

# AMA UPPER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018



School success starts  
with attendance

## PERFECT ATTENDANCE STARTS ON DAY ONE!

Our goal every school year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year.

Absences can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!! Clearly going to school regularly matters! We don't want your child to fall behind

in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time.

## AMA ATTENDANCE LETTER

If you would like to read the entire policy it is in our handbook on the website.

AMERICAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY 2018-2019 CALENDAR						
September 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 HAPPY LABOR DAY	4 Back to School K-8 School Begins	5 Character Ed Assembly 4/5 Curr. Night 5-6	6 Pre-K Orientation	7	8
9	10 NWEA Begins Preschool Begins	11 AMFO Mtg 7pm	12	13 6-8 Curr. Night 5-6 Kindness Adventure Lower-9am, Upper-2pm	14 October Menu Go Home	15
16 Board Mtg 6:30pm	17	18	19	20	21 October Menu Due	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Upper Mobile Dentist	29
30						

## MEET MRS. KANITZ

**Title** - Music Teacher

**Years at AMA** - 1

**Favorite Color** - Blue

**Favorite Treat** - Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

**Favorite Hobby** - Travel

**Favorite Quote** - *"It is far more important who the elementary music teacher is in a small town than who the director of an opera house is because if the opera house director is not good, he will be dismissed in a year, but a poor music teacher in a small town can kill off the love of music for thirty years from thirty classes of children. This is an enormous responsibility."* -

Zoltan Kodaly

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where to?** Israel

**Who Inspires You?** My Mom - She reminds me of the importance of constant unconditional love.





## MEET MS. AMY

**Title** - Speech Pathologist

**Years at AMA** - 4

**Years in Education** - 13

**Favorite Color** - Purple

**Favorite Treat** - Cake

## CHARACTER COUNTS AT AMA

Each month we will focus on a specific character trait and teachers will positively reinforce this in the classroom and throughout the campus. September's character trait is Respect.



## I WANT MY CHILD'S CLASSROOM CHANGED

Dear Parents:

As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, I would like to touch on one of the most common request of a parent to the principal in the first few weeks of school. This request is "I want my child's classroom changed." Allow me to explain a few things. Preparing classroom rosters is a collaborative effort amongst all staff members and administrators in the building. This process begins in the spring and can take several weeks, or go well into the summer.

There are many contributing factors that go into creating a classroom roster. The personality of the student and teacher, the involvement level of the parents, the personalities of the parents, the amount of students who are being pulled out for small group instruction, how many boys and girls are in the class, the academic levels of the students, which students had a tough time getting along with specific students the previous year, and at times, which kids socialize more when they're around specific students. Again, this process can take several weeks to complete.

Therefore, when you make this request, not only does it affect your child and the teacher's classroom they're moving to, but it also affects the schedule of other students receiving services, the schedule of the support for teachers providing interventions for your child and others, the culture of the new class, and may have an effect on the teachers schedule itself.

In conclusion, I always suggest for parents to do a few things before requesting for their

child's teacher to be changed.

Meet with the teacher with an open mind to voice your concern. Be very specific.

Understand that at AMA we're preparing children to be able to adapt to multiple teachers with multiple personalities. This is what they'll see in high school. This is excellent for the social development of the child.

Establish a communication plan with the teacher in regards to providing updates on the area of concern.

Most importantly, understand that we have the same goal and that is for your child to receive a world class education, in a safe and nurturing environment, and for them to reach their full potential.



## AMERICAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY

 Facebook  @AMA\_Montessori

At American Montessori Academy our mission is to organically grow a healthier, happier, and more peaceful world

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