



2023-2024 School Year

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Amanda Livesay and I will be your child's teacher in the 6-9 Classroom. This is my fourteenth year here at Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf and I am so excited to see returning students and to welcome new friends. Before coming to Blossom, I lived in Jacksonville, where I attended the University of North Florida. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education: Deaf Studies and a Master's Degree in Special Education: Deaf Education. After graduating, while a substitute teacher for Duval County Public Schools, I had several opportunities to substitute in a Montessori elementary school. During this experience I developed an interest and respect for the Montessori philosophy. I am Montessori Certified in both lower elementary and upper elementary. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy observing caterpillars and butterflies in my butterfly garden, camping, and spending time with my family at the beach.

I look forward to working with your child this year to expand their knowledge and develop their interest in the areas of Mathematics, Culture/ History, Science, Language and Reading. Our days will begin *promptly at 8:30am*; however, students *not* enrolled in before care may enter the school starting at 8:20am. From 8:20am-8:45am, as students arrive, they will put away their backpacks and lunch boxes in their assigned locker, turn in any homework, and begin their morning work in a silent environment. The purpose of this silent morning work cycle is to give every child the chance to peacefully enter the classroom, get settled, and start their day on the right foot. At 8:45am we start with a daily class meeting. During this time, we will work on conversation skills by having open ended discussions, go over the calendar, and listen to any group announcements. From there students will begin to work on their individual contracts that have been designed to meet their individual needs and interests. The students will learn through independent work time and one-on-one or small group lessons. If desired, students will have the opportunity to enjoy a quick snack and drink, provided by you. When packing a snack please keep in mind Blossom's rules regarding a healthy morning snack. Also, please pack a snack that can be independently opened by your child(ren). For example, Mrs. Hampton and I will not be able to peel oranges or fill up water bottles. At noon, students will break for recess, followed by lunch. Upon returning to the classroom, students will have a quiet reading time and then will continue to work on their contracts during more uninterrupted work time. At 2:50 pm, students will begin returning all materials to their respective places to ensure a clean and orderly learning environment. Once completed, all students will engage in a closing meeting. Students will be *dismissed at 3:15pm sharp* via Blossom Staff or into the After Care Program *if enrolled*.

Homework will be assigned daily. It is important that students establish a homework routine in a quiet environment where they can focus fully on their work with minimal distraction. Homework is an essential part of the learning process, as it gives them the opportunity to reinforce skills learned and show independent abilities. Please keep in mind

while you are doing your back to school shopping that you will need some basic supplies at home for homework such as pencils, a pencil sharpener, crayons, scissors, and glue. While you are not required to check their homework for right or wrong answers, please check your child's homework every night to ensure completion. Also, review spelling words, vocabulary words, and math facts.

Every day, students will bring home their student planners. If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, please write it down in their planners. This is also how we will communicate with you. Mrs. Hampton will let you know if your student has turned in their homework by marking a check for completed works, an "X" for missing works, and an "I" for incomplete assignments. She will also write reminders and ask questions. Also, please check their communication folder daily for important information, memos, permission slips, etc. In addition, feel free to email me at alivesay@blossomschool.org.

I look forward to working together with you and your child to ensure a positive, peaceful, and productive year and providing them with a great education. To the students and families that are returning and to the new students who join my class this year, I can't wait to start what I know is going to be a wonderful school year.

Mrs. Livesay
6-9 Classroom Teacher
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