

MONTAGUE SCHOOL

2017 - 2018

Kindergarten Registration Packet

475 Route 206 Montague, NJ 07827 V: 973 293 7131 / F: 973 293 3391 www.montagueschool.org

Timothy C. Capone Chief School Administrator/Principal Tina M. Palecek
Business Administrator/Bd. Secretary

Donna Pinzone Administrative Assistant Christopher Gregory Assistant Principal

MONTAGUE RESIDENTS

MONTAGUE NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

- 1. Completion of an entire application packet and medical forms.
- 2. Current immunization records including hepatitis "B" series record.
- 3. Copy of Birth Certificate
- 4. Two (2) proofs of residency with physical street address (One proof must be a NJ Driver's License and/or car registration showing a Montague Street address, a PO Box is not acceptable. A title lease, mortgage agreement, utility bill, or signed contract is acceptable as one proof)
- 5. Physical Examination Form completed or date of appointment.

Please remember to do a transfer card with your current school.

If you have any questions regarding the registration process, please feel free to call Montague School at 973-293-7131 extension 203.



DONNA PINZONE

Administrative Assistant To the Chief School Administrator

Montague School

475 Route 206 Montague, NJ 07827 Tel. 973.293.7131 Fax 973.293.3391

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Assistant Principal

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

In order to have your son/daughter educated by the Montague Township School District, they and you as a parent or legal guardian must be full-time residents.

So as not to delay the registration process we are accepting the information you are supplying at the time of registration. This information may or may not be sufficient for us to satisfy our residency requirements. This form, along with your registration form, will be forwarded to my office and given to an administrator for further research and verification, if necessary.

By signing this form you are declaring that to the best of your knowledge the address you are supplying is within the Montague Township boundaries and you and the student you are registering are full-time residents at that address. If our verification reveals that the address you supplied is not within our boundaries, or you are not living full-time within this District, you understand that you will be notified, the student will be removed in an appropriate manner, and you will be directed to the proper school district, if known.

If, for any reason, you choose not to sign this form, your son/ daughter will not be registered.

Thank you and welcome to the Montague Township School District.

Timothy C. Capone Chief School Administrator/Principal

Signed:		
	Parent/Guardian	
Address:		
Date:		

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September 2017

TO: Parents/Guardians of Montague Students

SUBJECT: Afternoon Bus Stops

REMINDER:

Students will be dropped off at their assigned bus stop only if:

- The student is met by a parent or legal guardian, 18 years or older.
 OR:
- 2. A written request designating a responsible person to meet the student at the stop has been submitted and approved by the transportation office.

If there is not a parent or approved designated person to meet the student, the student will be returned to the school by the bus driver. At stops directly in front of a house, a long driveway, etc, there must be a visual contact of the parent or designated person by the bus driver or the student will be returned to the school.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Montague Township School District Montague School STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM



Home of the Black Bears

Child's Information

Last Name	
First Name	Middle Name
PO Box	Physical Address
City	State
Zip Code	Home Phone
Date of Birth	Gender Male Female
City, State & Country of Birth	
If \underline{NOT} born in the US – first date in a US school	
Race: American Indian Asian Black	Hispanic White
Language spoken at home	
Parent/Guardian Information	
Last Name	First Name
Does child live with you? Yes No	
If no, Physical Address	
City, State & Zip	
	Cell Phone
	Email
Last Name	First Name
Relationship to child	
Does child live with you? Yes No	
If no, Physical Address	
Mailing Address	
City, State & Zip	
	Cell Phone
Work Phone	Email
Mail Information to each parent/guardian? Yes	No

Is there a court ordered:			
Temporary Restraining Order?	Yes No	Dated:	
Permanent Restraining Order?	Yes No	Dated:	
Child Custody Order?	Yes No	Dated:	
Guardianship?	Yes No	Dated:	

If **yes**, a copy **must** be attached to this form.



