



Parent Handbook Children's School

2025-2026

6339 Carolina Beach Road
Wilmington, NC 28412
(910)795-4860 ext. 108
(910)550-3767-FAX
www.im.school/preschool



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Maria Montessori	2
Introduction	3
Mission Statement	3
First Day of School	4
Potty Trained	4
Arrival and Dismissal	5
Attendance	5
Birthdays	6
Calendar	6
Communication	6
Conferences	6
Conflict Resolution	7
Dress Code	7
Discipline Policy	7
Emergencies	9
Enrollment	9
Paid Kindergarten Policy	10
Food	10
Health Policy	11
"No School" Announcements	14
Visitors	14
Parent Participation	14
Personal Belongings	15
Responsibility to Report Abuse/Neglect	15
Transportation	15
Tuition Payment Policy	15
AfterCare	16
Withdrawal and Termination Policy	16
Disclaimer	17



“Follow the child”

Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori, born in 1870, was the first woman in Italy to receive a medical degree. She worked in the fields of psychiatry, education, and anthropology. She believed that each child is born with a unique potential to be revealed, rather than as a "blank slate" waiting to be written upon. Her main contributions to the work of those of us raising and educating children are in these areas:

- Preparing the most natural and life-supporting environment for the child
- Observing the child living freely in this environment
- Continually adapting the environment so that the child may fulfill his greatest potential -- physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually

THE EARLY YEARS

Maria Montessori was always a little ahead of her time. At age thirteen, against the wishes of her father but with the support of her mother, she began to attend a boys' technical school. After seven years of engineering, she began pre-med and, in 1896 became a physician. In her work at the University of Rome psychiatric clinic, Dr. Montessori developed an interest in the treatment of special needs children and, for several years, she worked, wrote, and spoke on their behalf.

In 1907 she was given the opportunity to study "normal" children, taking charge of fifty poor children of the dirty, desolate streets of the San Lorenzo slum on the outskirts of Rome. The news of the unprecedented success of her work in this Casa dei Bambini "House of Children" soon spread around the world and people came from far and wide to see the children for themselves. Dr. Montessori was as astonished as anyone at the realized potential of these children:

Supposing I said there was a planet without schools or teachers, study was unknown, and yet the inhabitants - doing nothing but living and walking about - came to know all things, to carry in their minds the whole of learning: would you not think I was romancing? Well, just this, which seems so fanciful as to be nothing but the invention of a fertile imagination, is a reality. It is the child's way of learning. This is the path he follows. He learns everything without knowing he is learning it, and in doing so passes little from the unconscious to the conscious, treading always in the paths of joy and love.



Introduction

Welcome to Island Montessori School! We are pleased that you have selected a Montessori education for your child and want to make the experience a fulfilling one for you and your child.

Our facility offers programs for children ages 3 (fully potty trained) through 7 years of age. Our youngest students must turn three by August 31, 2025. Our school hours are from 8:30 am to 2:45 pm, Monday through Friday. We offer 7:45 am early drop-off for families who are in great need.

Island Montessori School is a nonprofit preschool that seeks diversity in its student/parent body, faculty, staff, administration, and board. IMS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or any category protected by law, in its recruitment of students, recruitment of staff, educational policies, employment practices and all other school-administered procedures and programs.

The Board of Directors and Staff welcome your comments and suggestions. Please address them to:

Island Montessori Children's School
6339 Carolina Beach Road
Wilmington, NC 28412
Carrie O'Brien Dworshak-Director
(910) 795-4860 ext. 108
carrie@im.school

Mission Statement: Our mission at Island Montessori School is to create a Montessori community that respects each child as an individual and fosters in each student respect for self and others, joy in discovery, independence, communal responsibility, and a peaceful approach to problem-solving.

Island Montessori School guides the growth and development of the whole child in an environment that:

- Fosters a love of learning
- Maximizes individual potential
- Promotes academic excellence
- Inspires creativity
- Celebrates diversity
- Encourages mutual respect
- Nurtures compassion and humanitarianism
- Advocates stewardship of the environment
- Graduates responsible, productive citizens of the world

"To assist a child we must provide him with an environment which will enable him to develop freely."

