

Everything There Is To Know About The Primary Program

Blu Room

Welcome to the Blu Room! I am so happy to venture on this journey with your family. Together we can guide and support your child in becoming the best version of him or herself. Following is **everything you need to know about the Primary Program**.

What Your Child Needs for School

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

Please bring:

- ***A pair of indoor shoes***, to keep in your child's cubby and wear in the classroom. Children change into their regular shoes when they go outside to play. All shoes should be close-toed, and appropriate for children to wear independently.
- ***Two full sets of clothing***, to keep at school. This is so they can be comfortable and well-prepared in case clothes get wet. If your child tends to have many accidents, please also bring an extra pair of shoes. Please label all clothing with your child's name.
- ***A ceramic mug***, to use for drinking water at school. We ask you to bring a mug that is aesthetically pleasing with no wording or characters.
- ***A lunch box*** (if bringing food from home), and containers that your child can open independently. No silverware or napkins are necessary.
- ***Crib sheet and blanket*** (if napping). Stuffed animals and pillows can stay at home.

The Flow of the Day

- 7:00 - 8:00 am - The children in morning extended care are greeted by the assistant and help to prepare the classroom environment for the day. Children are welcome to bring breakfast from home to eat at this time.
- 8:00 am - The morning extended care children have supervised play outside.
- 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.
- 8:30 am - School begins. The front door is locked at 8:30 am, and your door code will not work after this. Children arriving later will be accompanied from the front desk to the classroom. I strive to greet every child personally when they enter the classroom, and appreciate your child arriving to school on time.
- 8:30 am - 11:30 am - Morning Work Cycle. Children choose a variety of individual work in all areas of the classroom, and participate in group games, songs, and stories. Snack is available throughout the morning.
- 11:30 am - Children play outside.
- 12:00 pm - The children wash their hands and enjoy lunch in the classroom.
- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Afternoon Work Cycle. Napping children can go to the nap room as early as 12:30 and sleep as late as 2:45. Once awake, napping children return to the classroom for afternoon work.
- 3:00 pm - Dismissal (“Carline”). Please make a note on the clipboard outside our door if there is a change to your child’s normal pickup time.
- 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Extended Care. The children in the Extended Care program play outside, have a snack and engage in activities in the classroom.

The Three-Hour Work Cycle

We have a three-hour uninterrupted work cycle every day, in which children engage deeply in a variety of self-chosen and teacher-guided activities. In order to offer this hallmark Montessori experience to your child, they must arrive on time. It can be uncomfortable for a child to come into the classroom late – imagine how it feels for adults to arrive at an event that has already started! Children may take longer to adjust to our daily routines and settle into morning work. I encourage you to arrive earlier, to give your child time to joyfully greet and play with friends, and plenty of time to transition into the classroom.

One of your child's deepest needs at this age is to develop independence. Please let your child carry his or her own lunchbox, and allow time to hang up coats and change shoes independently. We are available to help children as needed.

If you have to make appointments for your child, such as doctor or dentist appointments, please make them after 11:30 am. Please write a note on the clipboard outside of our door, so we can help the child prepare to leave early.

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). Fruits, vegetables, grains and proteins are ingredients of a healthy and balanced lunch. An example of a healthy lunch would be a sandwich, a fruit, and chopped vegetables such as carrots or cucumbers. Please leave sweets and desserts at home. We are a nut-free environment.

Children prepare our lunch tables with tableclothes, real dishes, and often fresh flowers. Silverware and napkins are provided at school, and we have bowls and cups available for soup, yogurt, applesauce, etc. We encourage you to leave *Gogurt* and *GoGo Squeeze* products at home, as it is important to your child's development to practice hand-eye coordination with a spoon. Please use containers that your child can easily open and close independently. Children arrange all their food on their plate, and keep any containers in their lunch box on the shelf. At the end of lunch, we encourage children to pack any uneaten food back in their lunch boxes, so you can have an idea of the quantity they eat during the day.

Coffee Chats

Our ever-popular Coffee Chats are held monthly in the fall, winter, and spring to give you more knowledge of the classroom, Montessori techniques, and our school community. Please plan to be there from 8:30-9:30, ready to learn and discuss!

Observations

There's really nothing like seeing the classroom in action. Because very little work goes home, the best way to understand what your child is doing at school is to see them in the environment that is designed to meet their needs. We encourage you to observe in the classroom regularly, particularly before each Parent-Teacher Conference. I'd be happy to help you set up a time to observe anytime throughout the year.

Much of what the work children do in a Montessori classroom is process-based and done with the Montessori manipulative materials. Therefore, there is a limited amount of paper work. We focus on the process of the child's development and it is rare at this age that we have a product. We will collect work that is done in class, and children will be welcome to bring it home periodically throughout the year, however it is not a focus of the curriculum.

Conferences

We schedule Parent-Teacher Conferences twice per year, generally in March and October. I am happy to meet with you anytime before or after school to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Please don't hesitate to reach out in person or via email!

Birthday Circle

We love to honor your child's birthday! This is an exciting event that the children look forward to all year. Our celebrations will be held at 8:30 am, and we will work with you to schedule them close to your child's birthday. Together, we will tell the story of your child's life. Please bring one or two photographs for each year since they were born - when they were first born, one year old, two years old, etc. Grandparents and family members are welcome to attend.

Food is not the focus of our celebration, and I never want parents to feel like they must purchase something as a treat. However, if you wish to make a healthy snack for the class to enjoy that day, that would be very welcome. An example of a delicious birthday snack is fruit kebabs, muffins, or small sandwiches. Please avoid excess sugar, and note that we are a nut-free school.

If You Go Traveling...

Please consider sending a postcard to our class from your trip! Your child will love the experience of sending and receiving mail. We can always use hotel bar soaps in our Practical Life activities. We also collect cultural items from around the world for our lessons in Geography and Art. If you go traveling, let me know - I'd love to contribute a few dollars for a small piece of art to hang on our wall, a decorative tray or box, or an example of a local handicraft. A lovely picture book would also be welcome!

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/bergamo-school/blu/

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 Katy with any questions regarding your child:
katy@bergamoschools.com