Montague Township School District Montague School STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM



Home of the Black Bears

Does this child have any sibling	s in this school? Yes N	o If Yes	s, please complete below.
Last Name	First Name	Grade	:/Class
Emergency Contact/Closing In Please notify your emergency co			ol.
1 st Contact Name			
Relationship to child			
Phone	Cell Phone	e	
Work Phone	Does this 1	person live with	student? Yes No
2 nd Contact Name			
Relationship to child			
Phone	Cell Phone	e	
Work Phone	Does this j	person live with	student? Yes No
Children will be sent home on their dai arrangements for <u>that</u> day due to the ebus changes in these situations. Children that have brought in bus note	emergency closing. Due to the critical All after school programs will be	nature of an early cancelled!	closing, please do not request
school is notified otherwise by a paren make calls to parents as well. K.E.E.F otherwise by a parent/guardian).	t/guardian. K.E.E.P. after school care	e will be notified of	emergency dismissals. They will
	ermission to go directly home on his/he d(ren) at school (parent/guardian must		
Please list all persons to whom the chi	ld(ren) may be released:		
Name:	Pho	one:	Relationship:
Name:	Pho	one:	Relationship:
Name:	Pho	one:	Relationship:

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTAGUE SCHOOL

475 Route 206

Montague, NJ 07827 V: 973 293 7131 / F: 973 293 3391 www.montagueschool.org

Timothy C. Capone
Chief School Administrator/Principal

Donna Pinzone Administrative Assistant

permission to receive calls.

Tina M. Palecek
Business Administrator/Bd. Secretary
Christopher Gregory
Assistant Principal

R	0	S	te	ŗ
C	a	r	d	



Name:		
Home	()
Cell	()
Office	()
Other	()

Please Note:

Please fill in and return. By returning this card, you give

Only fill out one Roster Card per family.

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Forme	r School Name		
	Address		
Phone	e and Fax Number		
Re:	Student's Name	Date of Birth	
		rds for the above-named student who has enrolled in the grade of the uding the student's State I.D. Number.	;
		receiving copies of all permitted records, as per parent release below. Plea <u>Application</u> or verification of eligibility, if applicable.	se
Thank	you for your prompt at	tion to this matter.	
		Tity C Capone	
		my Capit	
		Timothy C. Capone	
		Chief School Administrator	
	orize the release of all pand birth certificates.	nitted records of the above-named student; this includes all CST, IEP's, Spe	ech
		Signature of Parent/Guardian	
		Relationship to Student	

Address

Montague Township School District

475 Route 206 Montague NJ 07827

> 2017 ~ 2018 School Year

Student Name:						
Student Homeroom:						
Parent Name:						
Parent email address:						
The above is my correct email: Yes No						
If there is no email indicated above, or if your email is wrong, please enter your email address in the boxes below. For accuracy, please print legibly and one letter per box. If you are using the number zero (θ) indicate by putting a slash through it.						
You are being given a username and password to access the Oncourse Parent Portal. You will only be given this code once. If you forget your username, you must contact the Central Office to request a reprinted copy. If you forget your password, there is a link on the parent portal to reset your password. The letter includes directions on how to log on. If you have more than one child in this school, they will all be accessible with the one username. Please sign and date below.						
Sign: Date:						

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Grades PreK-8 Acceptable Use Policy

Student Name:	Date:
I understand that, as an Inter	rnet user, I am responsible for acting considerately and appropriately in
	ng rules when using the Montague School technology resources:
	w, or download inappropriate messages or pictures.
I will not use bad la	
I will not insult, ann	
	omputers, networks, or other technology equipment.
I will obey all copy	
➤ I will not use other	
	her users' work or files.
	lly waste resources like paper, power, or ink.
	y instant messaging programs like AIM© or Yahoo© instant messenger.
I will not access any	y social networking sites like MySpace© or Facebook©.
procedures regarding the use 1. Loss of access.	
My child has my permis member of the Montagu	ssion to access the Internet under the supervision of a certificated as School faculty.
Parent Name:	Parent Signature:
Student Signature (Grad	les 2-8 only):

