

Everything there is to know about the Primary Program

The Flow of the Day

- 7:30am – The children in morning Extended Care are greeted by the assistant and help to prepare the classroom environment for the day. This may include taking the chairs off of the tables, clearing the dishwasher, and other activities that are necessary to begin the day. Children are welcome to bring breakfast from home to eat at this time.
- 8:00am - The morning Extended Care children have supervised play on the playground until school begins.
- 8:15am - Children who are not in Extended Care arrive, drop off their lunch box in the classroom (if applicable), and go out to play on the playground until school begins.
- 8:30am - School begins. The front door is locked at 8:30am.

If you arrive after 8:30am you will need to check in at the office and walk your child to the front door of the Primary building where you will be met by an assistant who will bring your child into the building.

The Three Hour Work Cycle

We have a three hour uninterrupted work cycle everyday. In order to offer this experience to your child, you must be on time. If your child arrives late, it is difficult for them to settle in. All of the other children will have had the chance to greet me and chat with their friends, leaving your child feeling left out and uneasy.

If you have to make appointments for your child such as doctor or dental appointments, please make them after 11:30am. When a child has to leave early in the middle of the work cycle, they are missed by their friends and often it can cause an obstacle to the flow of the day.

- 11:30am - Lunch set up begins and the children enjoy outdoor time.
- 11:55am - The children wash their hands to prepare for lunch.
- 12:00pm - The children enjoy lunch.
- 1:00pm - The napping children go down for their rest. Children who do not nap are engaged in the afternoon work cycle.
- 2:50pm - The nappers return to the classroom.
- 3:00pm - Dismissal and Carline

Afternoon Extended Care Program

- 3:00-3:30pm – The children in the Extended Care program go outside to the playground to play.
- 3:30 - 6:00pm – The children in the Extended Care program engage in activities and have a snack.
- 6:00pm – The Extended Care program is finished for the day.

Nap

If your child naps, he will need a fitted crib sheet and a small blanket for the nap mat. Stuffed animals and pillows can be left safely at home.

Lunch

Please help your child in packing a healthy lunch for herself/himself in a lunch box (there is no refrigerator or microwave for lunches). An example of a healthy lunch would be a sandwich, a fruit, and chopped vegetables such as carrots or cucumber. Containers should be able to be opened by your child so they can prepare their lunch independently.

Snack Calendar

Snack is provided by our families. We post the calendar on the communication board in the Primary classrooms. Please make sure when it is your turn to bring snack that you bring in the designated foods before the morning for which you are signed up. The assistants ready the snack table first thing in the morning for the children to be able to prepare their snack when they are hungry.

Observations

All parents should observe the class regularly. Very little work goes home, and the best way to understand what your child is doing is to see how the class functions. Every family should observe at least once before each conference. Please contact Sylvia or Catlyn for scheduling your 30-minute observation.

Coffee Chats

Coffee Chats are held every other month to give you more knowledge of the classroom, Montessori techniques, and of our school community. Please plan to be there from 8:30-9:30 ready to learn and discuss!

Birthday Circle

We have a birthday circle to honor your child's date of birth at the start of the school day (8:30am). This is an exciting event that the children look forward to all year. You are asked to bring a healthy snack for the class to enjoy. An example of a delicious birthday celebration snack is fruit shish-kabobs or home-made muffins!

Together, we will tell the story of your child's life. Please bring a picture of your child from each year of their life and some memories to share. Family members are encouraged to participate, if there is a sibling in another class, please make arrangements before the date of the celebration.

Many parents like to donate a gift for their child's birthday. I will have a class wish list that will offer some ideas of what type of gift would be appreciated by our class.

What Your Child Needs for School

Your child will be painting, baking, and playing outside regularly. Be aware of this when choosing school clothes for your child.

We ask that you bring two complete changes of clothing for your child. If your child tends to have many accidents, please also bring an extra pair of shoes. These clothes will be kept in a cubby with your child's name on it. Please check your child's cubby regularly and re-stock it when needed.

Much of what the work children do in a Montessori classroom is process-based and done with the Montessori manipulatives. Therefore, there is a limited amount of paper work. We focus on the process of the child's development and it is rare that we have a product. Your child is welcome to bring home work they complete in class, however it is not a focus of the curriculum.

Online

Did you know that we have an [online calendar](#), a [blog](#) for each classroom (see the dropdown menu after the jump), a [blog sidebar](#) containing online versions of all relevant documents, permissions, etc, as well as [Facebook](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#) accounts updated regularly? It's easy to keep up with the latest anecdotes, happenings and paperwork!

Useful links for Primary

All of the links below are available on the sidebar of your classroom blog:

Blu - www.bergamoschools.com/parents-categories/montessori-country-day/blu-montessori-country-day/

Rosso - www.bergamoschools.com/parents-categories/montessori-country-day/rosso-montessori-country-day/

Returning student emergency card: UpdateContact.Bergamoschools.com

New student emergency card: EmergencyContact.Bergamoschools.com

Hot lunch: HotLunch.BergamoSchools.com

Medicine permission: BMSMedicalPermission.Bergamoschools.com

Parent handbook: <http://www.bergamoschools.com/new-site/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/BMS-parent-handbook.pdf>

Please email Martha or Joanna with any questions regarding your child: Martha@BergamoSchools.com and Joanna@BergamoSchools.com

Fun Board and Card Games You Can Play with Children

Playing games with family and friends is a great way to spend time. Games build relationships, and the mind. They don't have to be boring!

Children of all ages are aware there are rules, and can understand that they have to follow the rules to play the game.

Often games have simple rules that young children can understand and will have fun playing, and as they become comfortable with the mechanics they can develop different strategies. Just play with your children and their friends- they do need to see how to play a few times before they can play together on their own.

Here are some ideas for games that have fairly simple rules, or rules that can be simplified if needed. If you want to know any more about these, just ask! I'm an avid game player.

Thanks!

3+

Jenga
Connect 4
Yoga Garden
Quirkle

4+ (or able to understand numbers and quantity)

UNO Trouble, Sorry, Pachisi Set Checkers Bingo (pictures or numbers) Blink (with turn-based playing instead of speed to start with)
Angry Birds the Card Game
Pass the pigs Rat-A-Tat-Cat Blokus Ticket to Ride A deck of cards - War, Go Fish,
Golf Secret Door Wild Craft Mille Bornes Guess Who

5+

A deck of cards - Poker (without betting), Rummy
Yahtzee Twister Pit Backgammon
Apples to Apples Jr.
Hive
Loot Frog Juice
Bohnanza
Lost Cities