-Maria Montessori



The First Day of School

On the first day of school, your child may be somewhat tearful and have some misgivings about going to school. This is a natural response to a new situation. Your child will have already met the teacher and visited the classroom, so we ask that you smile assuredly, say goodbye, and continue to drive through the carpool line. Prolonged goodbyes often increase, rather than alleviate, a child's anxiety. The teacher (staff member) greeting the students during drop-off will help the child enter the classroom. The children soon become accustomed to this morning ritual.

During the first two weeks of school, also known as the orientation period, each child will be gradually introduced to the classroom environment. Your child will be shown where the bathroom is, where to put lunch boxes and water bottles, and what the general classroom procedures and rules are. Your child will also be making new friends and getting to know the teacher. It is possible, therefore, that during these first weeks of adjustment, your child may temporarily regress in certain areas. This is normal behavior.

As your child becomes more familiar with the school environment and routine, a cycle of activity will emerge. This may be observed not only during a day's time span but also over a period of a year. During this time, your child's emotional, social, physical, and intellectual development will most likely progress in spurts rather than in a continuous linear pattern. Given this, we try to view the total child from a broad, long-term perspective.

In the event that your child begins to cry and does not want to enter the school or to leave you, please try not to be upset. This reaction is not unique, and often the parent's concern for the child transfers into the child's anxiety. We would advise that the best way to handle this difficulty would be to say goodbye as kindly and firmly as you can, give a kiss, and leave quickly. The teacher will take loving care of your child and comfort them. **Lingering in the drop-off line will only prolong the development of trust between your child and teacher.** With encouragement, your child will learn to say farewell, enjoy their school day, and look forward to your return.

Potty Trained

All children must be fully potty trained to enter the school program. Pull-ups are not allowed. The child must be able to use the facilities independently. Teachers are available to help with buckles and snaps if needed.

We do understand that even potty-trained children will occasionally have accidents. By definition, "accidents" are unusual incidents and should happen infrequently. In these instances, the teachers will help children to change their clothes, encouraging independence as much as possible.

A potty-trained child is a child who can do the following:

- Communicate to the teachers that he/she needs to go to the restroom before they need to go
- Alert him/herself to stop what he/she is doing, to go and use the bathroom
- Pull down his/her clothes and get them back up without assistance
- Wipe him/herself after using the toilet (with minimal assistance for 3 year olds)
- Get on/off the toilet by him/herself
- Wash and dry hands
- Postpone going if they must wait for someone who is in the bathroom or if we are away from the classroom
- Wake up during nap time should they need to use the bathroom

We certainly will ask your child many times throughout the day and before nap time if they need to use the bathroom. A teacher will assist children as needed, but children should be able to complete toileting activities independently.



Arrival & Dismissal

Arrival

Please make every effort to be on time. Classes start promptly at 8:30. Your child will miss an important part of the day by being late. Doors open at 8:15 am. For parents in need of early drop-off, our staff provides early care from 7:45 am – 8:15 am.

Please know that late arrivals are very disruptive to the class and the morning lessons. Concentration and continuity are interrupted by the opening of the door, the questioning of what is going on, and having the teacher and assistant stop the lesson to greet that student. This also causes the late child to miss lessons that build on each other, day after day. It creates confusion and embarrassment at times.

Please enter the charter/children's school main campus off Carolina Beach Road and bear right to drive in the designated line to drop your child off at the children's school main entrance gateway. Please do NOT use the Golden Road entrance during drop-off and pick-up times. Please stay in your car and a staff member will greet your child at the car upon arrival.

Dismissal

Half-Time Primary- 12:45 pm

Full-Time Primary/Kindergarten Students- 2:45 pm

Dismissal: **Please enter the main campus off Carolina Beach Road** and drive in the designated line and pull up to the children's school main entrance gateway. Please do NOT use the Golden Road entrance during drop off and pick up. A staff member will bring your child to the car to greet you and say their goodbyes for the day. Please note: Only adults who are listed on the Emergency Contact Form will be allowed to pick up your child. Adults listed on the Emergency Contact Form will need to provide a picture ID on their first visit.

Please place your child's car seat in the left back seat of your car so that your child will not be getting in and out of the car into oncoming traffic. Once your child is in the car, please pull up past the playground entrance and buckle him/her up.