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The Parents/Guardians of	class
PERMISSION TO PUBL	<u>LISH</u>
**Publishing Student's Name	
I understand that my child's name may be published in newsless school website.	etters, newspapers or magazines or on the
Parent/Guardian's Full Name (please print)	
Parent/Guardian's Signature	Date
**Publishing Student Work	
I understand that my child's artwork or writing may be publish World Wide Web, a part of the Internet, as part of classwork. I of the work or writing remain my child's property. I grant perm copy of all such publishing will be printed out and brought hon	understand that copyright and ownership hission for this publishing as described. A
Parent/Guardian's Full Name (please print)	
Parent/Guardian's Signature	Date
**Publishing Student Image	
I understand that my child's image may be published in newspa Web, a part of the Internet, as part of classwork. No last name, email address will appear with such images.	
Parent/Guardian's Full Name (please print)	
Parent/Guardian's Signature	Date

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From the School Nurse:

No child may begin school without documentation of immunizations and a current physical within the last six months. The school nurse clears all students to begin school. Please call the school nurse at 973.293.7131 ext 214, to schedule an appointment to review immunization documents and health records.

Absence:

Your child is expected to be on time and in school every day that school is in session. If your child is sick and cannot attend school you must call the school nurse at 973.293.7131 ext 214, and report the child's name, grade, teacher, and reason for absence. When the child returns to school, a written reason of absence is needed. Please have doctor's notes given to the school.

Attendance:

Consistent attendance at school is a strong predictor of student achievement and success.

- 1. Children are expected to be in attendance every day school is in session.
- 2. Every absence from school will be documented and recorded.
- 3. If a child is in school less than four hours, the day is considered an absence.
- 4. Parents/guardians will be notified of their child's absences approximately every fifth day's absence.
- 5. Upon notification, parents/guardians will work to correct the absence pattern and may be required to meet with the Assistant Principal regarding attendance.
- 6. Parents/guardians of each absent child must call the nurse to explain the reason, or the school will call.
- 7. Two days after an absence a note must be brought to school explaining the cause, with a note from the doctor if that applies.
- 8. Any student absence without an acceptable note or at the accumulation of ten days will be considered truant. State mandates regarding truancy issues will be followed.
- 9. All absences are cumulative regardless of parent or physician notes.

- 10. If a child is ill and will be home longer than two days, parent may request the child's teacher prepare missed work after two day's absence.
- 11. After an absence of twenty days, retention is possible.
- 12. If school is required to close for extended periods, the legally required attendance of 180 days may lead to an extension of the school year, including attending on Saturdays or scheduled holidays.

Medication Policy:

It is the policy of the school board that all children's medication be administered by the parent whenever possible, If a child is required to take medication during school hours, the school nurse will administer the medication in compliance with the regulations that follow:

- 1. A prescription written by a physician stating child's name, diagnosis, name of medication, dosage, and time to be given.
- 2. This policy includes prescription and over-the-counter medications (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin, etc.)
- 3. Medication must be in a prescription labeled bottle.
- 4. Written permission signed by the parent.
- 5. The PARENT must deliver the medication to the school nurse.

NO medication will be dispensed without the physician and parent written authorizations.

