office@mrcserie.org
- Special Education and Title I:
 - Christine Chrostowski at cchrostowski@mrcserie.org
- Administrative Needs:
 - Anthony Pirrello at apirrello@mrcserie.org

Suggestions @

- If you have constructive comments or suggestions we have an email address: suggestions@mrcserie.org
 - This is designed to give the administration positive suggestions that we may be able to incorporate into our long term planning. If you have a different issue or complaint please use the process outlined previously.
- All suggestions will get a response saying they were received.
- Each suggestion will be viewed in the light of what is best for all the students at MRCS – not the needs of one or one group of students. Please think about the entire student population if you are making a comment or suggestion.
- While something may be a great idea, we have to weigh all plans in light of school priorities and budgets. We may love the idea but it can take us six months or six years to get there.



Enjoy your evening!