



Welcomes you

2023-2024

First Day!

What day and time?

September 5th (Tuesday): This is the first day and also a 1/2 day of school for all *NEW* students in the primary classroom—preschool AND kindergarten 9am-12pm.

Elementary (lower and upper 1st-6th): ALL students (new and returning) in Lower El and Upper El (grades 1-6) return for a full day back to school, 9am-3:45pm, Tuesday September 6th.

September 6th (Wednesday): Welcome back ALL returning students in the primary classroom for regular schedule—half day preschool 9am-12pm, 1pm for those who opted this pick-up time—full day Kindergarten 9am-3:30pm

What do I send with my child?

Backpack with a packed lunch, water bottle, and 2 gallon-sized ziplock bags, each containing a clean outfit. Every piece of clothing and bag must be labeled with your child's name and last initial. We will keep the gallon sized ziplocks with their spare clothing in their designated cubbies at school. Please dress your children in weather appropriate clothes and shoes each day. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of labeling with your child's name. *Please no toys at school, unless it is show and tell in primary— primary teachers will notify you of this weekly occurrence in advance. Students should wear boots on barn days.

What does drop-off and pick-up look like?

Drop off starts at 8:55am and ends at 9:10am. Gates will be opened for Lower El and Upper El families to drop their children off with Teachers Kelly, Kris, Kaleena or Melissa, or a parent helper. Primary students' parents will bypass the gates and stay left up the drive toward the primary playground where primary teachers will be there to usher your child through the playground gate. All children are picked up at the primary playground gate.

Pick up time for primary is 3:30pm, pick-up for Lower El and Upper El is no later than 3:45pm.



Emergency Kits & Updated Vaccination Records

Please make sure to send in all updated vaccination records by the start of school. You can do this conveniently through the website: <https://wa.myir.net/>

Comfort Kits: we ask that these make their way to the drop off line at school on Wednesday, September 8th.

Allergies: Please be aware that we do have students with tree nut allergies. Although we cannot ensure or guarantee a nut free school, we can ask parents for help in finding alternatives to these products for both emergency kits and daily lunches. Thank you so much for helping us ensure a safe space for all.

Please be sure to check in on Transparent Classroom before the start of school to ensure your child's emergency contacts, authorized pick-up people, and allergy/medical needs are all clearly stated.



Emergency Comfort Kits



Required in 1 Gallon Ziploc Bag, labeled with name:

- (1) Emergency mylar "space" blanket
- (1) Emergency poncho
- (1) day supply high calorie food
- (1) bottle of water
- 3 x 5 index card with emergency information, with (2) safety pins

Additional items to consider

- Comfort blanket or stuffie
- Family Picture
- Note from Parents
- Favorite (non perishable) treat
- Small notepad with pen or crayons
- Travel size game or deck of cards
- Small book
- Character band aids
- Small pack of tissues

We are asking for a 1 day supply in each bag. We ask that there be **NO peanut** products in the comfort kits.

Suggested comfort kit food items:

- Granola / protein bars
- Jerky
- Hard candies, cookies (sealed packages)
- Canned fruit with flip top
- Fruit leather
- Tuna fish packets
- Dried fruits, raisins
- Cheese dip and crackers
- Small canned juice
- Single serve almond butter / sunbutter
- Plastic fork/spoon if needed

3 x 5 Emergency contact card:

- On **FRONT** in bold letters write CHILD'S NAME and any longterm medical or dietary needs.
- ON **BACK** write the names, phone numbers and addresses of persons allowed to pick up child. Include an out of state/out of area contact person with phone number.