MONTAGUE SCHOOL

Growth and Development]	Registration			
-		Date					
Child's Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		Date of Birth	
Address (Number, Street, Tov	vn)				 F	Phone Num	lber
Mailing Address (if different t	han stree	t address)				
Father's Name	Mothe	er's Name		Last Sc	hool Atter	ıded	
Is your child subject to:	(Please	e circle Y	Yes or No) Has	your child h	ad:		
Frequent Colds	Yes	No	Poor eating			Yes	No
Bronchitis	Yes	No	Eye Disease			Yes	No
Frequent sore throats	Yes	No	Head Injury			Yes	No
Speech Difficulties	Yes	No	A severe fall			Yes	No
Ear Aches	Yes	No	Difficulty sle	eeping		Yes	No
Development:			Eye Injury			Yes	No
Age Walked	l		Eyeglasses l	Prescribed		Yes	No
Age Talked	l		Hearing Los	s		Yes	No
Has your child had a his Allergy: Medication Other Chicken Pox Enuresis (bed wetting) Epilepsy Heart Disease Hepatitis		Her Hig Hos Mo: Pne Tor Tul	rnia th Fever spitalization nonucleosis eumonia nsillitis perculosis ooping Cough	Operations Appendecto Hernia Rep Tonsillecto Ear Surger Other	omy: oair my		
Please list any childhoo	d diseas	ses, acci	dents or proble	ms:			
Medication: Please list mediover-the-counter medication signed by the parent/guardia Please list my child and his/listaff Yes No	n (i.e. Tyle an and ph	enol, Moti ysician.	rin, etc) in school,	a medical auth	orization f	form must	be completed and
				рате			
475 Route 206 Rev 08/15	Moı	ntague,	NJ 07827		Phone Fax:		93.7131 93.3391

MONTAGUE SCHOOL

School Year: 2017-2018

MEDICAL HEALTH HISTORY AND EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

Student Name	Grade & Te	acher DOB _	
Mailing Address		РО Вох	
<u>Name</u>	Add	<u>ress</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Mother/Guardian	Home	Home	
	Work	Work	
Father	_ Home	Home	
	Work	Work	
Parent Email Address			
Emergency Contact #1			
#2		Phone	
Does your child have health insurance?	?		
Yes Name of Insurance Company or NJ I	FamilyCare Insuran	ce Provider:	
No NJ FamilyCare provides free or low of income parents. For more info call 8 You may release my name and address insurance. Signature	00-701-0710 or visess to the NJ Famil	sit <u>www.njfamilycar</u> yCare Program to con	e.org to apply online. tact me about health
_			
MEDICAL Allergies:PlantsAnimalsFood_	HISTORY Mold Drugs	(Most rec Bees Date of rea	·
Life Threatening?Yes No		meeting with the School N	
Please describe the reaction & treatme	nt		
Documented Medical Condition & Rest	rictions if any: _		Date
Daily Medications & Dosages:			Date

If your child needs to take medication at school, please download and print the form from the school website and have the doctor complete it. This form must be completed prior to the administration of any medication at school. The school nurse cannot give OTC (over the counter) medications without a doctor's note. An adult must bring to school any medication, including OTC meds to be given by the school nurse.

Recent Surgeries or Injurie	es		Date
Physical Exam Date	Doctor & Phone		
Dental Exam Date	Dentist & Phone		
Eye Examination Date			
	***REMINDER**	<i>k</i>	
Please be advised that physiconce during each of the stude adolescence (grades 4-6), an examination, please submit history can be updated.	lent's developmental stage d adolescence (grades 7-1	es: early childhood (pres 2). When your child red	school-grade 3), pre- ceives a physical
I am aware that my child vapplicable:	vill participate in the fol	lowing School Health	Services where
1. Vision & hearing sc	reening	3. Height, weigh	t & blood pressure
2. Scoliosis screening	every 2 yrs starting at age	10 4. Periodic head	lice checks
Have you ever been told by	a physician or health c	are professional that	your child has:
AsthmaDiabetesHeart ConditionLearning Disability		Skin Condition	
Does your child experience	e any of the following:		
Nose BleedsFrequence Physical Disability Fainting SpellsTire		t StomachachesFre	
Do any of the above condit	•		No
Describe			
Hearing: Does your chi			No
Vision: Does your childReading	wear glasses or conta	icts?Yes	Distance
I understand that the inf staff to provide for the he emergency contact perso authorize and direct scho hospital or physician. It of any transport or emerge	ealth and safety of my n cannot be reached a ool staff to send my ch understand that I will o	child. If either I or a t the time of a medica ild to the most easily assume full responsi	n authorized al emergency, I accessible
Parent/Guardian Signa	ture	Date	е

Immunizations required to begin Kindergarten:

DPT <u>Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus</u>: 4 vaccines with the 4th one being after the 4th birthday or any 5 vaccines