Please make sure the appropriate car seat/booster seat is properly placed in the car. By law, in North Carolina, children under 8 and weighing less than 80 pounds must be properly secured in a car seat or booster seat. **We will not release a student if there is no car seat or booster seat in the car.**

Attendance

Regular attendance of the children is a vital requirement of our school program. The children who will benefit the most from the school are the ones who attend regularly. If your child cannot attend school for any reason, please let us know by calling the school's main line at **910-795-4860 ext. 108.**

If your child arrives late or leaves early, please park your car and bring them to the office. Please remember to sign them in or out.

Kindergarten students are part of the Charter School and must follow the attendance policy. More than 10 unexcused absences can result in a meeting with the Director and teacher and 20 or more absences can result in retention (determined by the Head of School).



Birthdays

The moment of birth, the beginning of the child's own personal timeline is of great importance and we celebrate this day at school. As a community, the children gather together honoring the birthday child by telling the story of where and when he/she was born, and of important events of his/her childhood. As the teacher tells the story of the child's life, he/she walks slowly around a lit candle – which represents the sun – while holding a globe – which represents the earth – to celebrate the number of years of his/her life.

Your child will be showered with many gifts on their birthday, which can sometimes turn the child inward. One way for your child to express love and thankfulness on this special day is for them to bring a gift to the class, such as a plant, fresh cut flowers, a class wish list item, or a book. ***NO cakes, cupcakes, candy, cookies, and sugary snacks will be allowed.***

Calendar

Island Montessori School does not follow the New Hanover County School calendar for the 2025/2026 school year. Please keep a copy of our school calendar on hand to be aware of holidays and other days when our school will be closed. The calendar can be accessed on the school website www.im.school/calendar

Carpool

If someone other than the child's parent or regular carpool driver is to pick up a child after class, the parent should notify the school in advance and provide both the name of the driver and the model and color of the car. We encourage carpooling for ease of traffic. Please make sure the appropriate car seat/booster seat is properly placed in the car. By law, in North Carolina, children under 8 and weighing less than 80 pounds must be properly secured in a car seat or booster seat. We will not release a student if there is no car seat or booster seat.

Communication

Please advise the school of any change of student address or phone numbers that may occur during the year.

In the event of a significant change in the student's home, please inform your child's teacher by email or call the office as soon as possible. Common causes of distress include the following: moving, a parent's absence from the home, separation/divorce, an illness or hospitalization, and an accident or death in the family.

In the interest of maintaining quality instructional time, we ask that you do not text your child's teacher or assistant during the school day. Please either email your teacher or call the front office and we will relay messages as quickly as possible. *Please note that staff have a period of 24 business hours to reply to a call or email. If you email over a weekend or holiday, it may take longer to receive a reply.

Conferences

Student conferences will be scheduled two times during the school year, as well as any additional conferences that may be needed to ensure good communication between the child's parents, the teachers, and the school.



Conflict Resolution

In most cases, if a parent or guardian has a school-related problem, question, or complaint, he/she should communicate the complaint to the child's Lead Teacher. The parent/guardian should feel free to communicate openly with their child's Lead Teacher. In unusual circumstances, when it is not appropriate to communicate a complaint directly to the Lead Teacher or the Director, then a parent/guardian may address their complaint directly to the Island Montessori Head of School or board president.

Dress Code

It is suggested that children wear easy-to-laundry play clothes. Although children will wear aprons and smocks when working with water and paints, accidents will happen. Children will avoid potentially messy lessons if they are overdressed and afraid to get dirty.

Choose clothing that will be easy for the child to take off and put on themselves – as this will facilitate independence especially when the child is using the bathroom. As a good rule, ask yourself if the child can put it on independently in the morning.

Avoid clothes with cartoon characters and/or logos, overalls, sunsuits, pants with heavy snaps or buttons, tights or leotards, and belts. Also, clogs and flip-flops are not suggested as they tend to be dangerous when children are running and playing. Closed-toe shoes are best for indoor and outdoor activities.

We ask each parent to send in a complete change of clothes for their child (including underwear and socks) **labeled** in a gallon-size ziplock bag. Remember, as the seasons change, the spare clothing will need to be changed out to reflect current weather conditions and growth.

