



Welcome to The Magnolia Schoolhouse!

Welcome The Magnolia Schoolhouse Families! I wanted to provide some detailed information as to the many exciting ways that The Magnolia Schoolhouse will be operating this coming year. Please take the time to review this whole package. I am certain this will answer most of your questions, and it contains a tremendous amount of information that will help you to fully participate in all that we do.

A tremendous amount of detail will be provided to you in this packet, but I wanted to start off with a check list for your immediate attention:

Checklist reminder:

- ✓ Bring a full change of clothing in a *labeled* gallon size zip lock bag
- ✓ All Learners must wear closed toed sneakers every day with socks. Please make sure they are capable of independently putting their shoes on without assistance.
- ✓ Bring a beautiful potted plant to donate to the classroom- any size is welcome
- ✓ No backpacks
- ✓ Toys, trinkets, cards and the like must remain at home
- ✓ Healthy foods only for all food brought to The Magnolia Schoolhouse
 - Please make sure your child arrives with a full belly
 - Please pack a separate snack for your child
 - Please make sure to send in a filling and healthy lunch
 - Avoid any foods containing peanuts, pistachio, hazelnuts, cashews or walnuts- we have severe allergies, and avoid all candy and artificial colors or flavors. (They are not allowed on campus). Almonds, Brazil nuts, pecans and macadamia nuts are ok.
- ✓ Limit all screen time to 1 hour a day
- ✓ Avoid all devices, including educational games.

Arrival and Dismissal

We have dismissal down to 7 minutes last year and will start off just as efficient this year as well! Though we expanded over the summer again this year in the most wonderful way, we will be improving drop off and pick up ever so slightly. Arrival and dismissal will continue to be at the South gate. Please follow the circle with your car and be sure to form two lanes.

Please remain in your car at both drop off and pick up and promptly pull away as soon as your child has left your car so that the car line can move along quickly.

If your child is arriving late or leaving early, please notify me via text when you arrive and we will open the gate.

If there is a change as to who is picking up your child that is not part of the normal routine, please send a text letting me know the details.

Arrival:

We will open the gate at 8:50am in the morning and begin our day at 9am. One of the educators will open the door to greet your child and welcome them onto the campus. We usually close the gates around 9:10am, as we know the mornings can be a challenge sometimes. We often have meetings in the morning to prepare for the day, so please wait until the gate is opened and the Educator is there to greet your child and welcome them through the gate.

Dismissal:

Dismissal will be promptly at 3pm. Please pull all the way up on the circle to the first cone, forming two lanes, and an Educator will bring your Learner to your car. We should be able to get 6-8 cars up by the gates at a time and we have enough Educators to walk each Learner to the car. We ask that you wait until you are given the "all clear" to leave the circle so that we ensure there are no Learners or Educators walking in the lanes. Learners will wait inside of the gate until they are brought to your car.

Communication Guidelines

We are so excited to begin this school year together! Open communication is very important to us, and we want to make sure you always know the best way to reach us. At the same time, our priority during the school day is to be fully present with the Learners. To help us balance both, we've outlined some simple guidelines for contacting us.

Please see the Contact Information page a list of emails.

The Magnolia Schoolhouse Outgoing Emergency Contact Phone

We have a dedicated cell phone for our Educational Guides to use in case of an urgent situation regarding your child. Please save this number in your phone and give it a distinctive ringtone so you recognize it immediately:

772.269.5057

Important notes:

- This phone is for outgoing calls/texts only.
- If you see this number, please answer promptly — it means we need to reach you right away.
- This phone will not be answered unless it is a return call. Please do not use this number for general communication, there will be no response.

For all non-emergency communication, please continue to use email or speak with your child's educator during regular school hours.

If you need to reach us immediately during the day, you may text my cell:

772.269-1050. (Text only)

Please save this number for emergencies only. Text is best, as I am often with the Learners and cannot answer calls. If a phone conversation is needed, I will step aside to call you back or schedule a time to connect.

Examples of urgent matters include:

- Picking up your child early and needing them brought to the gate at a specific time.
 - A last-minute change in pick-up (please provide the new person's name and description).
 - An accident, delay, or family emergency impacting pick-up.
 - You're at the locked gate and need entry.
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All Other Communication - Please Use Email

For everything else, please use email. This allows us to give thoughtful attention to your message without taking time away from the Learners during the day. We check emails each morning before 8:30am and will follow up by phone or in person if needed. Examples of what belongs in email include:

- Absences (for any reason: illness, day trips, vacation, etc.). No explanation is required, but advance notice helps us plan for the day.
- Sharing ideas, resources, or opportunities for the Learners.
- Interest in visiting or presenting to the Learners.
- Concerns about conflicts between children (with details to help us address the matter).