IVP **Polio**: 3 vaccines with the 3rd one being after the 4th birthday or any 4 vaccines

HPT <u>Hepatitis</u>: 3 vaccines (one usually at birth, the second vaccine one month later and the third one 5 months after the second one)

MMR <u>Measles, Mumps and Rubella</u>: 2 vaccines (first one after the First birthday and the second one after the 4th birthday)

Varicella **Chicken Pox**: 1 vaccine after the first birthday

Hib <u>Influenza:</u> 4 vaccines before 18 months of age

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MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

TO BE COMPLETED BY PHYSICIAN

Students Name		Age	Grade	
Diagnosis				
Medication				
Dosage				
Time of Administration				
Descible Cide Effects				
Restrictions on Activities				
Physicians Name (Printed)	Date	Ph	ysicians Signature	
TO BE COMPLETED BY PAREN	<u>T</u>			
I request that my child	the district is rende s matter. I further	ring a servi understand	ce and does not that the school	d
NOTE: All medication, prescrib school by the parent, in the or		•	_	е
Parent/Guardian Signature			ute	

475 Route 206N * Montague, NJ 07827 * Phone (973) 293-7131 * Fax (973) 293-3391

School Year: 2017-2018

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION - To be completed by a medical doctor

Name	DOB	Grade
Height Weig	jht Blood Pressure	Pulse
Significant Medica	al History:	
Allergies: Insects	Food Environmental	
Vision Screening _	Hearing S	Screening
Examination Findings	; -	
Ears	Abdomen	
Eyes	Hernia	
Nose	Scoliosis	
Throat	Skin	
Heart	General App	earance
Lungs	_	
Summary of Findings		
Immunization Histo	ory: M/D/YY (OR PLEASE AT	TACH IMMUN. RECORD
DPT	Trivalent Polio	Measles
		MMR
Booster	Booster	 Hepatitis B
		Hepatitis B
Varicella	H.I.B	
Physician Signature		Date of Exam

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTAGUE SCHOOL

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HOME LANGUAGE SURVEY*

Schoo	ol: Grade:
Stude	ent's Name:
1.	What was the student's first language?
2.	Does the student speak a language other than English? Yes No
	If yes, specify language:
3. 4.	What language(s) is/are spoken in your home? Has the student ever received English as a second language (ESL) services?
	Yes No If yes, when?and
	from what school district?
5.	Has your family ever received migrant services? Yes No
	If yes, please list the dates service was received:
6.	Do either of the parents/guardians work in any field pertaining to agriculture? Yes No If yes, please specify where:
	n completing this form, if other than parent/guardian:

The school district/charter school has the responsibility under the federal law to serve students who are limited English proficient and need English instructional services. Given this responsibility, the school district/charter school has the right to ask for the information it needs to identify English Language Learners (ELLs). AS part of the responsibility to locate and identify the ELL's, the school district/charter school may conduct screenings or ask for related information about students who are already enrolled in the district as well as from students who enrolled in the school district/charter school in the future.

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTAGUE SCHOOL

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CHILD CUSTODY INFORMATION FORM

(Please complete only if applicable)

The parent with whom the child resides will be considered the custodial parent; however the non-custodial parent has many rights in the absence of an explicit Court Order that limits those rights. It is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with a copy of any Court Order that limits the custodial rights of the non-custodial parent. Unless specified in the Court Order, the child may be released from school to the non-custodial. It is also expected that the custodial parent will provide the non custodial parent with academic progress information such as report cards or other academic information.

Child's Full Name
School child will be attending
Name of custodial parent with whom child resides
Do you, as the custodial parent, have legal custody through a Court Order? Yes No Pending* *Date finalization is expected:
(If pending, please inform the school when finalized)
If there is a Court Order, does it limit the non-custodial parent's access to school records? Yes* No *If Yes, a copy of the order must be given to the school office.
Please provide any additional information regarding custody of which the school
should be aware:
Date Signature of Custodial Parent

****In summary, this form allows us to bill Medicaid for Speech, OT, PT, Counseling, School Nursing services, Transportation (if this applies) and IEP services. It DOES NOT give consent to speak to your physicians or outside services. It DOES NOT affect your benefits or cost to you at all. It DOES NOT sign you up for any type of insurance or Medicaid. It allows the school to get reimbursed for services, helping to generate income for the school system.

