


# Back to School Night 2019

Ms. Atsuko's Class  
Room 302



Thank you very much for making the time to come tonight. I am glad that you are here.  
My name is Atsuko O'Keefe. Children call me Ms. Atsuko.

## Topics:

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- My website
- About This Year's Class
- Daily and Weekly Schedule
- Tips for a Successful Year
- Communication
- Email and Dismissal
- Homework
- Birthdays and Celebrations
- Amazon Wishlist and Volunteers
- Questions

These are the things I will be talking with you about tonight.

## My website: [montessoribloom.org](http://montessoribloom.org)

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About Ms. Atsuko

Articles about Montessori Education

Archived Monthly Newsletters

Observation Guidelines

Recommended Books to Read for Parents and Children

I believe that communication between the teacher and the parents are one of the most important keys for children's success. I have made this website to help you learn more about Montessori education, what we do and why we do it, so that we might be able to work together more efficiently for your child.

We welcome you to our classroom to observe the class and the children's work. Please wait for us to establish our class routine and we will be able to start having you come observe (probably sometime in October).

## About This Year's Class

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All together 24 students

9 first graders (5 boys and 4 girls)

8 second graders (4 boys and 4 girls)

7 third graders (2 boys and 5 girls)

11 boys and 13 girls

## Daily and Weekly Schedule

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Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

9:00 - 11:45 - Work in the Classroom

11:45 - 12:05 - Sit in a Circle/Sing songs/Class Meeting

12:05 - 12:15 - Wash Hands and Line up

12:20 - 1:10 - Lunch/Recess

1:20 - 1:50 - Silent Reading/Guided Reading

1:50 - 2:50 - Work in the Classroom

2:50 - 3:05 - Clean up/Jobs

3:05 - 3:35 - Read Aloud 3:35 - Get Ready and Line up

3:45 - Dismissal



**3-hour cycle!**

Dr. Maria Montessori discovered something called the "3 hour period" while observing children. When children are given enough time, they establish more concentration skills and are able to do big projects. This is one big reason that we have block times with our specials. In our class Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we have 3 hours to work in the morning.

## Continued Daily and Weekly Schedule

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### **Tuesday:**

9:10 - 10:50 - Specials - P.E / Music

1:25 - 1:55 - Library

### **Wednesday:**

1:25-1:55 - Computer for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

### **Thursday:**

1:25 - 1:55 - Computer for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders

### **Friday:**

9:10 - 10:50 - Specials - P.E / Art

## Tips for a Successful School Year

- Coming to school on time
- Coming to school every day
- Practical Life at home
- Eating a good breakfast and getting GREAT Sleep
- Reading every day with your child
- Limit (eliminate!) screen time during the week and in general

They hopefully look obvious but I would like to go through them with you. Coming to school on time is a great habit and we would like to establish that during the elementary years.

Bring your child every day except when they are sick. Please keep them home when they are sick. We would like you to make plans for vacation during the breaks so that your child won't miss lessons and would not have to catch up later. Please be aware that every early pick up is entered into your child's school record and all minutes are calculated in a student's overall attendance rate. The district's expectation is for 95% attendance.

Practical life is something I strongly recommend to do at home. Examples are on my website; please take a look.

We want to help children love reading. Please read with your child every day. You can read to your child or have him/her read to you. Talking about what you and your child have just read is fun and helps your child understand the story and thus helps their comprehension. Please enjoy this precious time of reading together with your child.

I have had students in the past where screen time at home was affecting their work, behavior and concentration at school.

Screen time seems very addictive; especially video games. I recommend parents limit children's screen time during the week or even eliminate if it is possible.

## Communication

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Monthly Newsletter

Emails

Talk at Dismissal

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Scheduled meeting

I send out newsletters monthly by email, I put important things and dates so please read it! Sometimes I send out emails. If you have any questions or concerns, please shoot me an email or grab me at dismissal. We can talk about it there or we can schedule a meeting if we need to sit down and talk. When we do not have a great relationship, children are sensitive and it affects their learning. So I would like to build great relationships with each one of you. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in the mid of October this year.



## Email and Dismissal

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Email me before 7:50 AM, Otherwise call the office

I need to see you at dismissal to release your child

We teachers have meetings in the morning most of the time and I can check emails before 8. So if you need to let me know something, such as someone else is picking your child up, please call the office and they will call me to let me know about it. At dismissal, when I see you and your child shakes hands with me, they will be dismissed. Please park your car and come get your child. I cannot let your child cross the street by him/herself. If someone who is not in the list is picking up your child, please have the person go to the office with his/her driver's license. If you know that another person is picking your child up the next day, please email me and copy the office. They need the written notice.

## Homework

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Reading every day with your child

Homework - Monthly Homework (no assigned homework from teachers)

Children are given a list of things with different categories to choose from.

Scholastic Book Club - Class Code: MJPBW

You can read to your child and /or have your child read to you and discuss about what you two read together. This helps their comprehension. Your child wants to do everything you do, so please be a great example and read to yourself sometimes. What you want to do is to share the love of reading. Please enjoy that quality time with your child.

Scholastic Books may not always be the best but if you and your child find a book that you would like to purchase, please use the code and we, as a class get some credit to purchase books for the class free in the future.

## Birthdays and Celebrations

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Our Tradition as a class to celebrate birthdays:

Have the birthday children make some treat to share with the class and eat together at the end of the month.

This is an in-class celebration.

Sign birthday cards and mail them to the birthday children.

Parents and family members will be invited for certain celebrations.

Note: Siblings who attend Lincoln are not allowed to attend celebrations they are not involved in.

For example, if we have two September birthdays, we have those birthday children make something for the whole class to celebrate at the end of the month. We do not do what Primary classes do "Walking around the Sun" or invite parents to celebrate. The other students sign cards for each of the birthday children and we mail the cards to them.

Sometimes children's siblings have some celebrations in their classroom or in the auditorium, but we Montessori classes kindly ask parents not to bring/take siblings to those celebrations.

## Amazon Wish List and Volunteers

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Ms. Atsuko's Room 302 Wish List

Community Snack - Fruits or Fruits and Gluten Free Crackers

Flower arrangement

Laundry

Field Trips

I have an Amazon wish list for our classroom needs. If you would like to help us out by purchasing what we need for our classroom, please go to the site. Thank you in advance for your help with that.

I will be sending out Sign-Up Genius for the volunteers with community snack, flower arrangement and laundry soon. The amount of fruits is, for example, 10 apples and 10 oranges, or 10 apples and 1 box of gluten free crackers. We say gluten free because we have a couple of students who need to be gluten free. The amount of flowers we need for flower arrangement is approximately one bouquet. Laundry consists of a few rugs and several washing table rags. I appreciate in advance any assistance you can provide. We do not know when we will have field trips at this point but I will be emailing you or putting the info in my newsletter. If you are available to chaperone at that time, please let me know.

Questions?

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Thank you very much for coming!

Looking forward to having a great year with you and your children!