The children will play outside each day, weather permitting. In cold weather, please send a jacket, gloves or mittens, and a hat for hoodless garments. When it's raining, please send your child to school in rain boots and a rain jacket. **Please label everything!**

Discipline Policy

Procedures and classroom rules are structured to foster the growth of self-direction and self-discipline. These expectations are based on three simple rules:

- Respect Self**
- Respect Others**
- Respect the Environment**

Our classroom management presumes that behavior will be followed by natural and logical consequences. If a child behaves inappropriately in the classroom we:

- Remind the child of the classroom rules
- Separate the child from the situation
- Ask the child to put away work that is being mishandled
- Ask the child to move to a different location
- Ask the child to come and stay by the teacher (to observe others working)
- Remove the child from the classroom until the child chooses to re-enter the classroom with appropriate behavior, or until a parent has been contacted to pick up the child. Your child will continue to be visually supervised by the director or another staff member.



We minimize the use of negative phrases, such as “No, you can’t do that,” and substitute positive language. For example:

“You may do the counting work after you have put away your puzzle.”

“If you want to continue pouring, you must use the materials carefully.”

The focus is not on the adults’ power to control the room, but rather on the child’s power and will to make successful decisions.

Repeated behavioral problems will result in a request for a parent-teacher conference. This conference will enable us to try and solve the problem together and help us gain insight as to the possible causes of the behavior. If the behavior does not resolve itself, the family may be asked to withdraw the child from the school.

Children at Island Montessori School will not receive physical punishment.

Disciplinary Action

Island Montessori Children’s School believes in a positive discipline approach. The teachers guide children toward appropriate behavior through direct lessons of grace and courtesy, modeling respect for one another. Our ultimate goal is to assist the child in developing self-control and problem-solving attitudes, using their words. Most importantly, we encourage the child to have positive feelings towards themselves. In order for a child to respect and love others, one must respect and love themselves.

In the event of a student causing harm either physical or emotional to another student or teacher, the parents/guardians will be notified of the incident by the child’s teacher.

In the event of a second incident, the parents/guardians will be notified and asked that they take their child home for the remaining portion of the day. A conference will be scheduled with the child’s teacher and the Director of the school. Together, parents/guardians will develop and document a plan of action, implement corrective procedures, and monitor progress.

If the child or parents/guardians are unwilling to comply with the steps outlined or the incident occurs a third time it is with the director’s discretion to dismiss the child from our school program. In this event, the Director will determine the termination date and give the parents/guardians 24 hours’ notice.

For the purpose of this policy, corporal punishment shall be defined as any kind of physical punishment inflicted upon the body of the student. Any employee shall be responsible for notifying the Director of any observed or suspected incidence of corporal punishment.

School personnel may use reasonable force to control behavior or to remove a person from the scene in those situations when necessary, such as:

1. To quell a disturbance threatening injury to others.
2. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of a student.
3. For self-defense.
4. For the protection of persons or property
5. To maintain order on school property, in the classroom, or at a school-related activity on or off school property.

LEGAL REF: NCGS 115C-390-392



Emergencies

In the event of an accident or illness, the school will not hesitate to seek proper care for the child. The child's individual emergency instructions on file with the child's teacher will be consulted immediately and the parent or emergency contact person called. **Please be sure to keep emergency contact information up to date as well as the phone number of a person available during school hours.**

The Main Line is 910-795-4860 ext. 108

Enrollment

Enrollment at Island Montessori Children's School will be based on a first-come, first-serve basis. A one-time non-refundable \$100.00 application fee must be paid before we can accept applications. A non-refundable \$150.00 will be collected to hold a seat in a class. This \$150.00 will be put toward the student's Montessori material/snack fee of \$300.00 which is collected at the beginning of every school year. The balance is due with the first tuition payment on September 1st.

Montessori philosophy stresses the importance of a three-year cycle, believing that the full potential of the child is reached after three years in the same environment with the same teacher. This may not occur due to our lottery system. If a student does not get into our kindergarten lottery, a letter from the director will follow with alternative options to consider for the following school year.