Medicaid Annual Notification Regarding Parental Consent

Dear Montague Parents:

Background: The State of New Jersey has participated in a Federal program, Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI), since 1994. The program assists school districts by providing partial reimbursement for medically-related services listed on a student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

The SEMI program is under the auspices of the New Jersey Department of the Treasury through its collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey Division of Medicaid Assistance and Health Services.

In 2013, the regulations regarding Medicaid parental consent for school-based services changed. Now the regulations require that, prior to accessing a child's public benefits or insurance for the first time, and annually thereafter, school districts must provide parents/guardians written notification and obtain a one-time parental consent.

Is there a cost to you?

No. IEP services are provided to students while at school at NO cost to the parent/guardian.

Will SEMI claiming impact your family's Medicaid benefits?

The SEMI program <u>does not</u> impact a family's Medicaid services, funds, or coverage limits. New Jersey operates the school-based services program differently than the family's Medicaid program. The SEMI program <u>does not</u> affect your family's Medicaid benefits in any way.

What type of services does the School-Based Services program cover?

Evaluations

• Psychological Counseling

Speech TherapyOccupational Therapy

AudiologyNursing

• Physical Therapy

• Specialized Transportation

What type of information about your child will be shared?

In order to submit claims for SEMI reimbursement, the following types of records may be required: first name, last name, middle name, address, date of birth, student ID, Medicaid ID, disability, service dates and the type of services delivered.

Who will see this information?

Information about your child's special education program may be shared with the New Jersey Division of Medicaid Assistance and Health Services and its affiliates, including the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Education for the purpose of verifying Medicaid eligibility and submitting claims.

What if you change your mind?

You have the right to withdraw consent to allow for Medicaid billing at any time by contacting the school in which your child is enrolled.

Will your consent or refusal to consent affect your child's services?

No. Your school district is still required to provide services to your child pursuant to his or her IEP, regardless of your Medicaid eligibility status or your willingness to consent for SEMI billing.

What if you have questions?

Please call Tina Palecek, SEMI Coordinator at 973-293-7131 ext. 218 with questions or concerns, or to obtain a copy of the parental consent form.

Method of Delivery: (check on	e)Mailed to parent(s)_	Emailed to parent(s)	IEP meet_	Hand Delivered
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Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Parental Consent Form

Dear parents of Montague School:

Our school district is participating in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) program that allows school districts to bill Medicaid for services that are provided to students.

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 34 CFR §99.30 and Section 617 of the IDEA Part B, consent requirements in 34 CFR §300.622 require a one-time consent before accessing public benefits.

This consent establishes that your child's personally identifiable information, such as student records or information about services provided to your child, including evaluations and services as specified in my child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) (occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, psychological counseling, audiology, nursing and specialized transportation,) may be disclosed to Medicaid and the Department of the Treasury for the purpose of receiving Medicaid reimbursement at the school district.

As parent/guardian of the child named below, I give permission to disclose information as described above and I understand and agree that Medicaid may access my child's or my public benefits or insurance to pay for special education or related services under Part 300 (services under the IDEA).

I understand that billing for these services by the district **does not** impact my ability to access these services for my child outside of the school setting, nor will any cost be incurred by my family including co-pays, deductibles, loss of eligibility or impact on lifetime benefits.

Child's Name: ———————	
Child's Dateof Birth: —— <u>▼</u> ——	<u>•</u>
Parent/Guardian: —————	
Date://	
I give consent to bill for SEMI:	Yes No

This consent can be revoked at any time by contacting the administrator at your child's school.

