CV MONTESSORI NEWSLETTER

September 18, 2026



AT A GLANCE

- **9/22 - Culver's Night (Folsom) 4-7pm**
- **9/23- 10/23 - No Buy No Sell Fundraiser**
- **9/24 - Parent Group meeting 6-8pm**
- **9/25 - Fire Safety Day K-3**
- **10/2 - Montessori night at the movies**
- **10/6 - Governance Board Meeting**
  - **6:00-8:30 pm School Library**
- **10/7 - Grade 2 to Beaver Creek**
- **10/8 - Parent Group Meeting**
  - **6:30-8 pm** School Library
- **10/13 - Stay and Play**
- **10/23 - DQ Night**
- **10/15-10/19 - Conferences/No school for students**
- **10/23 - Picture Re-Takes**

Stay up to date with all the school happenings by following us on **Facebook**, joining the **CVMCS Parent Group Facebook**

IN SCHOOL

RESPECT

CHARACTER STRONG

In ECASD, we use a program called PurposeFull People from Character Strong. This is a research-based curriculum used by our schools to help build character and skills for life.

Each month, we focus on one character trait that falls under three core categories:

- **Be Kind:** Social Skills & Conflict Resolution
- **Be Strong:** Executive Function: Focusing, Organizing, and Goal Setting
- **Be Well:** Wellness Strategies: Emotion Regulation

We are covering this month's topic (Respect) in many ways:

- Modeling respect by investing in personal moments with each student, greeting them as they arrive at school.
- Leading discussions that get the kids thinking; asking questions like, "What do you think Respect means?" "What might it look like or sound like?"
- Recognizing when our students show respect, and encouraging all students to notice when they see it too.

AT HOME

PurposeFULL People

Learning doesn't stop at the end of the school day.

Bringing up topics they've covered at school in family discussions is a great opportunity to build a connection with them and help reinforce those important lessons.

For ideas and discussion prompts, here is the Character Strong's family newsletter about Respect.

People feel respected in different ways and we hope this inspires you to talk with your family about what respect means to you and how you can practice it together!

WELCOME NEW STAFF

>>> NEW STAFF JOINING OUR SCHOOL FAMILY

MS. BECCA - SPECIAL ED



Hello! My name is Becca Hendrickson. I am excited to join the team here at Chippewa Valley Montessori as a special education teacher. I am originally from Duluth, MN, and have been in the Eau Claire area for about 5 years. Outside of school, I enjoy doing arts and crafts, puzzles, listening to music, and spending time with friends and family. I am excited for this journey and for all that the year will bring!



MS. ALEX - SPECIAL ED ASSISTANT

MY NAME IS ALEX CHRISTENSEN I AM A FIRST YEAR SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT AND IT IS MY FIRST YEAR WORKING IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT. I HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR ALMOST 5 YRS HAVE TWO CATS LUNA AND ATLAS I LOVE TO READ AND DO CRAFTS AND ENJOY NATURE.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

>>> NEW STAFF JOINING OUR SCHOOL FAMILY



MS. EMILY - MUSIC

My name is Emily Seipel, and I am one of the new Music teachers at Chippewa Valley Montessori. This is my 10th year teaching music, and I have taught every grade from PK-12. My husband, Matt, and I have two little boys named Jasper (3 years old) and Oliver (almost 5 months old). We also have a dog named Luna, who brings a lot of joy and laughter to our lives. In my spare time, I love to be outside, do puzzles, and spend time with my family. Looking forward to a great year of music-making!





MS. LISA - COUNSELOR

Hello everyone! I'm Ms. Lisa, and I'm thrilled to be joining the CVM! I'm coming from Madison with my family and our two silly dogs, Ladybird and Bunny. I bring 16 years of school counseling experience and a passion for social-emotional learning curriculum. I'm eager to get to know your child(ren) and become part of this welcoming community. Fun fact: this is a happy homecoming for me, as I grew up in Eau Claire, attending the ECASD, and haven't lived here since graduation!

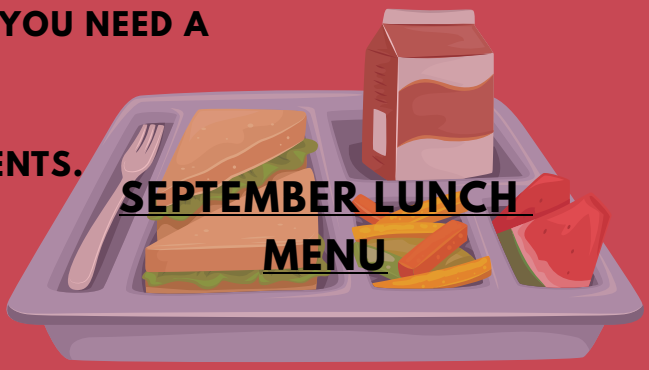
WANT TO HAVE LUNCH WITH YOUR CHILD?

STARTING OCTOBER 20, 2026, YOU CAN HAVE LUNCH WITH YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL!