Before allowing your child to start at Island Montessori School, all enrollment forms must be filled out completely by the parent or guardian. A Parent packet will be given to all parents at our orientation prior to the first day of school. The school is required to have all of the following documents prior to the child's first day of school:

- Child's Application
- Emergency Information Form
- Medical Report
- Authorized Pick-Up Form
- After-School Transportation Form
- Media Release Form
- Off-Premise Activity Authorization Form
- Liability Form
- Handbook Signature Page
- Tuition Payment Policy (if applicable)

Please provide us with updates on your child as changes occur. This includes changes to immunizations, parent/guardian contact information, emergency contacts, etc. It is vital that we are able to contact you at any given time.



Paid Kindergarten Policy

With state requirements around our lottery system, enrolled preschool students are not guaranteed a spot in Kindergarten. If they do not get offered a seat via the lottery, they will be added to the waiting list.

Although we can not bypass the state lottery requirement, Island Montessori School strongly advocates for the “three-year cycle” of Montessori education. The children who have benefited from a three-year cycle show what happens when they have had an opportunity to establish their roots, extend themselves, and then have the time and space to bloom in exciting new ways. Over those three years, students cycle through a rhythm of growth and development, and we value our students' ability to finish their primary education within their Kindergarten year.

Thus, our Board of Directors, Head of School, and Children’s School Director have created the following process for students who get on the waiting list for Kindergarten:

The Paid Kindergarten Lottery Process:

Applicable to: Families of currently enrolled preschool students who enrolled in the Kindergarten Lottery but were put on the waitlist.

This process is as follows:

- After the initial Charter Lottery, the Children’s School Director will send a letter to all preschool families that were placed on the waitlist in the lottery.
- Families that are on the waitlist may select to enter a Paid Kindergarten Lottery.
- For IMCS families interested in this opportunity, each classroom will offer **one seat** to be filled by a paying Kindergarten student through a lottery drawing.
- **Each classroom** will draw one lottery number, allowing **one student** per classroom a paid seat.
- Tuition will be the same price as the preschool tuition.
- Families who accept the paying position will be required to fill out a form stating that they understand their student is not part of the charter school and, therefore, will need to reapply for the lottery the following year for first grade.

Food

Children need a balanced diet to function well at school. Be especially careful to limit sweets and to provide a protein-rich breakfast. **Each child needs to bring a water bottle filled with only water and labeled with the child’s name every day.**

Snack

A light nutritional snack will be provided by the school during the morning work cycle. Water is readily available throughout the day.

Lunch

Families are responsible for providing a packed lunch for their child to eat at school. **Please make sure the lunch box is labeled with your child’s name & date.**

If you would like to order lunch for your child through our lunch program, you may do so through this website: <https://secure.boonli.com/login>

Lunch is a happy, relaxed time at Island Montessori Children’s School, as well as an occasion for the children to practice their grace and courtesy. Preparing lunch can be a learning experience, which starts at home as you and your child prepare a



well-balanced meal together. A healthful and well-balanced lunch of protein, whole grains and cereals, fruits and vegetables may include:

- **Two slices of bread or crackers with a luncheon meat, cheese, or spread in a container**
- **A fresh apple and carrot sticks**
- **A wholesome protein source**
- **Water will be provided, so no other drink is necessary**

We feel that a healthful, well-balanced lunch gives the child what they need to be at their best at school. Foods high in sugar such as juices, cookies, and candy impair that balance and make it difficult for the child to enjoy a positive and productive day. **Please do not include candy, juice, cookies, or other foods high in sugar in your child's lunch.**

Food Allergies

Many children have food allergies. Please be mindful of this when packing lunches. If your child has a food allergy, we ask that you notify the office and teachers of the allergy and severity. Nut allergies can cause serious and life-threatening conditions. IMS may have students at our school with severe nut allergies. Although we are NOT a nut-free school, we take this situation very seriously and will accommodate however possible to provide a safe environment (i.e., a “nut-free table” during snack and lunchtime in our classrooms).

