



Comet Connection

August 28, 2019

Cottage School, Montessori Education

San Juan Unified School District

Greetings Cottage Community,

I hope you all had a great first week of school. As we get past our initial start up activities we will begin to normalize our classes and overall schedule of events.

We will be bringing back Grand's Lunch events on September 5th. Dates will be the first Thursday of the month until the weather gets too cold to eat outside but the children look forward to sharing their lunches with you at school.

Also this year we are bringing back our parent education classes. Titled "First Friday" events, they will be scheduled from 8:30-9:30 in the library on the first Friday of each month. The first meeting will be Sept 6 and the topic will be Montessori 101 to help parents understand the educational philosophy used within the classrooms.

Finally, this year we are splitting up our back to school nights. It was hard to hold them all on one evening and provide childcare and we felt that we lost valuable time with our families. This year, the events are really just for parents as **there will not be any childcare available** during our Back to School Night events.

Sincerely,
Dr. Arthur Estrada, Principal

Important Dates

Aug 28	Back to School Night – Grades 1-3 5:30-6:30 pm
Aug 30	Assembly – Academics, Achievement, Attendance -Sacramento Rivercats
	Minimum Day Schedule 12:45 dismissal
Sept 2	Labor Day Holiday
Sept 3	Emergency Drill 9:00 am
Sept 4	Back to School Night - Grades 4-5 5:00-6:00 pm
Sept 5	Back to School Night - TK/Kindergarten 5:30-6:30 pm
	Grand's Lunch
Sept 6	First Friday Parent Workshop – Montessori 101
Sept 23	Picture Day
Sept 24	General PTA meeting – 6:15 pm

Sacramento 4 Kids Family Resources

Sacramento 4 Kids is a family resource guide for children in the Sacramento area. Programs include: Arts & Music, Classes, Day Care, Events, Health, Sports, etc. For more information about resources available to your child please visit: www.sacramento4kids.com

Cottage Montessori: What is Normalization?

As we begin our school year, you may hear teachers speaking of something called "normalization." This term refers to a period of between six to eight weeks at the start of the school year. In anthropology, normalization refers to the idea of a person becoming a contributing member of society. In a Montessori classroom, the term "normalization" has a special meaning. "Normal" does *not* refer to what is considered to be "average" or "usual" and normalization does *not* refer to being forced to conform.

Maria Montessori noticed that when children were able to concentrate on work of their own choice, they grew inner discipline and peace. As teachers, we want our students to have this opportunity to practice concentration in order to develop the skills they will need for all the work they do throughout the year.

In a normalized classroom, you will see students concentrating on work alone or together, you will hear a quiet hum of activity, and you will notice the role of the teacher is as the director or observer; leading children to discovery and observing the needs of each student.

What does the normalized child look like? The normalized child has four characteristics:

1. Love of learning
2. Continuous and happy work (concentration)
3. Self-discipline
4. Harmonious working relationships with peers

At Cottage, as we allow normalization to occur, some teachers may ask parent volunteers to wait until this period is over before helping in the classroom. This is meant to allow students to become normalized without distractions.

By Ms. Nemer

"The Process of Normalization", NAMTA, montessori-namta.org

"What Does the Montessori Term Normalization Mean?", livingmontessorinow.com

Cottage PTA News

The Cottage PTA supports the school and your child's education through funding, volunteer support and family events! We can't have a PTA without parents and other family members so please join!

Your \$10 membership dues help pay for assemblies, field trips, classroom resources and more for Cottage students! As a PTA member you are NOT obligated to attend meetings or volunteer.

For more information email the PTA at PTACottage@gmail.com.

Grand's Lunch Sept 5

We invite our families to join our students for lunch during our Grands Lunch events. Weather permitting, we will host these events on the first Thursday of each month. Grades 1-3 have lunch from 11:50-12:35 and Grades 4-5 have lunch from 12:40-1:30. We hope to see you there.

Pick up and Drop off

Morse Avenue can become congested during pick up times. While we try to get our children loaded as quickly as possible, safety is our primary concern. We thank you all for your patience as you pick up your children each day from the front of the school/bus zone area.

For those of you who park your vehicles along the street or across at the park, please be careful in crossing the street and ensure that you are using the cul de sac at the end of the park parking lot for U-turns. Finally, please remember that there is no supervision available for students before 8:15 in the morning. Families should not drop off children for breakfast before that time.