



# Darchei Noam

## MONTESSORI

*A division of The Center for Innovative Jewish Learning*

**Family Handbook  
Elementary Division  
2018-2019/ 5778-5779**

## **Welcome to Darchei Noam Montessori!**

*Darchei Noam Montessori offers a safe & happy Torah-centered environment where every child succeeds at their own pace, instilling a life-long love of learning. We are a Torah school that uses integrated learning to create genuine, internalized Yiddishkeit.*

Our classrooms are designed to be warm, welcoming and exciting spaces that are comfortable places for growth and development. They are a place that the children can feel belongs to them. In this arrangement, they will learn the concepts of sharing, building friendships, respect and self confidence in a strong and yet natural way. As a parent of a Darchei Noam student, you have the assurance that your child is in an environment full of love, safety, Torah, and positive energy.

Through use of the many materials children are able to build confidence, independence and a healthy self-motivation that is vital to learn and grow. Throughout the day children are met with realistic challenges that encourage thought, problem solving, social interaction and growth.

The Morah or Rebbe in the room stand more in a role of facilitator or director; gently guiding each child on the path in which they are comfortable.

Our vision is to create a community within the room amongst the facilitators and children, developing a sense of respect and responsibility. With this in place and continuing to grow, children can flourish as they find a place for themselves in this world in a way that is comfortable and nurturing. Utilizing these “community skills”, our children can directly change the world as they emerge with these qualities to build communities around the globe.

We are proud to be in our AMS accreditation process. This program helps us to stay connected to our State resources and requirements as well as to uphold to all Montessori requirements as outlined by MACTE. This will include upkeep with our curriculum, continuing teacher education and many other wonderful perks.

### **Curriculum**

The children are introduced to a broad curriculum through interactive, hands-on materials. Children are free to nurture their innate curiosity about the world while mastering the skills and lessons needed as a foundation for their future learning. The classrooms are alive with opportunities for children to develop their Tefilla, Chumash skills and knowledge, Hilchos Shabbos and Yom Tov, Hebrew and English reading fluency and accuracy, Mathematics, development of the senses, daily living skills, Geography, Art Explorations and the various areas of Science studies. In addition, the weekly Parsha and Yomim Tovim are introduced and experienced through classroom meetings, group lessons and activities all rich, interactive and with multi-sensory learning.

## Ages

Our Lower Elementary Program is designed to serve children from six to nine years and the Upper Elementary Program serves children ages nine to twelve years. Following the deadlines of the Maryland State Department of Education the deadline for children turning six years is September first. Please understand that all children entering the program will attend an interview and orientation to determine if this program is the right fit for them.

## Hours of Operation

Darchei Noam is open Monday through Friday.

### Arrival

Elementary Division arrival ~ 8:25-8:35 am

*Early arrival begins at 8:00am and is billed at \$12/day. Please contact the school office for discounted monthly and annual rates.*

### Dismissal

Elementary Division dismissal ~ 3:45 pm  
*Late stay is available until 4:30 pm and is billed at \$12/day. Please contact the school office for discounted monthly and annual rates.*

Elementary Friday dismissal~ 1:00 pm.

Early drop off and late stay is available with a minimum of 24 hours' notice. Any changes in carpool drivers should be arranged by written note in advance (please email [office@darcheinoammontessori.com](mailto:office@darcheinoammontessori.com)). Identification will be requested for a pre-arranged new driver pickup. We understand that emergencies arise and there are times when you may not be able to make it to carpool at the designated time. If you are not able to let us know in advance, we will be happy to accommodate your child. **Please understand that if this occurs more than once, you will be billed; ten dollars for the first ten minutes and two dollars a minute thereafter.**

In the case of an emergency school closure, you will get an email or text via our school communication system, Remini. Please comment that you have received the message

## Tuition

Non-refundable enrollment and materials fee	\$180.00
Returning students non-refundable enrollment and materials fee	\$160.00
Tuition Fees	
Lower Elementary Division	\$8,000.00
Upper Elementary Division	\$10,000.00

## Rates & Withdrawals

Tuition fees are set as an annual fee. Payment plans are available with annual and monthly options. Pro-rated tuition plans are not available. If, due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. a move), you need to withdraw your child from Darchei Noam Montessori, you are responsible for paying tuition until Darchei Noam is able to recruit a child to take his/her place.

## Classroom Observation

All parents are invited and encouraged to come visit our classrooms and observe throughout the day. Please utilize the sign-up link, available after our first parent-teacher conference to set up your observation. Observations are 20 minutes long. Upon arrival a teacher will help you to find a place to sit to observe. Please understand that this time is not a time to get involved in the children or their activities. There will be a short questionnaire for you to fill in to help us understand what it is that you have observed. You can schedule a post-observation conversation with your child's teacher to review what you saw and ask questions. Please save any questions or comments for this time.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

There will be two conference dates scheduled on the calendar. You will be able to make an appointment with your child's teacher online up to 24 hours prior to the conference dates. If you are unable to schedule through the online system, please call the school office to book an appointment.