****Please include a supply of special dietary or medical needs, if necessary.***

Communications

Stay in the loop for all things DPM

Please help ensure our emails are staying out of your junk folder. For immediate communication (ie. Absences, early pick-ups) please text your child's teacher, Alex, or call the office. Announcements come from notifications@transparentclassroom.com

Admin/Office (Kelly & Alex)

info@dancingpinesmontessori.com

office@dancingpinesmontessori.com

- Teacher Alex directly:

alex@dancingpinesmontessori.com

206.856.7155

Primary

- Teacher Patricia

patricia@dancingpinesmontessori.com

206.359.1831

- Teacher Gabi

gabi@dancingpinesmontessori.com

- Teacher Lori-Lee

lori-lee@dancingpinesmontessori.com



Lower Elementary

- Teacher Kelly

kelly@dancingpinesmontessori.com

206.851.8886

- Teacher Kaleena

kaleena@dancingpinesmontessori.com

253.709.3756

- Teacher Melissa

melissad@dancingpinesmontessori.com

Upper Elementary

- Teacher Kris

kris@dancingpinesmontessori.com

360.223.3610

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Families of Dancing
Pines Montessori

About Us

Dancing Pines Montessori was previously the Well-Trained Mind Montessori in Renton, WA. It began with our Head of School, Owner, and Lower Elementary Teacher, Kelly Severson Kunz. Kelly is the Owner of DPM, Head of School, and Lower Elementary Lead Teacher. She holds Bachelor Degrees in Early Childhood Ed and Elementary Education, in addition to a Master's Degree in Literacy Education. She has worked with children her entire life. From starting with just the primary classroom at the previous location, she then added a lower elementary classroom as her students aged out of primary. As they continued getting older, there was a need to expand to be able to offer upper elementary. Her dream of owning a farm led her and her husband to look for a property that would open up more classroom space for the school, as well as incorporate outdoor and farm school learning into her Montessori curriculum. Dancing Pines has now been at this location since 2018 and offers a full arc of Montessori education from preschool through elementary.

DPM consists of three classrooms. The primary classroom is home to 24 students ages 3-6, and led by teachers Patricia, Gabi and assistant teacher Lori-Lee. The Lower Elementary classroom consists of 30 students ages 6-9, led by teacher Kelly and assistant teachers Melissa and Kaleena. Finally, the Upper Elementary classroom of 12 students ages 9-12 is led by teacher Kris.

Inside the classrooms children develop a love of learning by taking the lead on their educational journey and honing skills related to their interests. Our teachers are their guides inside and out of the classroom.

Outside of the classrooms, children experience the beauty of a 7-acre campus. Playing alongside and helping to care for various animals (barn day), taking walks in nature, participating in outdoor school (afternoon primary students), playing sports, exploring our pond, and utilizing 4 playgrounds for children to: jump, swing, climb, hang, and exercise gross motor skills.

Disciplinary plan

At DPM we very rarely need to set up a behavior plan with a student and family. We focus on preventative measures by teaching and modeling kindness, respect for self, respect for others, and respect for environment. We have outlined a new system for rare cases.

Step system for hurtful behavior, whether by bullying or by physical hurt. This is purposeful repeated behavior that hurts others, and doesn't stop after a conversation/meeting with teachers.

Step 1: notify parents by filling out an incident report, notify staff, student loses privileges at recess.

Step 2: student will notify parents, lose recess time, create behavior contract

Step 3: review behavior contract in the office with admin team, call parents again.

Step 4: 3 day suspension

Step 5: conference with parents to determine a plan, this may include possible expulsion.



Speech Therapy & Social Skills Groups with Carmen Glasgow MA, CCC-SLP

Parents, if you have speech and language concerns for your child and would like to schedule an evaluation, please consider reaching out to the wonderful Carmen Glasgow. Her office is right here at Dancing Pines. She has years of experience working with our students in speech therapy.

Carmen performs screeners for students in the fall, this is an informal screening, however if you have definite concerns about speech and language and would like to have your child formally evaluated, contact Carmen. We must have parent consent to perform a screener. Her waiting list fills up quickly, but she graciously gives DPM students priority.

Carmen Glasgow MA, CCC-SLP

425.243.2607

Carmen@engagedspeechtherapy.com

Office hours variable T, W, TH & F. Please allow up to two business days for a reply.