YOU MUST CALL AMY IN THE MORNING TO RESERVE A SPOT. IF YOU ARE EATING SCHOOL LUNCH, YOU NEED EXACT CHANGE OR YOUR CHILD NEEDS A MEAL ACCOUNT. ADULT LUNCH IS $5.00

CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE TO RECEIVE A VISITOR TAG (YOU NEED A DRIVER'S LICENSE IF ITS YOUR FIRST TIME).

PLEASE DON'T TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF OTHER STUDENTS.



SEPTEMBER LUNCH MENU

THE MONTESSORI WAY

>>> CHILDREN'S HOUSE, E1, & E2

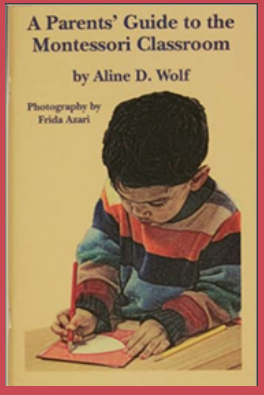
One of the most noticeable things in a Montessori school is mix-aged classes. These classes are grouped based on the "Planes of Development".

- **Children's House (CH)** - 4-6 years (4k-5k, we use abbreviations 4CH and 5CH)
- **Elementary 1 (E1)** - 6-9 years (1st-3rd grade)
- **Elementary 2 (E2)** - 9-12 years (4th-5th grade)

Want to learn more? Our school library has resources for you!

>>> RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Did you know that we have books in our school library that parents can check out?





Here are two great recommendations from Ms. Julie in Children's House:

- **A Parents' Guide to the Montessori Classroom** - By Aline D. Wolf
- **Understanding Montessori** - By Maren Schmidt, M.Ed.

FROM GOVERNANCE BOARD

>>> WHAT IS GOVERNANCE BOARD

What is the Governance Board?

The Governance Board is the governing body responsible for all of the obligations in Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School's contract with the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD). The Governance Board is made up of parents/guardians, community members, teachers/staff, and oversees the operation of the school. We work closely with the CVMCS principal and ECASD to advance strategic goals, strengthen our Montessori roots, and build a community of stakeholders (parents, students, teachers, staff, and members of the local community) interested in supporting an alternative educational model. Our contract and bylaws help to guide us throughout this process.

When does the Governance Board meet?

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the CVMCS library, and are open to the public. Virtual attendance is also an option. Committees meet from 6-7 p.m., with the official Governance Board meeting from 7-8:30 p.m.

How can I get involved?

Each spring, we have a nomination and election process to fill our parent and community representative roles. Members take part in committee work that helps CVMCS stay true to its Montessori philosophy, create an atmosphere of belonging, and stay in communication with its stakeholders. Members may choose to serve in an executive position which also goes through a nomination and election process in the spring. People may serve on committees without being a voted/appointed Governance Board member. If you are interested in learning more, please email us at cvmcsgovernanceboard@gmail.com.

2026-2027 Governance Board Members

Nick Foiles, president, parent representative
Amanda Palser, vice president, community representative
Ricky Smith, secretary, parent representative
Beth Crotty, treasurer, parent representative
Gin Winter, parent representative
Kurt Lothe, teacher representative
Jamie Minot, teacher representative
Brittany Ohms, SEA, staff representative
Sandi Ritchey, community representative
Ali Hamblin, community representative
Brit Heymans, community representative
Mindy Murkley, community representative
Melissa Kleven, committee member
Shanyn Ambrozaitis, committee member
Kate Holmes Thompson, committee member
Pam Hermodson, principal, ex officio member

REMINDERS FOR FAMILIES

>>>PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY



You should receive your child's school picture soon! After seeing them, you may wonder, when is Picture Re-Take Day? We will have picture re-take day on **October 23th**. Please reach out if you would like your child added to the schedule

>>> VOLUNTEERING

Community is a very important part of Montessori. With that in mind, we value and invite family and community member contributions.



Volunteers make so much of what we do at Chippewa Valley Montessori possible, and there are so many ways you can contribute.

The ECASD has a new system for volunteering. Please reach out to your child's teacher and they will send you a link.



REMINDERS FOR FAMILIES

>>> MONTESSORI MARKET

We have an amazing partnership with Feed My People, which provides CVMCS families with free food resources, the ABC Food Program, and the Montessori Market.

Montessori Market provides a bag of groceries (contents vary) every week of school. Every student is eligible.

How does it work? Sign up to receive a meal bag every week **OR** pick your delivery weeks. Meal bags will be sent home in students' backpacks on Thursdays or Fridays, OR you can choose to pick up your bag.

PICK YOUR DELIVERY WEEKS

RECEIVE A MEAL BAG EVERY WEEK

>>> NEW - KWIK TRIP VOUCHERS

Feed My People is meant to provide nutritional support to our families who are challenged with having enough food. Through this program, families can sign up to receive Kwik Trip Vouchers. Those who sign up will receive 2 Kwik Trip Vouchers, twice a month, that can be redeemed for milk and produce. Vouchers will be sent home in students' folders. **Sign Up Here**

>>> OPERATION WARM

Through our partnership with the EC Fire Department, we are able to help provide winter coats to our students in need. **ORDER FORMS DUE 9/26/2025**.

You can access the order form **HERE**. Feel free to email me a copy of your order or send it to school in your child's backpack. ***Please note that not everyone who signs up will receive a coat. The EC Fire Department will be fundraising to provide coats to as many children as possible, but cannot promise a coat for everyone.

Does Your Child Need a Warm Winter Coat?

The Eau Claire Fire Fighters Local 487 has partnered with Operation Warm to provide new winter coats to **students in need** at CV Montessori School. The coats provide warmth and durability, with styling that is "kid-friendly" with deep pockets. New colors and styles are selected each season.
The Eau Claire Fire Fighters Local 487 will be fundraising with the goal of raising enough money to buy the number of coats requested; however, since they depend on donations, not all families are guaranteed to receive a coat. If you are interested in more information about this amazing organization and/or donating money, please go to www.operationwarm.org/eauclaire.





These coats are intended for children in need for **this** winter. This program is not intended to provide coats for future years. Coats come in sizes: **Youth 4T, 5/6, 7/8, 10/12, 14/16, 18,** and we can also provide adult sizes if needed.

If your family is experiencing financial hardship and your child at CV Montessori is in need of a winter coat this year, please complete the requested information below and have your child return the bottom half to **Ms. Gin, Partnership Coordinator by** Friday, Sep 26, 2025

I have read the above information regarding the opportunity to receive a winter coat for my child. I understand that the Eau Claire Fire Fighters Local 487 will be fundraising with a goal to try and buy a coat for each child that requested one, but that I may not be selected to receive one.

Parent Name (First & Last)_____

Phone _____ email_____

You will be notified at a later date when the coats are coming in.

I would like a coat for my child/children **at CV Montessori** who is/are listed below:

Child's Name (First & Last)	Grade	Teacher	Coat Size (Circle 1 size per student)
			Youth sizes: 4T 5/6 7/8 10/12 14/16 18 **Adult sizes:** S M L XL XXL
			Youth sizes: 4T 5/6 7/8 10/12 14/16 18 **Adult sizes:** S M L XL XXL
			Youth sizes: 4T 5/6 7/8 10/12 14/16 18 **Adult sizes:** S M L XL XXL
			Youth sizes: 4T 5/6 7/8 10/12 14/16 18 **Adult sizes:** S M L XL XXL

Please return this form to Ms. Gin by Friday, Sep 26, 2025

Culver's

SEPTEMBER 22
4-7PM

Join Montessori families and help support the school.

2520 FOLSOM ST
EAU CLAIRE, WI

A PORTION OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED TO CVMCS PARENT GROUP

CHIPPEWA VALLEY MONTESSORI
FAMILY NIGHT



A SMALL DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

NO BUY NO SELL

Fundraiser

September 23- October 23

CV Montessori Charter School Parent Group is holding their annual No Buy/No Sell Fundraiser from September 23-October 23. We appreciate any contributions that help us reach our goal of **$7000**.

Money Raised Will Help Fund:

- -Multiple Field Trips for All Classroom Levels
- -Classroom Enrichment Funds
- -Wacky Winter Dance, Fall Family Day, and Other Family Events
- -End of Year Carnival
- -Conference Meals
- -Staff Appreciation Days

$7000

WAYS TO DONATE

1) 99 Pledges

2) Paypal: CV Montessori School Parent Group

3) Cash or Check

-Checks/cash can be dropped off at the school office or mailed to: 400 Cameron St. Eau Claire, WI 54703

CVMCS PARENT GROUP
EVENTS 2026-2027

September

1 - Welcome Back Day
7 - No School
8 - DQ Night
22 - Culver's Night
24 - Parent Group Meeting
23- No Buy/No Sell Start

October

2 - Fall Fest Movie Night
13 - Stay & Play
13 - DQ Night
15 - Conferences
15-19 - No School
22 - Parent Group Meeting
23 - No Buy/No Sell End

November

10 - DQ Night
13 - Stay & Play
19 - Parent Group Meeting
23-27 - No School

December

8 - DQ Night
24-31 - No School

January

1 - No School
12 - DQ Night
18 - No School
21 - Parent Group Meeting
22/25 - No School
TBD - Winter Dance

February

9 - DQ Night
16 - Culver's Night
18 - Parent Group Meeting
25-26 - Conferences
26 - No School

March

1 - No School
9 - DQ Night
18 - Parent Group Meeting
22-26 - **Spring Break / No School**
TBD - Read-a-Thon

April

12 - No School
13 - DQ Night
15 - Parent Group Meeting

TBD - Socials

May

3-7 - Staff Appreciation Week
10 - DQ Night
18 - Culver's Night
20 - Parent Group Meeting
31 - No School

TBD - Socials

June

3 - End of Year Carnival

Join our Facebook Group:
Chippewa Valley Montessori Parent Group
Watch the FB Page for event/date changes & updates
Questions? Email Us!
cvmcsparentgroup@gmail.com