Revised September 2013 SEMI Parental Consent

MONTAGUE SCHOOL

CHII	LD'S NAME:
DAT	E OF BIRTH:
	se check ($\sqrt{\ }$) appropriate responses and supply information ested.
1.	Is your child able to dress him/herself? Yes No
	Can your child Button Zip Tie Shoes?
2.	Which hand does your child use? Right Left
3.	Do you read to your child? No Yes If so, how often?
	Everyday 3 times a week On occasion
	Rarely
4.	Has your child had the opportunity to play with children his/her own age? Yes No
5.	Can your child handle ALL bathroom needs? Yes No
6.	Has your child attended a pre-school? Yes No
	If yes: Pre-School Name:
	Teacher's Name:
	School Phone:
	May we contact the pre-school teacher? Yes No
7.	Can your child carry out a two-step direction? Yes No
8.	Family situations the teacher should be aware of?
	Yes No If yes, what are they?

Kindergarten 101

What does my child need to know to be "ready for kindergarten?

This is a frequently asked question. Kindergarten is not the same as it used to be in the past when kindergarten focused mainly on the development of social skills. This is no longer the case. Now the focus is on reading and writing skills. Your child will be required to do a significant amount of seat work. They will also learn to read and to write simple sentences. Due to this, your child needs to acquire many skills prior to starting kindergarten in order to keep up with the high standards of today's kindergarten programs.

How is kindergarten different from Preschool?

- Kindergarten follows a more rigorous daily schedule; children are not free to do as he/she pleases.
- Kindergarten may offer similar activities as preschool but with a more structured expectation.
 Any result is accepted in preschools; kindergarten is moving toward a more concrete standard and has definite goals.
- Kindergarten students are required to conform more to school behavior. A child must be more self-disciplined.

Children who are successful in kindergarten have the following abilities:

- Children must be socially and emotionally ready for school. This is one of the most important
 areas of readiness for children. Children must be able to cooperate with their peers in group
 situations and activities. Children also must be able to control their impulses and be able to
 relate to non-family authority figures.
- Children must have acquired motor skills. Motor skills include large muscle activities necessary for walking in a straight line and throwing a ball. Motor skills also include small muscle skills such as drawing, coloring, cutting, and handwriting.
- Children must be cognitively and intellectually ready for school. Intellectual readiness is a term used to describe the learning skills a child needs to make a smooth transition into kindergarten. These skills include knowledge of colors, numbers through 10, most of the letters of the alphabet, especially the letters in his/her name, and shapes. Other skills that children need are the ability to assemble simple puzzles, answer questions about his/her environment (e.g. how many legs does this spider have?), and understand similarities (e.g. how are an apple and an orange alike?), differences (e.g. how is an apple different from an orange?), and opposites (e.g. ice cream is cold, coffee is hot).
- Children must be curious and eager to learn. Our children will be most successful if they learn to
 ask questions, think independently, and be creative. Our children need to be curious about the
 world, interested in how things work, and know how to creatively approach problems. So, if
 your child asks you a question like, "Do mosquitoes sleep?, resist the urge to answer (you may
 not know anyway!) or to give them the answer right away. Instead try asking them, "What do

you think?" or "Where do you think we could find the answer to that question?". By doing this, you are encouraging them to think for themselves. This also helps build a child's self-esteem!

When should your child start kindergarten? Questions to ask yourself:

- Children must be 5 years old before October 1st to start kindergarten.
- Can my child be alone in a strange place outside the home without crying or behaving overly fearful?
- Does my child know to respect the school personnel as authority figures? Can my child accept being told no, wait their turn to speak, and control themselves appropriately for a school environment?
- Can my child attend to his personal needs without difficulty?
- Can my child follow spoken directions, particularly several at one time?
- Can my child keep his attention on a task long enough to finish? Can my child work independently to complete simple tasks?
- Can my child play with other children without being overly fearful or overly aggressive? Can my child take turns, share, and follow the rules of fair play?
- Can my child tell people his needs with a loud enough voice, a clear voice and using the right words?