Please remember — all of our Learners are children still developing compassion, kindness, and communication skills. We approach conflicts as opportunities to guide, not to label or blame. Calm, detailed emails help us turn challenges into meaningful teaching moments.

In-Person Conversations

We greet parents and learners each morning and afternoon during arrival and dismissal. Brief, important messages can be shared at these times. If a matter requires more in-depth discussion, we are happy to schedule a phone call or a dedicated in-person meeting at a time that works best for everyone involved.

Thank you for partnering with us in creating clear, healthy communication boundaries that allow us to focus fully on your child's learning experience.

Availability & Boundaries

We love supporting our families and know that questions sometimes arise outside of program hours. We also love just talking to you and getting to know you. But there are only so many hours in one day, so to keep a healthy balance, please note:

- **Availability:** Monday-Thursdays, 8:00am-4:00pm
- **Email:** Send us an email anytime, but know that messages sent outside our availability hours will be answered on the next program day.
- **Texts:** Reserved for urgent, during-the-day matters only.

For the sake of my family time, rest, and preparation for the next day, please do not send school related text messages after hours. I will not check or respond to school-related messages in the evenings or on weekends, and would appreciate you sending messages after hours via email. Thank you for respecting this boundary—it helps me stay at my best for your children and our whole program.



The Magnolia Schoolhouse

Educator Contact Information

Adam Conard (Art Education Guide)..... Adam@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Ashley Conard (Director of Development)..... AshleyC@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Ashley Reyes (Lower Elementary Guide)..... Ashley@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Deyaneira Colon-Lopez (Upper Elementary Guide)..... Deyaneira@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Edward Turkasz (Upper Elementary Guide)..... Ed@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Gerald Roy (Upper Elementary Guide)..... Grldroy@aol.com
Heather Reeb (Reading Tutor)..... Heather_reeb@me.com
Jazmin Leferva (Spanish Guide)..... Jazmin@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Jonathan Brackett (Chess Coach)..... Jonpessant@gmail.com
Mary Brough (Upper Elementary Guide)..... Mary@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Meridith Nemiskal (Director of Enrichment)..... Meridith@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Randi Murdough (Lower EL. Support Guide & Lunch Coach)... Randi@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Regina Wells (Lower Elementary Guide)..... Gina@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Sandy Hamrick (Primary Guide)..... Sandy@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Sue Torrez (Chef/Nutrition Guide)..... Sue@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Tara Famularo-Del Bianco (Director & Founder) Tara@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com
Taylor Flinchum (Primary Guide)..... Taylor@themagnoliaschoolhouse.com

Dress Code

Dress Code- We ask that your Learner come to school each day with their hair and teeth brushed, dressed ready to learn and comply with the dress code. The goal is to keep a motivated and calm feeling, avoiding too many distractions. Often character clothing, bright/bold colors, sparkles or fancy clothing is a distraction from work, interrupts focus or an inhibition from engaging in certain activities, so we thank you in advance for avoiding them. We know that our clothing and accessories can be an expression of ourselves, and so we promise to create many other opportunities for that expression.

Please send in a complete change of clothing with your child on the first day of school. Please make sure EVERYTHING is labeled with your child's name.

Why a Dress Code?

- It makes mornings easier for families (no decision fatigue).
- It prevents distractions and allows for messy, creative work.
- It fosters a sense of unity and teamwork.
- It keeps our classroom calm, grounded, and visually cohesive.
- It looks great in daily photos we use for newsletters and social media.

Tops:

- Olive Green (aka: military green) school shirt (required — please order at least one for each child to wear on the first day)
- Optional: additional school shirts in black or white
- Also acceptable: plain (no writing or logos) black or white T-shirts
- More school shirt options will be available in the near future...