Any questions or concerns about your child or the program should be brought to the teacher's attention immediately. Our goal is to work as a team and create an environment in which your child is safe and happy. Please understand that we may not be able to make some changes that you might feel necessary. We are, however, dedicated to working together so that you can understand our policies and feel comfortable.

## **Discipline Philosophy**

Our goal is to help the children to create a sense of inner discipline as they learn their role as a ben/bas melech. Throughout the classroom and curriculum this is one of the main focal points. Through usage of the materials in the room as well as the overall design of the school, children continually find themselves in situations that demand their genuine concentration and thinking skills. Whether positive or negative, the simple idea of 'natural consequences' is apparent to the child and never comes as a surprise. This helps the children to not only feel comfortable and safe but it also creates an environment of clear understanding of the expectations of everyone involved. When a child is familiar with this setup he/she begins to develop a deep sense of inner discipline, knowing and understanding the ideas of respect; for one's self, parents, teachers, peers and the world at large.

## **Field Trips and Going Out**

At Darchei Noam we are dedicated to creating an environment that is both rich and living. We like to add to our classroom environment by venturing out and taking trips as a class. Notices will be sent home or provided online well in advance of any such trips as well as permission slips that need to be filled out and sent in so your child can participate.

Throughout the year, the Upper Elementary Division will go out for activities designed to further enhance their learning as they bring their learning to the broader world. The idea of 'going-out' allows students to exercise their planning, communication and exploration skills. Activities are planned by the students as they come upon learning experiences and seek further research.

Information in regard to leaving campus will always be communicated with parents well in advance and students will need a signed and dated permission slip in order to participate.

## **Lunch and Snacks**

Please send your child with a prepared lunch every day of school. Lunches should consist of a main dish (i.e. sandwich, yogurt, pizza, macaroni, fish) and some fresh fruits and vegetables. Please do not send packaged snacks (chips, Bissli, etc.), drinks or desserts. We work with the children to understand the mitzvah of taking good care of our bodies and therefore are careful to promote healthful eating.

Milk and water are available for students all throughout the day. Snacks are provided in the morning that include a serving of produce as well as a grain.

## **Dress Code**

At Darchei Noam, we strive to create a place of learning, growth and development with skills and tools for our children to take with them for life. Our Moros and Rabbeim have extensive curriculum material to offer a strong foundation for our children to feel that they are truly b'nei melech. In addition, our staff works tirelessly on self-development and personal growth through internal school programs to be able to stand as role models of Darchei Noam. We look forward to creating a Kiddush Hashem as our students wear our school uniforms with pride.

Any clothing or lunch boxes that are worn or brought into school should not have any form of TV or movie characters on them.

School uniforms are required for all students in the Elementary Division. Please use the link to order your child's uniform [www.frenchtoastschoolbox.com/schools/darchei-noam-montessori-QS5GLWQ](http://www.frenchtoastschoolbox.com/schools/darchei-noam-montessori-QS5GLWQ)

In creating a beautiful, clean and peaceful environment where independence is constantly available, we ask that you send in a pair of 'indoor shoes'. Upon arrival at school and throughout the day whenever an indoor/outdoor transition is made, the children will have the time to change their shoes. Please take the time to have your child help in choosing his/her special indoor shoes. These shoes will be worn for the bulk of the school day and should therefore be very comfortable for your child. Any soft soled, easy to put on and off shoe is suitable. Many children enjoy Crocs or slippers. If you choose to send in slippers, please be sure that your child can easily move around, sit and stand in them.

Backpacks are not necessary. Please send your child with a lunchbox only. When your child has more to bring home than will fit into his/her lunchbox, we will provide something that is comfortable.

## **Communication**

We look forward to regular and open communication. Please be sure you are signed up to Remini and expect to see regular contact from your child's Rebbe or Morah through this system. Weekly Reports will be coming home with your child in a folder or binder. The folder/binder should be sent back with your child each Monday.

## Contact Information

Our school office number

410~413~1426

Email

[admin@darcheinoammontessori.com](mailto:admin@darcheinoammontessori.com)

Online

[www.darcheinoammontessori.com](http://www.darcheinoammontessori.com)



### Handbook Signature Page

My child \_\_\_\_\_ will be in the \_\_\_\_\_  
Division for the 2018-2019 School Year.

I have read and reviewed the family handbook for the school year 2018-2019 and agree to  
adhere to the information shared.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for partnering with us for your child's chinuch!*