Health Policy

If your child shows one or more of the following symptoms of poor health, he/she should stay home or will be sent home as soon as possible:

- Illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities as determined by the provider
- Illness results in a greater need for care than the provider can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children as determined by the provider
- Suspicious rash that has not been seen by a doctor
- Excessive, colored discharge from the eyes, nose, or ears
- Fever of 100.4 degrees or more; accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness until medical professional evaluation finds the child able to be included at the facility
- Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness until medical evaluation finds the child able to be included at the facility. Symptoms and signs include; lethargy that is more than expected tiredness; uncontrollable coughing; inexplicable irritability or persistent crying; difficulty breathing, wheezing, or other unusual signs for the child
- Blood in stools not explained by dietary change, medication, or hard stools
- Vomiting illness (one or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours) until vomiting resolves or until a health care provider determines that the cause of the vomiting is not contagious and the child is not in danger of dehydration
- Persistent abdominal pain (continues more than 2 hours) or intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms
- Mouth sores with drooling, unless a health care provider determines that the child is noninfectious



If your child has:	He/she should remain home until:
Fever 100. 4 or higher	Fever free for 24 hours without medication
Diarrhea (more than 1 runny bowel movement)	24 hours without diarrhea/runny BM
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Drainage from the eye is no longer present or 24 hours after antibiotics started
Head lice	24 hours since effective treatment (see lice policy below)
Nasal discharge suggesting infection (green/yellow)	Discharge is absent or has turned clear
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Until blisters are gone
Chickenpox	All lesions have crusted over
Impetigo	24 hours after antibiotics are started
Whooping Cough	5 days after treatment starts or 21 days since first cough if untreated
Covid, Flu, RSV, Pneumonia	24 hours fever free and symptoms have subsided
Staph	Open sores can be covered
Strep throat	24 hours after antibiotics began and there is no fever
Ringworm	After treatment starts
Vomiting	24 hours after vomiting resolves
Fifth Disease	Fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have subsided

** If a child is continuing to show symptoms but a doctor says they are no longer contagious, we will need a note from the doctor.

Please notify your child's teacher if your child sustained any bumps or injury to the head – even minor – within the past 24 hours because concussions in children could show up hours after an injury.



Children must be fever-free WITHOUT the use of fever-reducing medications for a full 24 hours before returning to school.

Contagious diseases should be reported immediately to the teacher of your child's classroom. It is inevitable that when children are together, they will come in contact with other children's germs. Unfortunately, symptoms often do not appear until after the entire class has been exposed. We have found that by the third year of school, most children have built up a natural immunity to many viruses.

If your child gets sick during the school day, the teacher will call to ask you to pick up your child promptly in the best interest of all.

All students are required to provide up-to-date copies of their immunization records to the school.

Medication

A physician's authorization for medication form is necessary if school personnel are to distribute medication at school or on field trips. This is applicable for short-term and long-term periods. All medication must be in an original labeled bottle with physician instructions on administration. All medication will be kept in a secure location at the front office. Parents may come to school to administer medication.

STUDENTS ARE NOT TO HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION ANY KIND OF MEDICATION WHILE ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Over-the-counter medications
- Cough drops
- Sunscreen
- Creams/antiseptics

The Children's School staff cannot apply sunscreen or bug spray. We suggest that you apply sunscreen and/or bug spray before school if needed.

Head Lice Policy

Island Montessori School will follow the New Hanover County Schools lice policy. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines regarding the control of head lice in Island Montessori School. The scope of this policy also applies to IMS personnel.

While it is not a requirement, we highly recommend going to a lice removal professional. Many of our families have had great success with lice clinics in Wilmington.

Procedures

Upon identification of lice on a student, the school employee shall contact the Director to verify head lice. The Director shall:

- Directly examine the hair and scalp for lice and nits, especially at the nape of the neck and around the ears.
- If lice are verified, notify the student's parent/guardian and encourage picking up the student to go home for treatment. A letter shall be sent home to parents of students in the classroom notifying them that lice have been verified in their student's classroom.
- Reassure students that head lice are not a social disgrace and can be eliminated.
- Send home instruction sheets for lice control; "Stop Head Lice" and "Alternative Treatment for Head Lice". (<http://www.nhcs.net/forms.htm>) Answer all parent/guardian questions regarding lice treatment, removal of nits, and



home cleaning that may cause the recurrence of lice. (Nits are head lice eggs – eggs are laid by the adult female louse and hatch in seven to ten (7-10) days from a viable nit (egg casing), which appears as a clear, graying ellipsoid, firmly attached to the hair shaft at the junction of the scalp with 1/4” or less. Viable eggs camouflage with pigment to match the hair color of the host. Hatched or empty casings (nits) can be distinguished by the milky white color and are easier to see. The empty nits are seen on the hair shaft further away from the scalp than the viable nits)

- **Requirement for student to return to school**
 - A PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST ACCOMPANY STUDENT TO SCHOOL.
 - Upon a student's arrival at school after lice identification, the Director will examine the student's hair and scalp.
 - If a student has not been treated for lice or lice are present, the student will be sent home.

