



JUNE NEWSLETTER

HRIMS is OPENING A SECOND CAMPUS! Newport News and Hampton will both be home to our Montessori education. The news is out!



LIKE TO WALK OR RUN!

Support a Great Cause While Having Fun!

Rather leave the running to others? Be a Sponsor!



SAVE THE

HEAR ME

Saturday, October 16, 2021

HRIMS's Hear Me Roar 5k and Little Cub's Obstacle Course is ready for registration and sponsorships! This certified, chipped, 5k is on a beautiful course over the water and the Obstacle Course is perfect for our younger friends! Check out our website for the link and more information.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

June 4	11:45 Dismissal for all students
July 5	School Closed
August 23	First Day of School

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce that we can now share our news, and you can do so, too! HRIMS is opening a second campus in Hampton for the 2021-22 school year!

As we still do not have a closing date, we continue to ask that our families do not go to the new campus to look around or ask for access.

However, we do ask that you share our excitement with others you know! Please feel free to share our posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, or in-person!

I'd like to thank all those who have filled out the first survey regarding choice of campus, pandemic mitigation strategies, and volunteer opportunities. Your input allows us to take into consideration our community's thoughts and preferences, along with mandates and data when making decisions.

We are so excited to have so many parents volunteer for our activities and events for next year. Although we had a very good year, our staff and students felt a true void. The HRIMS community events are a big part of our culture. They bring us together and give us the opportunity to make new friends, have fun together, and create a support system for our families. Our parent organization makes these happen for our students and families. You are the backbone of our community, and your energy is what makes our programs so successful.

Please remember to check your email regularly over the summer for updates and to respond to inquiries for next year, especially for placement.

We look forward to the continued progress toward attaining our strategic goals and the shared vision of HRIMS's future! Thank you for being a part of it!

Michelle D'Antonio

For Summer, the policies and procedures for preschools and care centers in Virginia regarding COVID-19 remain in place:

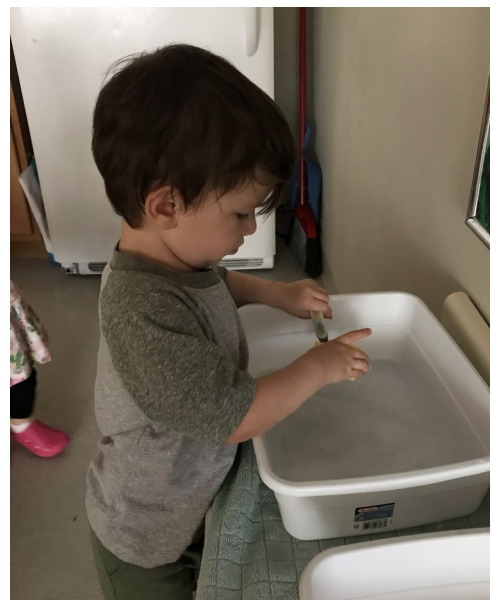
- masks be used for children over age two and for all staff in child care settings, regardless of vaccination status.
- keeping children physically distanced to the extent possible
- cohorting
- implementing consistent caregivers to the extent possible
- monitoring children and staff for symptoms

Students will need to bring a morning and afternoon snack each day in addition to their lunch.

We have grown so much in the last few months! Our little community has gone from Toddlers to being Role Models and Mentors. Some have gone from diapers to being fully toilet trained. Most of our friends are able to go to and from the toilet on their own without any reminders. They can fully dress themselves, putting on their socks, shoes, underwear and pants. This includes flushing the toilet, washing hands and drying them properly. Those students who joined our community late in the year are quickly catching up with their friends by observing and having help from older friends.

We are able to set our own place at the table, serve ourselves, clean up and wash our own dishes. This process has been practiced over and over the last few months. The children are able to choose their own snack and are able to decide between what is appropriate for snack and what is deemed lunch. Most are able to open their own containers and that continues to be encouraged. We especially enjoy using real cloth napkins, silverware, plates, bowls and glass cups. A few of them have tried to take these items home! We encourage parents to continue these Grace and Courtesy lessons at home also. We even listen to fine dining music. Our goal is that they would be able to go out to dinner, sit at the table and know what everything is for and when to use them. Occasionally, someone will say "this is my song". (It's classical music with no words. Lol!) We continue to model slow walking feet and carrying one item at a time to the dishwashing station.

Our friends have been choosing their own work for some time now. We occasionally need a reminder from a teacher to choose something appropriate for our age and/or abilities. We have been encouraging them to choose more challenging work, such as work that is new to them or may prompt them to think outside the box. We have also been introducing them to the next level in Montessori lessons, some of which they will be able to recognize when moving to Children's House. These lessons include introductions to the Pink Tower of Cubes, Broad Stairs or Knobbed Cylinders. This also includes additional one-on-one lessons and showing them extensions to the lesson.



