

## Parent Code of Conduct

At Montessori Schoolhouse of Cheshire County we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognize that educating children is a process that involves partnership between parents, teachers and the school community. As a partnership, our parents will understand the importance of a good working relationship. For these reasons we continue to welcome and encourage parents to participate fully in the life of the school. The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all parents to our school of the expected conduct so we can continue to thrive, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Following the guidance set out, we expect parents to:

- Respect the property of others.
- Treat others with dignity and respect.
- Commit to learning as much as possible about the Montessori approach to be able to support their child in their day-to-day school life.
- Follow the parking rules and have the child in school on time with the necessary supplies and appropriate dress.
- Sign up and attend scheduled conferences.
- Attend informational/educational events clarifying expectations and deepening knowledge of Montessori philosophy.
- Follow the school's rules, calendars, deadlines and expect your child to do the same.
- Speak respectfully to the teachers, staff and other parents in front of children, especially when there is a disagreement.
- Build a bridge of acceptance and understanding, and expect my child to do the same, among the different cultures represented at the school.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents exhibiting the following:

- Shouting at members of the school staff either in person or over telephone.
- Breaching the school's security procedures.
- Physically intimidating a member of staff, i.e. standing very close to her/him.
- Defamatory offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parent/staff, at the school on Facebook or other social sites (See Appendix 1). Any concerns you have with the school must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the Program Director, Administrative Director, Board President or Personnel Chair, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- Abusive or threatening emails, text, voicemail, phone messages or other written communication.
- Disruptive behavior which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of the classroom, staff's office/office area, or any other area of the school grounds.
- Using loud/offensive language, swearing, cursing, using profane language or displaying temper.
- Threatening to do bodily harm to a member of the school staff, visitor, Board members or fellow parent/child.

Should any of the above behavior occur the school may feel it necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if

necessary, even ban the offending parent from entering the school grounds.

We trust that parents will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

#### Appendix 1

##### Inappropriate use of Social Network Site

Social media websites are being used increasingly to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, Directors, staff, Board members and in some cases other parents/students. The Board of Montessori Schoolhouse of Cheshire County considers the use of social media websites being used in this way as unacceptable and not in the best interests of the children or the whole school community. Any concerns must be made through appropriate channels. In the event that any parent of a child being educated at Montessori Schoolhouse of Cheshire County is found to be posting defamatory comments on Facebook or other social network sites, they will be reported to the Administrative Director, Program Director, Board President or Personnel Chair.

The school will also expect that any parent will remove such comments immediately.

### Social Media Policy

#### **School Policies Regarding Social Networks**

*Individual Accountability:* Parents are personally responsible for the content that they post, share and respond to online. When posting online, all information is considered representative of your views and opinions and not those of Montessori Schoolhouse of Cheshire County.

*Confidential Information:* Online postings and conversations are not private. Do not share confidential information, internal School discussions, or specific information about the students, staff or other parents.

*School Logos:* Do not use any School logo without permission. If you wish to promote a specific Montessori Schoolhouse of Cheshire County activity or event, please contact the Communications chair for permission or provide a link to the official Montessori Schoolhouse of Cheshire County Facebook page.

*Staff-Parent Relations:* We recognize that many members of our community are both staff members as well as parents or alumni parents. With this in mind, we ask that parents join the social networking site of faculty and staff with discretion. Parents should keep in mind that faculty and staff members are not required to accept invitations from parents and should respect each individual staff member's personal preferences concerning their social networks. You should never discuss sensitive School matters with staff or other parents using Facebook, blogs and other social media outlets.

*Privacy:* When posting, even on the strictest settings, parents should act on the assumption that all postings are in the public domain. In microblogging (Twitter, etc.), comments made using such media are not protected by privacy settings.

*School Values:* Montessori Schoolhouse of Cheshire County encourages parents to set and maintain high ethical standards in their use of social networking. Staff, parents and students reflect a diverse set of customs, values and points of view. Be respectful of the opinions of others in your posts or comments. Under no circumstances should offensive comments be made about students, parents or staff nor the School in general. If responding to someone with whom you disagree, remember to be respectful. Make sure that your criticism is constructive and not hurtful. Your posts and comments should help others build and support the School community. Do not comment on nor forward unsupported information, e.g. rumors.