“No School” Announcements

Emergency Closing

When IMCS must dismiss students unexpectedly due to adverse weather conditions, cancel or delay school, or other types of emergencies, the important information will be announced via Everbridge, social media, and our school website. **IMCS may choose to open or close independently of the public school system.**

Please do not call the school office for this information.

Visitors

All visitors are welcome at IMCS **after the first six weeks**. All visits *must be scheduled in advance* with your child's teacher. Please come to the main front door and ring the bell to your right to be admitted to the building. All visitors must sign in, state their reason for visit, and receive a visitor's badge at the front office that must be worn while in the building. An ID may be requested before a visitor is allowed into the school building. Please remember that parents should not visit classrooms during dismissal times.

Parents should also remember that class time is NOT a time to hold a parent conference. If parents want to volunteer in the classroom, they're welcome. If a conference is needed, parents should call or email the teacher to set up an appropriate time free of distraction where both parent and teacher can focus on the child.

Parent Participation

Island Montessori School believes that the education of a child depends upon the positive collaboration between the school staff and the child's parents.

All parents are encouraged to:

- Attend school-sponsored workshops
- Read the classroom's newsletter, website, and the school handbook
- Educate yourself on the Montessori Method of Education*
- Check the school website and Facebook page for information and updates
- Stay in communication with your child's teacher

*Suggested Montessori Books to Read:

Maria Montessori, Her Life and Work / E.M. Standing
Montessori, A Modern Approach / Paula Lillard



Montessori Today / Paula Lillard
The Secret of Childhood / Maria Montessori
Montessori from the Start / Paula Lillard
How to Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way / Tim Seldin
The Discovery of the Child / Maria Montessori
To Educate the Human Potential / Maria Montessori
Spontaneous Activity in Education / Maria Montessori

Personal Belongings

Please leave costumes, make-up, candy, toys, and gum at home. Only send in those items listed on the School Supply List, and check with your child's teacher before sending in any additional items. Please mark or label personal items and clothing brought to school for ease of identification.

For nappers, bedding and a small blanket will be provided by the school at this time.

Responsibility to Report Abuse/Neglect

"Abuse occurs when a parent or caregiver injures or allows another to injure a child physically or emotionally. Abuse may also occur when a parent or caregiver puts a child at risk of serious injury or allows another to put a child at risk of serious injury. Neglect occurs when a child does not receive proper care, supervision, or discipline, or when a child is abandoned. North Carolina law requires any person who suspects child abuse or neglect to report the case to the county department of social services. In addition, any person can call the Division of Child Development at 919.662.4499 or 1.800.859.0829 and make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect in a childcare operation. Reports can be made anonymously. A person cannot be held liable for a report made in good faith" (North Carolina Child Care Law and Rules; November 2000).

Transportation

Transportation is not provided.

Tuition Payment Policy

This section is for our Preschool students only. This information does not pertain to Kindergarten students, who are part of our public, tuition-free charter school.

Registration Fee: There is a non-refundable, one-time \$100 registration fee due with each application.

Montessori Materials and Supply Fee: Once you have been accepted into the program, there is an annual, non-refundable Montessori Materials and Supply Fee of \$300 per child. This fee is used to cover the high cost of managing a Montessori classroom. **High-quality Montessori materials are essential for a true Montessori experience and we pride ourselves in choosing only the finest consumable products (paint, clay, markers, pencils, paper, etc.) in our classrooms. Montessori believed that if children were able to experience well-made, beautiful materials in their classroom environments, they would learn to appreciate these intrinsic values in the world around them as well. A light nutritional snack will be provided by the school during the morning work cycle.**

Tuition Payments: Parents have two options for paying tuition: 1) pay in full or 2) pay in **10 monthly installments**, due by the first of each month, September through June. A \$30 late fee will be added to any tuition payment not received by the 5th



of the month. The 10 monthly installments are due regardless of the actual days in any particular month or days/hours in actual attendance and are due on the first day of each month.