As students progress through their lives, they go through different stages of development that share certain characteristics. In Montessori, the first stage runs from birth through 6 years old and is a time of great growth and where children absorb the world around them. In the second stage, or plane of development, the children are between the ages of 6 through 12 years old. However, we can see students start to develop some of the characteristics of this plane during their last year in the children's house program.

In the Absorbent Mind, Maria Montessori says, "The child is calm and happy... nature is quite logical in arousing now in the child not only a hunger for knowledge and understanding, but a claim to mental independence, a desire to distinguish good from evil by his own powers, and to resent limitation by arbitrary authority."

In these terms, the elementary child begins to focus on the society around them, what they believe is fair and unfair, right and wrong, for themselves and for the world. You may begin to hear phrases such as, "That is not right. That is not fair. Well, he gets to do it." Rules may be very black and white with little area for disagreement or discussion.

This is also a time where they are deeply engaged in interests and want to dive deep into learning about them. As they progress through the plane, they will want to do large projects, focusing on all aspects of an idea or concept.

They are very social and interaction with friends is important to them. What their friends think and how they feel about issues and concepts can influence how they think and feel.

Their imagination is flourishing at this time. They are interested in classic fairy tales and make-believe. They are able to distinguish between reality and fantasy and have fun using their imagination with them.

Their sense of order is not as strong as it was during their earlier years. In the children's house, order was the basis for the prepared environment. Putting items in their place was important to the child's sense of order and safety. You will find that students in the second plane of development care about learning many things, and their focus on putting items away neatly is not as strong. Their sense of order has shifted instead to where they fall in their social order, in their home, and their school.

They continue to strive for independence but look for guidance in where they fit into the world and how they interact with it. They will be asking a lot of questions and may offer differing viewpoints often. Know that all of this is helping them create the person they will become in the future!



May was a month full of learning and discoveries. The students continue to enjoy coming to school to learn and socialize with friends. This year we have realized the importance of friendship and social interaction. With the help of parents, students, and administration, we have been able to have healthy classrooms. The students realize the importance of wearing their masks while still being able to be close to friends and form those important bonds during the elementary years.



We continued to enjoy our morning meetings. During these meetings, we came together to have excellent discussions on different topics that affect the world around us. Students come with an open mind about



what they think is true. They have begun to think like scientists and know that it is okay to be proven wrong. Also, they continue to be flexible and accepting of others' points of view. The students learned how to debate without having to shout or get upset. Also they learned how to listen to others without interrupting. Morning meetings are our favorite way to start the day.

This month, the students were able to continue to learn about different animal life cycles, the rock cycle, the parts of the river, United States National Parks, the parks' different flora and fauna. Other students continue to extend their research on the sun, planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and meteoroids. In addition, some students researched the US history timeline, learning about Native Americans, exploration, colonial times, independence and expansion, reform and reconstruction, and the new nation. Also, we researched about the US Constitution and the branches of government. Older students had discussions about the different types of government around the world.



We continue to talk to the students about plans for this summer.

Expectations include setting aside at least 30 minutes a day to read aloud to a parent or caregiver, practicing our math facts, writing a story or a journal piece, learning a new skill, or learning a new word and looking up the definition in the dictionary. We continue to let them know that learning is a lifelong process that does not stop during the summer. As scientists, they need to continue to inquire about the world around them. We want them to enjoy their summer with different activities. However, if they take 30 minutes out of the day to practice learning a skill, it will be beneficial not only when school gets back in session, but for their life in general.



Lastly, this year was not possible without the trust and support from our wonderful parents. Our elementary program continues to grow into an amazing community of learners. We cannot thank you enough for everything you have done to help us. Your support means the world to us. We love being part of this amazing community.

Amazon Smile:

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to be returned to our school.

To shop go to smile.amazon.com. Select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

Our school is listed as "HAMPTON ROADS MONTESSORI SCHOOL" for AMAZONSMILE.

Amazon website will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation. Checks are sent to the school on a quarterly basis throughout the year.



Shop at Kroger?

The Kroger Rewards Program earns cash for schools by members scanning their Kroger Plus Cards. Every time a member shops for groceries and scans their card, HRIMS automatically starts earning a rebate.

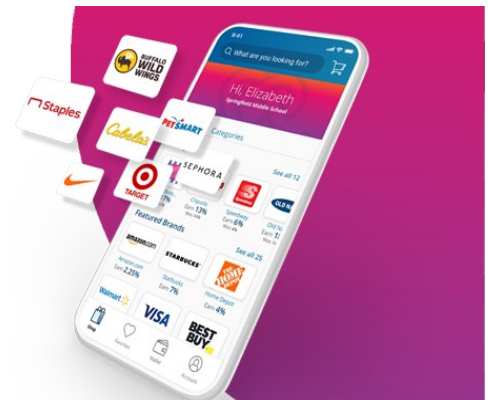
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