Bottoms:

- Solid, muted shorts, pants, or skorts in neutral or muted tones
- No bright colors, logos, characters, pictures or busy patterns

Shoes:

- Sneakers and socks only — all day, every day
- If your child cannot yet tie shoes, please send Velcro sneakers- it allows for independence. We can work on tying shoe laces in other ways.
- Also please avoid high top sneakers or other shoes that are too complex for them to take on and off throughout the day. Our younger Learners take their shoes off when they go onto the carpet, so it is important that they can maintain that independence.
- No Crocs, sandals, or flip-flops needed or allowed this year

Outerwear:

- Solid black, white, sage or olive green sweatshirts/jackets
- Small logos are okay; large images, writing, pictures or characters are not

If you purchased last year's navy sweatshirts or gray fleece, we'll have patches available to update them with the new logo — no need to worry. I'll let you know when to send them in for sewing on the new logo, and then you are welcome to use them!

Please Avoid:

- Clothing with characters, slogans, large logos, or bright patterns
- Hats, sunglasses, watches, jewelry and accessories or unnatural hair coloring and/or extensions- they all become distractions and often get lost, traded or broken during our time together.

Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation — your support truly helps keep our days flowing smoothly.

“Any child who is self-sufficient , who can ties his shoes, dress or undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity which is derived from a sense of independence.”- Maria Montessori

Progress and Partnership

We have truly reflected upon how we can work together on your child's learning journey, and we have wracked our brains as to how we can best partner with you with our unique program. We have come up with a few ways that we believe will help for you to have a clear picture of what we do and how things are progressing, both for the program as a whole, and with your amazing Learner.

Weekly Updates and Reflections:

We are switching it up this year! You will still receive a brief weekly newsletter, which we are now calling our Weekly Updates, and this year it will be a schoolwide email so you can see what everyone is doing! It will contain a brief summary of the week's events, as well as important information of upcoming events and dates and any changes to policy or plans. However, rather than including pictures in the newsletter, we will be setting up a shared document that will contain numerous pictures taken by all of the Educator Guides on campus during the week! They will be organized by week and allow for a bigger look at the fun your children are having during the time they are with us. We will do our best to keep our newsletters succinct, but we ask that you take a moment to review them so that we can convey any important information to you in them.

We always want to share so much with you, so to satisfy that urge, we will be writing a monthly Reflection that will be posted to the website as a blog. An email with a link will be sent out once it is completed each month. It is there that you can read about the details of what we did and why, as well as some other philosophies we like to share. And, you can share that with your family and friends who might want to know more about what we are doing!

Quarterly Reports:

You will receive four reports this year that will focus solely on your Learner. These will be personal status reports on how each child is doing in all of the topics we are covering, as well as how they are adjusting socially and emotionally. We will also be offering suggestions for any additional supports that might be needed to help them adjust or to meet the goals you are hoping for them to achieve, if needed. The reports will go out at the end of October, January, March and May, and hope they provide some context and connection to your Learner's experience with us.

Conferences:

Please check the calendar for the specific dates set aside for our conferences. An email with a google sign-up sheet will be sent out about a month before for you to select your time for a conference.

Primary Learner will have one conference, and it will be held in January with your child's Educational Guides. Learners are welcome to attend this conference alongside their Parents. If a conference is needed sooner, Ms. Sandy or Ms. Taylor will reach out to schedule one with you.

Elementary Learners will have two conferences, one in November that will be Parent only, and the other in May that will be Learner led and include your child.

November:

We are offering a few more date and time options for our November conferences as we understand that a number of our families travel for Thanksgiving. Remember, these are Adult only conferences, so please be sure to make arrangements for child care as we will not have someone who can watch them at the school. It is at this conference that we will discuss and map out a plan together about your Learner based on the goals you referenced on the Parent Orientation Questionnaire.

May:

The Learner led conference in May are an opportunity for your child to show you their portfolio and talk about the many things they did during the year. There is no school on the days we have these conferences, but your child will be attending and actually hosting the conference with you. We truly love these conferences and your Learners look forward to them as well. Be sure to keep an eye out for the email a month before to select your time, and reach out to us if you did not receive it.

Portfolios:

For our Elementary Learners, we are keeping portfolios this year for each Learner, and your Elementary Learner will be an active participant in those portfolios. They will contain their most beautiful works from each month, along with pictures that capture them in action. The portfolios will be handed out at the Learner led conferences in May. This will be a wonderful form of project based learning that will allow them to learn many organization and executive functioning skills. They will also be a beautiful things to show off to their family members that they can be proud of.

Food Policy

We are really proud of our food policy, as we know it truly fuels your child, and helps them to be healthy as their bodies and brains are growing and developing. We truly want them to have a love of natural foods, a respect of a homecooked meal, and give them an ability to care for themselves by learning about and focusing on how nutrition is the recipe for a healthy life.

