



Dear Middle School Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to Adeline Montessori's Middle School Erdkinder program! Erdkinder is a fun German word you will often hear this year. Its rough translation is "land children" or "children of the earth" and Dr. Maria Montessori coined that term to represent adolescents who are preparing to engage in the global world. She understood what a developmentally unique time this is for the adolescent child and saw them as living two lives; one at home, and one in society – or what we call the classroom! It's such an important time for students this age to establish independence from their families in a secure, developmentally appropriate, and inclusive environment. Now is the time in your child's life where education has real world, practical applications.

So, what does that mean exactly? It means your child will enthusiastically wash a plate in the classroom, but you have to ask them to empty the dishwasher at least five times at home. It really means student-led and facilitated learning in and out of the classroom. It means critical thinking, logic, and ethics. Our class will function like its own democratic society with rigorous academics designed to meet differentiated needs. One student's academic goal might be learning how to weave a replica of a Native American basket while another might be creating their own algebraic equations to apply to engineering a machine. The beauty of Erdkinder is recognition that each child is a unique being undergoing the metamorphosis of adulthood – which is a really poetic way of saying "puberty."

Attached here is the supply list for the 2022-23 school year. There are links to purchase supplies online, but supplies can be purchased anywhere. All Adeline Montessori Middle School students will be issued a Chromebook and a charger for the school year, but students are welcome to bring and use their own laptops or Chromebooks (or any technology with a tactile keyboard). School-issued technology will remain in the classroom and will not go home at night. If your child will use their own technology in the classroom, I highly recommend the purchase of a sturdy carrying case that has room for the charger. Many of the supplies are communal contributions. I encourage you to have a conversation with your child and involve them in supply shopping, because some of the optional supplies really depend on their individual learning style; and many students are still learning what works best for them in the classroom. If your child prefers to take notes with lined paper and a pencil, then they should equip themselves accordingly.

I am looking forward to working with you and your child in what I believe will be a transformative year. Dr. Montessori said, "The adult is the result of a child" and I love that quote because it asks us to recognize the inherent grace and dignity of every human being. Adolescence comes with huge changes in a child's physical form, intellectual capabilities, social development and emotional intellect and I'm just so excited to be a part of their journey this year.

Warm regards,

Lauren Gordon