A full installment of tuition is due the first of each month, with the first payment on September 1st and the last payment on June 1st. The \$30 late fee will be charged after noon starting on the 5th day of the month, and then \$5.00 a day after that. If fees are unpaid one week after the due date, Island Montessori School reserves the right to place a hold on your child's attendance until full payment is made. Please speak with us if there's a reason you're unable to make timely tuition payments. We do understand that at times there will be circumstances out of your control. Please contact us at the earliest time possible so we can work together to set up a payment plan. Checks that do not clear the bank will receive a \$30 charge, in addition to any other charges that occurred. Continual delinquency may result in enrollment withdrawal.

Please note: Island Montessori School reserves the right to change its tuition policy as deemed necessary.

2025-2026 Student Tuition

Half-time yearly tuition cost is \$8000

Full-time yearly tuition cost is \$9810

Sibling Discount: Families with more than one child enrolled at Island Montessori Children's School will receive a 10% discount on the enrollment cost of the second child in the family.

Please consider holidays and weekends as you send in your payments. At this time, we are able to accept payments via checks, cash, and money orders. Credit card payments can be made at the front office at the Children's School. Credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone.

Families will also have the option to pay with an electronic bank payment (no credit or debit cards) through QuickBooks Payments. If you choose to sign up for this option, an invoice will be emailed to you monthly that you can use to pay online. This will not be an automatic draft. There will be a processing fee of 1% associated with online payments.

Credit Card Use Policy: Island Montessori would like to make it convenient to make tuition payments. We accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. All credit card transactions will be subject to a 3% fee. Only tuition will be able to be paid with a credit card. Cards must be swiped and present at the time of payment. Card numbers cannot be manually entered. We do not accept payment over the phone.

Checks can be mailed to: IMCS, 6339 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington, NC 28412. Most families hand checks to staff members in the car line or come into the front entrance to pay at the office window.

After Care

Island Montessori Children's School is pleased to partner with SmartFrogs LLC for our after-school program. Please contact them at SmartFrogsAfterSchool@gmail.com or (910) 408-2285 for more information.

ISLAND MONTESSORI SCHOOL WITHDRAWAL AND TERMINATION POLICY

Island Montessori Children's School is a Montessori school for young children. **We do not consider ourselves a "childcare facility" in the traditional sense.** In that regard, when you register for our program, you do so for the academic year. We do not permit withdrawals during the school year, absent extenuating and severe circumstances. Such circumstances include but are not limited to, loss of employment, death in the family, moving from the metropolitan Wilmington area, or request by the Director or board of directors of the school that the family withdrawals. Other than an exception approved by the Director or



the Board of Directors, each family is committed to paying the school for the entire school year for each child. To receive approval to withdraw for an extreme circumstance, the parent or guardian must file a written request with the Director or Board of Directors requesting permission to withdraw. The written request must be dated and signed.

If, however, an extreme exception exists, and if appropriate approval is received, the family is required to give the school 30 days' notice of an intent to withdraw and the family will be responsible for payment for those 30 days. You will then not be assessed for the remainder of the school year.

Additionally, if the family paid in full for the school year, no refund is available unless there are extenuating and severe circumstances. These will be determined by the Head of School and Director. Their decision is final.

Disclaimer

This handbook has been prepared to introduce parents and guardians to Island Montessori Children's School and to acquaint them with the policies that apply to enrollment. These policies are not intended to provide fixed rules for dealing with all issues that arise at the school but rather, they set forth general guidelines, subject to amendment. In addition, policies and procedures are changed from time to time as the needs of our school dictate.

This handbook is neither intended to serve as a contract nor is it intended to create enforceable rights on the part of families. Therefore, Island Montessori Children's School expressly disclaims any contractual intent by the printing and distribution of this handbook. The school retains the right to release preschool students from enrollment at any time and for any reason. Enrollment at the school (unless otherwise agreed to in writing) is an at-will agreement and any representation by school personnel to the contrary is unauthorized and invalid.

*Thank you for choosing
Island Montessori Children's School.
We look forward to a successful school year.*