Food Policy – Please send your child in with a healthy snack and lunch every day. **Please make sure they are free from peanuts, hazelnuts, pistachios and walnuts.** We have several learners with very severe allergies (including contact based) and it is essential that our little ones do not have to worry about their health when they are with us. Please keep that in mind as you prepare and plan lunches.

We will not be able to refrigerate or heat up any snacks or lunches, so please plan accordingly.

For both snack and lunch, please do not send in any sugary foods, candy or treats for snack or for lunch. We will just ask them to save it for the way home with you. Candy, artificial dyes and flavors are banned from campus. They change their behavior and ability to focus on every child. A very big part of our program is about encouraging healthy eating habits that feed both the brain and the body! Besides the obvious health and well-being of your child, we also have Learners with food dye sensitivities, and sometimes our Learners like to share their food. So, we insist on all candy, sugary foods and foods with artificial colors and flavors do not enter our school.

We know that this can feel a bit overwhelming, and so to stick with our no stress policy, we have provided some ideas on what you can possibly send your child in with to lunch.

Starting in October, Pizza will be ordered on Mondays for the kiddos and a GF and vegan pasta will be available for those who need. Those working with Chef Sue can have their lunch with her as well, if they want. **Prior to October 6th**, please send in lunch with your child on Mondays we well.

If your child has serious food restrictions, please continue to send them in with food on Mondays. We do our very best to accommodate all dietary restrictions, but sometimes plans change or illness happens and we can only order pizza, and we do not want those who have to be restricted to not have a full meal.

Thank you in advance for supporting your child and making sure they are well fed with healthy foods. That helps them to be their best every day. Let's make homemade food the new and exciting normal! We do a lot of food things here to support that joy, and are grateful to be on the same team with you.

Snack and Lunch Ideas

At the core of our program is our focus on the health and well-being of each Learner we have the privilege of working with. Nutrition can make or break your child's day, as they will struggle to focus or regulate if they are hungry or ingesting sugary or processed foods. To make the best of each day we have together, we ask that you send in your child with a full lunch and healthy snack, being sure to include healthy fats and protein to sustain them throughout the day. We understand that this can be a challenge in today's food landscape, so we've created a list of healthy, whole-food snack and lunch ideas to help support you in this effort.

Please Note: We must avoid peanuts, pistachios, hazelnuts, walnuts, artificial colors and flavors, and candy in all snacks and lunches.

Snack Ideas

- 1) Fresh fruit slices (apples, pears, mango, watermelon, kiwi, etc.)
- 2) Berries (strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries)
- 3) Sliced cucumbers with hummus
- 4) Carrot and celery sticks with sunflower seed butter
- 5) Cherry tomatoes and mozzarella with basil and olive oil drizzle
- 6) Avocado on whole grain crackers (cut avocado with a ceramic blade to avoid browning)
- 7) Banana and/or apples with almond butter
- 8) Homemade trail mix (seeds, coconut flakes, dried fruit — no peanuts, pistachios, hazelnuts, or walnuts)
- 9) Chia pudding with coconut milk and fresh fruit
- 10) Greek yogurt (unsweetened) with cinnamon and fruit
- 11) Boiled eggs with sea salt
- 12) Homemade energy balls (dates, oats, seed butter, cocoa powder)
- 13) Apple slices with cinnamon and pumpkin or sunflower seeds
- 14) Dehydrated veggie chips (kale, zucchini, beet)
- 15) Roasted chickpeas with spices
- 16) Homemade applesauce
- 17) Nut- or seed-based bars with clean ingredients (excluding peanuts, pistachios, hazelnuts, walnuts)
- 18) Organic popcorn with olive oil and herbs
- 19) Olives and pickled vegetables
- 20) Cucumber boats filled with tuna or egg salad
- 21) Sliced turkey or chicken roll-ups with avocado
- 22) Beef jerky (grass-fed, no added sugar or preservatives)
- 23) Mini meatballs with dipping sauce (homemade and baked)
- 24) Chicken drumettes (baked and seasoned)
- 25) Sliced hard cheese with nitrate-free salami
- 26) Cottage cheese with fruit or veggies
- 27) Sliced apples with tahini or seed butter
- 28) Small veggie-stuffed rice balls
- 29) Organic rice cakes with mashed avocado
- 30) Sliced bell peppers with tzatziki dip
- 31) Baked plantain chips
- 32) Grain-free seed crackers with hummus
- 33) Turkey meat sticks (nitrate-free)

- 34) Cucumber sushi rolls (with veggies and chicken)
 - 35) Baked egg muffins with vegetables and/or meat
 - 36) Seaweed
 - 37) Organic cheese sticks
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Lunch Ideas

- 1) Quinoa or brown rice bowl with beans, veggies, and avocado (optional chicken)
- 2) Whole grain or lettuce wrap with hummus, shredded veggies, and sprouts
- 3) Lentil soup with side of whole grain toast
- 4) Baked sweet potato with black beans, salsa, and cilantro
- 5) Zucchini noodles with pesto and cherry tomatoes
- 6) Chickpea salad with cucumbers, bell peppers, and lemon vinaigrette
- 7) Hard-boiled eggs, cucumber slices, and avocado toast
- 8) Rainbow veggie stir fry with choice of meat, tofu or tempeh
- 9) Baked falafel with tahini sauce and tabbouleh
- 10) Grilled veggie/meat skewers with brown rice
- 11) Organic whole grain or bean pasta with roasted vegetables and olive oil
- 12) Turkey or chicken lettuce cups with avocado and tomato
- 13) Mason jar layered salad (leafy greens, grains, protein, veggies)
- 14) Homemade veggie sushi rolls with avocado, carrots, and cucumber
- 15) Tomato and avocado salad with hemp seeds
- 16) Soup thermos with homemade vegetable or bone broth-based soup
- 17) Savory muffins with spinach, zucchini, and goat cheese
- 18) Mini veggie quiches with almond crust
- 19) Roasted vegetable wraps with hummus in whole grain tortilla
- 20) Mediterranean bowl with cucumbers, olives, quinoa, and lemon dressing
- 21) Grilled chicken breast with roasted sweet potatoes and greens
- 22) Tuna salad-stuffed avocados
- 23) Beef or turkey meatloaf slices with sautéed vegetables
- 24) Chicken and vegetable skewers with brown rice
- 25) Egg and sausage frittata muffins
- 26) Wild salmon cakes with mixed greens
- 27) Turkey meatballs with quinoa salad
- 28) Pasta salad with cherry tomatoes, cucumber, and olive oil
- 29) Chicken veggie stir-fry with cauliflower rice
- 30) Baked turkey and veggie patties with roasted carrots
- 31) Egg salad with whole grain crackers and snap peas
- 32) Baked stuffed bell peppers with ground turkey and rice
- 33) Cold lentil salad with diced vegetables
- 34) Grain-free veggie lasagna with zucchini slices
- 35) Lasagna with mini meatballs or veggie balls made from eggplant
- 36) Chicken salad wraps in collard green leaves
- 37) An amazing sandwich on organic bread (cheese, chicken cutlets, roast beef, hummus, almond butter/sun butter and jelly...the options are endless.)

Plants and Flowers

Plants:

Please have each Learner bring in a beautiful plant to decorate our new space on the first day of school, preferably in a nice pot with a tray on the bottom to catch the extra water. Feel free to bring in any size plant, including large floor plants and small succulents. Our goal is to surround them with beauty, and we would love for them to participate in decorating the space with their own choice of plant.

We also want them to learn how to care for their plant, so please take a moment to share with them how they should care for the plant they bring in. Remember, when picking a plant, choose something that will survive without water for the long weekend, or provide a way for it to have a drip water for the weekend it cannot be watered.

Thank you for helping to bring life to our campus, not only with your children, but with stunning botany samples as well!

Flowers:

When you walk through the rooms, you will notice fresh cut flowers everywhere. We want the children to be surrounded by beauty, and help them feel special. There is also an artistry to flower arranging, and we can use this as an opportunity to learn about each type of flower!

Each Learner will have the opportunity to be the Florist of the Week, and an google sign up sheet will be sent out in the near future. Please sign up for the week of your choice to send your child in with a large bouquet of one type of unique flowers.

Make sure your child knows the name of the flowers you are sending him or her in with as they will be learning and sharing information with the class about those flowers. They will even have the opportunity to dissect flowers to learn about their parts and how they function, as well as save some of the dried flowers to use for art projects. The whole life cycle of a flower is an amazing thing to witness!

Parent Involvement

We know that you have all chosen to homeschool your child because you want more involvement in your child's life, and you have come to The Magnolia Schoolhouse because you also know that group learning is what they need at this stage of their life. We want to provide an opportunity for you to be involved, if your schedule allows, and so we have created some volunteer committee opportunities for you to join if you want to. We will randomly select a leader for each committee that will coordinate your contact and bring all activities back to the Magnolia Schoolhouse team.

You are all incredibly talented, and so the more involvement we have from you, the more incredible our children's experiences will be! However, we know that you are busy and we ask that you only sign up if you can truly commit. Remember that there is a no stress, no gossip and no politics policy, and that must be respected during the times you are on our campus. (The no gossip policy, of course, extends beyond our campus, and we expect confidentiality to be respected while you might be on campus.)

Event Planning Committee (EPC):

This committee helps plan and coordinate our school-wide events throughout the year. These include our beloved Pop-Up Fair & Restaurant, our school dance, our holiday gathering, and walking in the Vero Beach Christmas Parade—along with any other joyful experiences we create as a community. Members are encouraged to meet on their own and coordinate with a staff liaison for logistics and support.

Educational Excursion Committee (EEC):

This group will fully plan and manage four inspiring educational excursions or field trips during the school year to unique locations that align with our curriculum. These experiences will take place either after school hours, on Fridays or on the weekends, so as not to interrupt our daily program, but instead to enrich it. This team is responsible for all outreach, parent coordination, and fee collection, and will meet independently while checking in with a Magnolia team member to ensure each trip aligns with our educational goals.

Support & Sustain Committee (SSC):

This dynamic fundraising and outreach committee is dedicated to helping us reach our long-term vision of purchasing land and building a permanent campus. In partnership with The Magnolia Schoolhouse team, this group will dream big—coordinating major fundraising events and conducting community outreach for donations. Fundraising efforts must be aligned with the values of The House of Natural Living and The Magnolia Schoolhouse. This team will plan and meet independently and regularly check in to collaborate, present proposals, and receive support from our staff.

"Crafternoon" Planning Committee (CPC):

This fun committee will be in charge of hosting a monthly afternoon of craft making that coordinates with our curriculum topics. Crafts must be of high quality that they children can either proudly display in their homes or sell at our markets as a way to fundraise for our program. The more creative, the better! You can assign a craft to each Educator Guide to monitor, and are responsible for bringing everything that is needed for the crafts. You will be given a budget by the director and reimbursed by The Magnolia Schoolhouse for your planned crafts.

Activities

As expected, The Magnolia Schoolhouse has some big things planned for this year, and we could not be more excited about it! Here is a brief preview of the bigger things we are looking forward to:

The HNL Market- This will be a great opportunity for your older Learner to have some real job experience. We are not only going to have products that the Learners made, but also the Parents and some members of the community. Our older Learners who want to apply to work at the market should create a resume, fill out a job application, and go for a job interview. If hired, they will get shift hours they are expected to work.

The Community Markets- we will be doing some markets in the community around the holidays. We will reach out when they are planned to give your Learner an opportunity to sign up to work it, or to come visit us! Working the community markets are hectic and we will invite the Learners who are ready to handle the demands of the job.

ETSY Store- We will be working on perfecting a few items of quality that the kids can make and sell on ETSY as well as the HNL Market. It will function as both a fundraising opportunity as well as an opportunity to learn how to run a business.

Talent Show- I am personally very excited about this! Our Learners are VERY talented, and their talents can range from performing arts, musical instruments, fine arts, culinary arts, construction and engineering... all talents are welcome to be displayed at our Talent Show! We will send out a sign-up sheet before the Thanksgiving break, which will give our Learners an opportunity to think about what they may want to do and if they want to partner with another Learner. We will host weekly practices during lunch for those who will be performing something starting in January until our Talent Show on the last week of school!

Invention Fair- It was a great success last year and we are going to do it again! Teams will be formed in October and our inventions will be displayed at the end of April. More information will be sent home once we select the teams.

The Magnolia Seasons Book- Similar to a year book, but our own take on it. Our resident photographer, Denise Cardo, (Gisele and Lucas's mom) wants to assist with this and will be taking pictures at our events for the Learners to use, as well as our own photos. We welcome any pictures sent to us from any field trips and group gatherings that happen off campus!

Pop Up Events- The Renaissance Faire and Mother's Day Tea party were amazing last year! We will be planning more events this year for all of us to enjoy!

