

**CORAL REEF MONTESSORI ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**10853 SOUTH WEST 216 STREET**  
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**General Issues**

The following are the responses to the areas of concern that were brought to the attention of the Administration. These concerns were discussed amongst Staff and the Administration.

1. **Safety:** We are expecting to hire eight people for after care next year. Our school is fenced in. There will be new procedures regarding visitors. After morning drop off at 8:30AM, anyone arriving at this time or later will have to report directly to the office for a colored visitor's pass. This pass will be worn around the neck in a bright color so that it is visible to the teachers. No one will be permitted into the classrooms without the colored visitor's pass. There will also be a sign in sheet for all visitors.

2. **Cleanliness:** We are encouraging the students as part of Montessori to keep their environment clean. We are encouraging the teachers to reduce the clutter in the classrooms. With larger rooms and minimal storage space, we are hoping that classrooms will be cleaner and more orderly. We have hired new personal to deal with the maintenance of the school. One person will clean all the bathrooms while the other person will do the general vacuuming, dusting, and cleaning of the walls and outdoor grounds. We have received positive feedback from the staff concerning the two new maintenance people.

3. **Behavior/Conflict:** We agree that a lot of conflicts in the classrooms are due to space issues. However, we also feel that behavioral issues could be minimized if the following steps were taken:

- Parents should make sure their children get to bed on time.
- Parents should not wait until a child is in a crisis to take him/her to counseling. Any child experiencing difficulties in the class should seek outside counseling.
- Parents should not wait until there is a crisis, if their child is showing signs of Attention Deficit Disorder/Hyperactivity. This type of testing is **not** done with in DCPS. This must be done privately.
- Parents or psychologists should consult with teachers before terminating "therapy".
- Parents should be very careful about how they talk to their children and what they say in front of them.
- Some Parents of children who are having discipline, and social problems are in "denial" and do not support the teachers and or administration nor do they help the child "own" his or her behavior; this makes our job very difficult.
- Parents must realize that there are a lot of factors involved when dealing with conflict. We are using the "conflict resolution teaching peace" model in our classrooms. Parents may assume that conflicts are one sided, but they are multidimensional and each student and her individual circumstances is taken into account when deciding on a particular consequence. For example: if the student has experienced a particular trauma, parent divorce, molestation or physical abuse, we take these experiences into consideration. However, we are not at liberty to discuss these matters with other parents.
- Having a counselor at this time is not within the budget constraints. However, many of our students are under the care of a professional psychologist. Although we do not have a full time counselor on staff, we are anticipating the return of a MDCPS psychologist who will be assigned to our school. We also work with outside agencies such as, Children's' Psychiatric Center and Family Counseling Services. In addition, we have

completed our 1<sup>st</sup> of a 3 year partnership with the Elijah Project, implementing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program.

There is a trend in our country that more and more students are being identified as having ADDHD, sensory integration, Autism, Aspersers and emotional and learning problems. Unfortunately, this is a national trend. Please look at the Internet for more information.

Many of Children with these special needs at a regular public school would have been overlooked. People come to Charter Schools for alternatives. There is a difference between inabilities to behave appropriately and one who willingly disregards the rules. Those children who have the inability due to physical, emotional, neurological or psychological needs have to be addressed in a different manor that takes much longer and more outside resources. Any parent of children who fall into these categories of special circumstances, who refuses to follow the school's recommendation, will also be asked not to return.

Here are some additional recommendations the CRMA Staff has made to our Parent Body:

- Educate yourselves more on Montessori philosophy.
- Do not push your child. If you over load them with work at home, they will not want to come to school to work.
- Do not compare your child with others.
- Do not discuss issues that are not your concern, for example other students, teacher's salaries, teacher's future employment goals. We feel these are inappropriate issues that should not be brought up.
- **Do not discipline children that are not yours. The teachers and administration will handle these issues.**
- Do not tell your child to hit another child in retaliation.
- Do not discuss concerns with other parents or teachers about the administration. Go directly to the administration with your concerns. Many teachers and parents express that they are very uncomfortable when parents start criticizing administration to them at social gatherings.
- Do not start rumors or support them, (do not make assumptions, go directly to the source).
- Be more proactive rather than reactive
- The core support of our school is the PTA Board; if they are negative, it sets the tone for the school and lowers morale.
- **Keep the lines of communication open! Do not hold in your feelings, if something bothers you. We need to know how you feel; otherwise, we cannot find solutions.**
- **Parents, please remember this is a school of choice.**