Points to Consider When Making Your Decision

- Age cannot guarantee readiness for kindergarten. It is only one of many indicators.
- Readiness for kindergarten does not simply mean the ability to recognize alphabet letters and numbers. Even a child who can almost read may not be ready emotionally and physically for the demand of a school environment.
- The younger a child starts school, the more stress they will be under. It is always better to be at the top of the class than struggling to keep up.
- In many cases, waiting a year gives a child a twelve month edge in both physical and mental growth.

I Know My Child is Emotionally & Socially Ready to Start Kindergarten but are they academically ready?

The Alphabet

Your child should know the alphabet before kindergarten because they will find school far less confusing if they already know all the letters — but don't panic if they don't have all the letters down pat. There are many different ways to "know" the alphabet. At the simplest level, your child should be able to recite the alphabet, probably with the help of the alphabet song. Learning the alphabet song is fun but doesn't indicate any real understanding of the letters. Your child should know the names of the letters when you point to them in random order, they should be able to find letters in words by name, and ideally should be able to associate some of the letters with the sounds they make in words.

Math

Basic shapes and colors are skills your child should know before kindergarten. Your child should know his numbers 1-10. This includes counting and recognizing them on paper. Your child should be able to sort objects by color, shapes and size. Your child should be able to count to 20 without skipping any numbers. Basic math concepts like patterning, measurement using nonstandard tools, adding, subtracting, 3 dimensional shapes, will be introduced in kindergarten.

The World Around Us

The world around us is also a common theme in kindergarten. This means knowing the days of the week, months of the year, the weather and appropriate clothes, colors, holidays, and more. The more your child knows about the world and daily activities the better. These are all discussed in detail during kindergarten, but if your child has already been exposed to these details and has a basic understanding then his learning will be increased during kindergarten.

<u>Is your child ready for kindergarten? A survival skills check list:</u>

- I can say my first and last name.
- I know my address and phone number.
- I know my parent's first and last names.
- I can recognize my own printed name.
- I know how to use a zipper, tie shoes, and buttons and can take my outer garments on and off.
- I can speak in a voice loud enough so people can hear me.
- I know how to use a tissue and can ask for one.
- I can use the toilet, toilet paper and the flusher.
- I know what to do with crayons, glue and scissors.
- I can take responsibility for my own actions.
- I can listen and sit quietly while others are talking.
- I can share things, take turns and play by the rules.
- I can count to 20.
- I can recognize most of the letters of the alphabet (in random order)
- I can recognize the numbers 1-10 (in random order)
- I know my colors.
- I know the basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle)
- I can write my first name.

Teaching Your Child

You may be worried your child is not prepared for kindergarten and are wondering what to do. Make sure you are reading educational books every day and talking about the meaning with your child. Ask your child the colors and to count. The more you make learning fun the more likely you will ensure your

child is learning and that he will be ready for kindergarten. Attached you will find activities to promote your child's reading and mathematical skills.

Activities to promote your child's beginning reading skills

- Go through letter flashcards for a few minutes each day with your child,
- Start simple with only 5 or 6 letters at time working up to the whole alphabet.
- Remember to mix them up.
- Match up capital and lowercase letter cards.
- Find the letters in the newspaper and circle them.
- Go on a letter hunt while you are driving in the car, or around your house.
- Practice writing the letters.
- Put the letters in order. Start with capital letters and work your way to the lowercase letters, then do both.

Activities to promote your child's math skills

- Go through numeral flashcards for a few minutes each day with your child.
- Practice counting to 20 or higher!
- Practice counting sets of objects. (Silverware, cereal, goldfish crackers, people in your family, letters in your name, windows in your house)
- Be sure to learn the shapes and color names.
- Practice sorting objects around the house. (sort and match socks, towels, cars, or other toys)
- Practice writing the numbers 1-10.

^{**}Information adapted from; Lake View Kindergarten Teachers, Denver. Barnes, Bruce & Christine, Bonnie McDonald. What Did You Learn in School Today? Warner Books, New York, NY 1983.