

Maria Montessori Charter Academy

Classroom Observation Policy

Parent/Visitor:

Observers in the classroom can significantly change the dynamics of the student's interaction with the environment, staff and peers. The following guidelines will assist observers in blending in with the environment and result in the least amount of disruption.

- ◆ Select a spot to stand or sit in the corner of the room where you can view the work area without being intrusive.
- ◆ Refrain from speaking to students and teachers. If students speak to you, just smile and direct them back to their work.
- ◆ Let your child know before the observation that you will be present, but not interact with them or their work. Let them know that you will make eye contact and wave to them before you go. Also let them know your interest in seeing what they do and the importance of their work time.
- ◆ Jot down questions on a note pad to discuss later with teachers or administration.
- ◆ Siblings are not to be included in the classroom during observations and the office is not equipped to provide daycare for them.
- ◆ Observations can be an important tool in the education of parents to the Montessori method and aid in partnering with teachers to provide consistent direction for you child. Please respect the teacher's requests during the observation and avoid becoming a focal point for the children. Observations of other students need to be kept confidential. As a courtesy, please call 48 hours in advance. We appreciate your comments and impressions after your observation. Please check back in with the office before departing.

Teacher/Professional:

Observers in the classroom can significantly change the dynamics of the student's interaction with the environment, staff and peers. The following guidelines will assist observers in blending in with the environment and result in the least amount of disruption.

- ◆ Select a spot to stand or sit in the corner of the room where you can view the work area without being intrusive.
- ◆ Refrain from speaking to students and teachers. If students speak to you, just smile and direct them back to their work.
- ◆ Jot down questions on a note pad to discuss later with teachers or administration.
- ◆ 20-minute observations are available for each age level requesting to observe.

Observations can be an important tool in seeking information and further understanding of Montessori education and our goal of integrating this philosophy with the public school system. Please respect the teacher's request during the observation and avoid becoming a focal point for the children. Understand that observations of students and teachers need to be kept confidential. We appreciate your comments and impressions after your observation. Please check back in with the office before departing.

ABSOLUTELY NO PICTURES OR VIDEO EQUIPMENT ARE ALLOWED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION.