



PEBBLES MONTESSORI SCHOOL

PARENTS' HANDBOOK—2022

We extend a warm welcome to you and your child. We are excited to have you and your child as part of the Pebbles family.

Over the course of the School Year, the children will grow in a Montessori environment to become self-assured, vibrant students who love to learn.

We understand and appreciate the role parents / guardians play in the development of the child, that is why we would like to partner with you in order for the children to thrive and develop to their fullest potential.

As Pebbles Montessori School, we are greatly honored for being chosen to be part of your child's development.

We urge you to read the information provided in this handbook carefully for us to sail together smoothly.

We do our best to make sure we remain in close communication with the Pebbles families.

We send information through the following ways:

- ⇒ Direct messages to parents via WhatsApp, Email or phone calls.
- ⇒ Newsletters
- ⇒ School Calendar, Monthly Theme
- ⇒ Facebook page: Pebbles Montessori School.
- ⇒ Parent / Teacher conferences
- ⇒ Communication Books

You may also visit us or call each one of us directly as follows :

Tisu : 0884314366/ 0997256386

Yumna : 0999632168

or email montessoripebbles21@gmail.com



ABOUT US

Pebbles Montessori School is located in area 10 house number 196 and caters its services to residents of Area 10,11,12,43 and surrounding areas.

We are a multi aged environment that offers quality Montessori education to children between the ages of 2- 9 years.

Pebbles Montessori School is owned by Tisungane Hassinah Howa and Yumna Hamdani Daud. They are both Montessori trainers and have vast knowledge of the Montessori philosophy, methodology and child psychology as well as 15 and 9 years experience working with local and international children respectively.

Yumna has a 2 to 6 Montessori Teaching Diploma obtained from Malawi Montessori Training Center in collaboration with Montessori Training Center; Shingle Springs, California. Tisungane also has a 2 - 6 Diploma obtained from the same institution and an internationally recognized Primary school diploma (6 - 9 years) obtained from North American Montessori Center (NAMC), Canada.

OUR CORE VALUES

In support to our mission, Pebbles Montessori School plans to recruit, develop and retain staff that are dedicated to upholding our core values.

We believe in the following values that guide our work every day as we endeavor to realize our vision and achieve our mission.

- ⇒ We value commitment and diligence
- ⇒ We value respect for self and others
- ⇒ We value love and joy
- ⇒ We value individuality
- ⇒ We value diversity
- ⇒ We value inclusion

OUR MISSION

Pebbles Montessori School aims at achieving its mission by providing quality, innovative Montessori education in a safe, respectful and nurturing environment that builds a foundation for life long learning and to support growing relationships among children, families and the community.

OUR CURRICULUM

OUR CURRICULUM

Pebbles Montessori school, follows Montessori philosophy and methodology based on the research of Dr. Maria Montessori - an Italian physician and educator. We emphasize on independence, freedom within limits and respect for the child as an individual.

Our classrooms are sequentially designed to allow children to maximize their sensitive periods (when a child is sensitive to learning a particular skill in life). The sensorial materials, aid the children into abstraction.

We value the uniqueness of every individual and that each one develops differently, therefore our teachers observe and guide children, allowing them to progress at their own level.

We have individual work plans that are made available to each parent for them to easily follow the progress of their child.

PRESCHOOL (2 - 5 year olds)

Learning in the preschool is mostly concrete.

We make use of the developmental fact that children at this level are acquiring information from the world around them using their senses. Therefore, they are given opportunity to explore in their environment for them to relate to it and make discoveries from within prescribed range of options.

Our learning areas are:

- ⇒ Mathematics (sensorial and sequential in nature)
- ⇒ Language Arts (phonetic in nature)
- ⇒ Practical Life (daily Living activities that foster Independence, Concentration, Order and Coordination), Sensorial Activities (training and refinement of the senses)
- ⇒ Cultural Studies, Art and Crafts, Library and Music
- ⇒ Gardening and outdoor activities.



LOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Grade 1— 6

Our program comprises first to third grade (Montessori Curriculum) and fourth to sixth grade (Cambridge Curriculum). Our environment is multi-aged. The benefit is that; as the children spend their time together, they enhance friendships, developing cooperation and leadership skills.

Our curriculum is interrelated, united by a framework of understanding that all living things are connected, (Cosmic approach). While the children focus daily on specific disciplines in order to gain appropriate skills and competences, they also emerge from their elementary years with a fundamental understanding of the interconnectedness.

This awareness supports their skills, analysis, critical thinking and problem solving, also enhancing their self-awareness as global citizens.

The following are the subjects we offer at Pebbles Montessori Lower Elementary school:

- ⇒ Mathematics (Arithmetic and Geometry, measurement and probability)
- ⇒ Language Arts (Speaking, listening, writing, reading and grammar)
- ⇒ Cultural studies (Geography, History, Biology and Science)
- ⇒ Fine Arts, Physical Education
- ⇒ Specials (French and Chichewa)

The Lower Elementary years are a time of exciting exploration and vital skill-building. The children are given opportunity to connect the outside world to their learning (going out exercises).

They also have opportunity to research and share about some topics (through Class Presentations). This is one way of enhancing their leadership skills.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL FEES

We expect at least half or full payment before your child starts school. You may also choose to pay for the entire School year.

Any arrangement other than the one stated above, should be made known to us before commencement of school.

Fees shall be revised once every school year dependent on the factors affecting the economy and running of the school. We shall notify you in advance, stating reasons for the adjustment.

NB: The structure of the fees is presented separately from this handbook.

MEALS AND SNACKS

Every child is required to bring their own healthy snack from home and a bottle or two of water. No fizzy drinks, nuts and candies are allowed.

Examples of the healthy snacks are as follows:

- ⇒ Fruits (fresh or dried)
- ⇒ Sandwiches, spreads and condiments such as mayonnaise, ketchup or mustard
- ⇒ Milk, cheese, yoghurt
- ⇒ Eggs, meats, fish, vegetables
- ⇒ In case of a longer day; you may also include grains.
- ⇒ Treats may include- popcorn, pretzels or fruit bars.

NB: As per public demand, we are looking into the modalities of providing uniform meals at the school at a fee. The necessary arrangement will be announced in due course. This arrangement is not compulsory.

CLOTHING

A. PRESCHOOL

Children should be dressed comfortably and properly according to the weather for them to freely engage themselves in a wide range of activities as well as practice independence. However; our sports attire is Yellow t-shirt and black shorts/pants(for Friday's only).

Please remember to pack

- ⇒ An extra set of clothing
- ⇒ Sunscreen or a hat
- ⇒ Wellington boots. For a rainy day
- ⇒ An apron or an old t - shirt for Art
- ⇒ Please if your child is still in nappies, provide enough diapers or diaper pants and wipes

B. LOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monday - Thursday (School uniform)

Friday: Sports Uniform

ATTENDANCE

We encourage regular attendance to school for your child to benefit properly from our program.

You are requested to notify the school whenever your child will be absent from school.

LATE ENTRIES AND WITHDRAWAL

Late entries will be treated and considered accordingly. Fees will be charged based on the number of days a child will be in school.

In cases where a parent decides to take their child from school before the term ends that will be treated as withdrawal. In this case fees will not be refunded.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We celebrate birthdays at school following the Montessori tradition "walk around the sun".

The child whose birthday is being celebrated, brings their previous photos to school to share.

You are free to bring a cake on your child's day.

Please let us know in advance if you plan to celebrate your child's birthday in school for planning purposes. You are welcome to attend your child's birthday celebration.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The school shall supply all necessary items. You are only requested to bring a clear empty plastic box for them to store their books and any pre-scribed work.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Children are not allowed to bring any toys or valuables from home, unless it is their special day of sharing or the school has asked them to.