Workshops- In addition to our program workshops during the school days, some amazing community members will be hosting some afterschool workshops and our Friday workshops again! These afterschool and Friday classes are for our elementary and middle school Learners who are independent and ready for more. There are a few flyers in your folder for some that are already prepared, and more information will be sent out on the upcoming ones where the details are still being worked out. You have flyers for our herbalism class, chess club, piano lessons and crafting class! You will be receiving information on Mr. Adam's Friday life skills class from 11am-12:30pm (just one class this year), and Ms. Britta will be hosting an origami class! Ms. Dey's drama club will return once the year gets started, and will be held directly after school.

Medication and Sick Policy

Medication:

We will not administer any medication, including over the counter medication. If your child needs medication to treat symptoms of a cold or illness, please keep them home. If your child needs medication that is given on a consistent basis for a specific condition, or requires medication that is for a specific situation rather than a consistent basis, please let us know so that we can arrange a schedule to have you come on campus and administer their medication.

Sick policy:

As a parent, you know if your child should be home resting if they are not feeling well. Please keep your child home if they have a cold, fever, stomach issues or a severe symptom showing illness. Providing medication to reduce a fever or mask illness is not a means of sending your child to our program. Children who are not feeling well and/or have symptoms of illness need to rest and stay home. For the consideration of everyone, including and especially your child, please make sure they are feeling truly better before returning to the program. Remember, you are homeschooling your child and know that if your child is not well, they need to rest. If your child becomes unwell well during their time with us, we will call you to come pick up your child. Should we not be able to reach you, we will call your emergency contact to pick up your child.

Discipline Policy

Discipline Policy: A Framework of Respect, Growth, and Restoration. Discipline is a training, not a punishment, and our goal is help develop a fully self-disciplined individual. This takes practice and experience.

At The Magnolia Schoolhouse, we approach discipline as a sacred opportunity for learning—not punishment. Our philosophy is rooted in the understanding that children are still developing emotionally, socially, and neurologically. We do not disparage or villainize children in any capacity. Instead, we recognize that mistakes are part of growth, and we respond with proactive guidance, compassion, and clarity.

Developmental Understanding

Children are still learning:

- Impulse control and emotional regulation
- How to express needs and navigate relationships
- The language of kindness, confidence, and respect

We teach these skills intentionally, using grace and courtesy lessons, roleplay, and restorative conversations. Our goal is to build confidence balanced with empathy—not perfection.

Defining Bullying

We take bullying seriously and define it as:

Repeated, intentional behavior that causes physical, emotional, or psychological harm to a targeted individual, involving a power imbalance—whether physical, social, or psychological.

This is distinct from typical childhood conflict, which is often mutual, situational, and developmentally expected.

Normal Childhood Conflict

Examples of developmentally typical conflict include:

- Poking or playful physical contact
- Name-calling or unfiltered/unkind comments or remarks
- Exclusion during play or work
- Arguing over materials or turns
- Bossiness or assertiveness
- Shifting friendships or “friend drama”

These behaviors occur in all social environments and are used as learning opportunities. We address them immediately and appropriately, guiding children toward better ways of interacting.

Our Dual Approach

We support children in:

- Learning respectful self-expression
- Gaining confidence to choose different friends or activities when needed
- Practicing empathy even in the absence of friendship

We use roleplay to model healthy conflict resolution and provide a safe, private space for children to speak honestly—without fear of punishment. We emphasize that they are not “in trouble,” but rather being guided toward understanding and growth. Because these interactions are common, age-appropriate, and part of the learning environment, we do not notify parents unless our methods are unsuccessful in helping a child adjust their behavior.

If your child expressing struggles with normal childhood conflicts, as stated above, please try the same techniques at home with your child to help them navigate these challenges and gain confidence.

When Parents Are Notified

If a more serious behavioral matter arises, families will be contacted. Depending on the nature and urgency of the incident, communication may take the form of:

- An immediate phone call
- An end-of-day email
- A scheduled conference

We maintain confidentiality at all times. Your child’s name will not be disclosed to other families, and likewise, we will not share another child’s identity when discussing incidents with you.

Severe Disruptions

While we are committed to social and emotional learning, we are not equipped to manage severe discipline issues. If a child exhibits behavior that:

- Puts others at risk of harm
- Significantly disrupts the learning environment

...we will require that the child be picked up immediately. If this occurs more than once, appropriate therapeutic support may be necessary before the child can return to our program.

