

Welcome to Room 1120
Dater Montessori | 2025–2026 School Year

Dear Families,

It is with heartfelt joy that I welcome you to a brand-new school year at Dater Montessori. Whether this is your first year with us or you are returning to our vibrant learning community, I am honored and excited to partner with you on this journey of growth and discovery.

My name is Dr. Juanita Johnson, and I've been teaching at Dater Montessori for 34 wonderful years. With a background in psychology, education, and leadership, I've also had the joy of mentoring future teachers and leading professional development. Consequently, I bring both deep experience and enduring passion to this work. Montessori education is not only my professional calling—it is also a family legacy. All four of my children and four of my grandchildren have walked the halls of Dater, and I consider it a sacred space where children blossom.

I've also witnessed how the Montessori foundation can shape a child's future in remarkable ways. My daughter studied business at the University of Cincinnati's Lindner College of Business and blended her creative passions in design and artistry to build a successful career as a stylist and owner of her own salon. My oldest son serves as a Senior Formulation Technician at Thermo Fisher Scientific, where he contributes to impactful scientific innovations. My middle son is a proud graduate of The Ohio State University, and is now pursuing his dream in the NFL, currently in training camp with the Houston Texans. My youngest son, now a rising senior at Walnut Hills High School, is a vibrant reminder of the spirit of Montessori learning. He is an avid creative writer and a gifted vocalist, pursuing both his love of storytelling and vocal performance with depth and dedication. Each of them is living a life that reflects the creativity, curiosity, and purpose cultivated right here at Dater.

Beyond the classroom, I live in Westwood with my husband and our youngest son. My husband is also a dedicated teacher, coach, and mentor in Cincinnati Public Schools. He shares my deep commitment to shaping and positively influencing the lives of young people. Together, our work is a shared calling—rooted in love for education, community, and the promise of every child. I'm also deeply committed to wellness, educational equity, photography, and the art of community building. These passions inform my teaching and help create a classroom culture rooted in care, curiosity, and collaboration.

In Room 1120, I am blessed to work alongside Ms. Taylor Merritts, our exceptional full-time paraprofessional. This marks our third year as teaching partners, and together we strive to cultivate a classroom that is peaceful, engaging, and joyful. Ms. Taylor brings a wealth of

knowledge as a certified childcare provider, and her nurturing presence is a gift to our students every day.

I am excited to partner with you this school year and ongoing communication is essential to a strong partnership. I will keep you informed through Class Dojo, newsletters, email, and text updates. I welcome your insights, questions, and ideas—and I encourage you to reach out at any time. You may contact me at (513) 363-0941 or via email at johnsju@cps-k12.org or johnsju@cpsboe.k12.oh.us.

Please know that parents are deeply valued in Room 1120. I believe deeply in the power of partnership and know that together, we can create an extraordinary year for your child—one filled with learning, laughter, and meaningful milestones.

With gratitude and excitement,

Dr. Juanita I. Johnson

**Mrs. Johnson – Room 1120
School Supply List
2025-26**

1 composition notebook (Kindergarten only)
2 rolls of paper towels (per semester)
1 bottle of Windex Glass Cleaner (boys)
Glade Plug-In Scented Oil Refill *Refreshing Spa, Hawaiian Breeze or Vanilla* (girls)

1 Backpack (large enough for 9x12 folder & notebook)
1 complete change of clothing in a large, labeled Ziploc Bag

Optional community supplies:

1 package of O-Cello sponges (all colors welcome)

Small or large houseplant for the classroom

Item from Amazon wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3N6IN2Y9FIN4G?ref=wl_share

Most of these supplies will be used as community property and replenished throughout the course of the school year. Please do not label the consumable supplies. Please do remember to label your child's backpack, lunchbox, and clothing. This will be especially helpful in the beginning of the year as we are getting to know each child and their belongings.