Closing Reflection

Discipline at The Magnolia Schoolhouse is not about control—it is about connection, restoration, and growth. We honor each child’s journey and partner with families to create a community where respect is practiced, not presumed, and children learn from their conflict, rather than avoid it.

There are a number of quotes from Maria Montessori from several of her books on discipline, and we thought that sharing some might help clarify what is normal and healthy for children to experience:

" Discipline must come through liberty. . . . We do not consider an individual disciplined only when he has been rendered as artificially silent as a mute and as immovable as a paralytic. He is an individual annihilated, not disciplined. Social grace, inner discipline and joy."

"We have a concept of discipline very different from that commonly accepted."

"Since the child now learns to move rather than to sit still, he prepares himself not for the school, but for life."

"There is one thing [the guide] must never do and that is, to interfere by praising a child's work, or punishing him if it is wrong, or even by correcting his mistakes."

"The undisciplined child enters into discipline by working in the company of others; not by being told that he is naughty...Improvement and rectification can only come about when the child practices voluntarily for a long time."

"Many errors correct themselves as we go through life."

"The children must be free to choose their own occupations, just as they must never be interrupted in their spontaneous activities. No work may be imposed -- no threats, no rewards, no punishments."

"This is the period in which discipline becomes established: a form of active peace, of obedience and love, when work is perfected and multiplied, just as when the flowers in the spring get their colors and prepare a distant harvest of sweet and nourishing fruit."

Calendar and Closings

As we are not a school, we do not follow the Florida School Calendar, but rather we follow our own Magnolia Schoolhouse calendar. A list of our scheduled holiday closings are included in this folder. However, in the event of inclement weather, we will be following the direction of the local School District, as these closings are determined with travel considerations, including road and bridge closures. If our local school district closes the schools for a hurricane or other inclement weather, we will also be closed. In the event we have a special event scheduled for such a day, that event will also be cancelled and rescheduled for the earliest possible date, if possible.

Water Bottles

We have provided new water bottles again this year, and I must say, they are adorable! These stainless-steel water bottles will be left at The Magnolia Schoolhouse for the entire school year. We have a reverse osmosis water filter for the Learners to refill it during the week, as well as a sink for them to wash them at. Water bottles will always be in their cubbies for when they are thirsty. If your child needs a new water bottle because they lost or damaged theirs, there will be a \$20 charge for a new one. We have extra for sale in our market if you want one for home!

Toy Policy

Please keep all toys, cards, games, trinkets and stuffed animals at home. Every little thing is a distraction or becomes a matter that needs unnecessary tending to for both your Learner and the other Learners in our community, as well as for the Educational Guides; therefore, they are prohibited. Thank you for respecting this rule and double checking your Learner's lunch bag.

Screen Time

Television, iPads, video games, devises, virtual reality goggles, phones, Nintendo switches, x-box, ... they all cause the same damage to our children's developing brains. They change a child's ability to focus, and they take away the magic from the simpler and real things in life. It dysregulates their ability to control their thoughts, actions and words, and takes them away from experiences that are necessary for their development. It also creates an addiction as the screens create a dopamine release that cannot be met by normal means, and children often become dysregulated when they are detoxing from screens.

We ask that you limit screen time to no more than an hour a day, and that the screen time you choose for them is beneficial to their well-being. Make sure the program they are watching is calm, slow moving, relaxing, and the scene changes are slow and continuous. (Think Mr. Rodgers.) It truly makes a difference as to how they learn, how they self-regulate, how they engage with one another and the topics they choose to discuss.

Imagine a community where our children come to school and talk about how they built a massive sand castle, learned how to care for chickens or cross the monkey bars without letting go or discovered a new hiking path in the area, rather than talk about some form of violence on a video game, a scary movie they saw, or mimicked something mean that iCarly said. This may be a struggle at first, but it will be one that pays off more than you can imagine! I promise!

Birthdays

We love birthdays! But we do not love sugar. There is truly always an excuse to eat it, and we are going to do all that we can to avoid it at The Magnolia Schoolhouse. On the same note, we want to celebrate our Learners and have them feel extra special on their birthday. We ask that, if you want to celebrate their birthday at school, please bring in their favorite fruit(s) to share with their class. You can bring it in at drop off and the Educational Guides will share it with the Learners. This was very successful last year, and there was never one piece of fruit left over. It was amazing!

On their birthday, they are also welcome to bring in something for show and tell that is personal to them. It will be a day that we all get an opportunity to know a bit more about them on their special day and let them take the stage for the day.