All items of your child should be labelled for easy identification. These include bottles, snack boxes, school jersey etc.

FIELD TRIPS AND GOING OUT EXCURSIONS

These shall include going to the garden, Nature walks and Playground time.

We will be conducting field trips for the bigger students, when it is safe to do so. Please note that these Trips are not compulsory.

Any parent is free to accompany their child to any of our Field Trips outside the school.

You will be notified and asked to give a consent before the date of the trip.

CELEBRATIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

All families are welcome to attend special activities and celebrations that the school may organize.

Incase of activities that involve children only, we will make all parents aware.

As part of community service we will be conducting acts of charity drives for specific needs we may come across in our community.

For example: Orphanages and Special Needs Centers around us etc.

Fundraisers for a given act of kindness shall be conducted during our main School events whenever necessary.



ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS

Our learning is not competitive, instead we conduct continuous assessments on each child. Our teachers report the progress of each child whenever necessary.

Individualized Learning Plans are designed and made available to parents as a way of monitoring and fostering progress of their child.

We also conduct Parent / Teacher conferences at the end of each first and last term of each school year to issue detailed Progress reports.

PARENTS' RESOURCES

We conduct Workshops for our Parents and Nannies of our students as a way of reinforcing our relationship and continuity between home and school work.

You may also visit the following sites to gain more insights about your child's Montessori journey.

www.MariaMontessori.com

www.montessori-namta.org

Thank You!!

SCHOOL POLICIES

HEALTH POLICY

IMMUNIZATION

You are requested to provide your child's history of their Immunization at the time of enrollment.

ILLNESS

For the protection of other students, Sick children should stay at home until they fully recover.

If your child falls sick at school, we shall notify you to pick them immediately.

Children should not be brought to school if they:

- ⇒ Vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24hrs.
- ⇒ Currently have a fever or had one within 24 hours
- ⇒ Are coughing or sneezing
- ⇒ Have communicable diseases such as Mumps, Chicken Pox, Measles, Scabies, Rubella, Covid 19 etc.

All sick children shall be separated from the rest of the group, waiting to be picked by their parents or guardians.

PRESCRIBED MEDICATION

Any staff member is not entitled to administer any prescribed medicines to children.

In case of a condition that requires daily medication, make sure you have made all necessary precautions to make the administering of the medicine a smooth one.

NB: If a child is sick they are supposed to stay home until they fully recover.

BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION POLICY

As a school we are geared to make sure that all children are trained to develop self-discipline and a concern for others through our daily Grace and Courtesy lessons. If a child is struggling to follow instructions, we shall work with the parents to assist them accordingly.

In case of an incident, all parties involved shall be informed accordingly.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

In order to make sure that all children are protected, we request that you provide the school with names of people who are allowed to drop and pick your child. Please make sure you inform the school beforehand on any changes there may be.

PHOTOGRAPHS POLICY

The school will only take pictures of students upon parent's consent. More information on this is provided in the registration form.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

Pebbles Montessori is a culturally diverse institution; we lobby for respect of each other's differences.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN POLICY

We are open to inclusive education and our desire is that no child should be left behind.

We will assess the condition of the child and work hand in hand with the parents as well as their specialist / therapist in order for us to be a suitable learning environment for the student in mention.

We will request a detailed report before they start school. In cases where a child may need special help and reinforcement, we request that they are accompanied by a shadow teacher / specialist.

All parents will be notified in order for the child in mention to be fully supported by everyone.

"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by a reason of their innocence and of greater possibilities of their future"

Maria Montessori

THE TYPICAL DAY

LOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

6:45 - 7:30 - Arrival
7:30 - 7:45 - Classroom chore (setting work books)
7:45 - 8:00 - Morning meeting
8:00 - 9:30 am - Instruction and individual work time
9:30 - 10:00 am- Snack time
10:00 - 10:30 am- Outdoor play
10:30 - 11:00 am - Library
11:00 - 11:30 am - Cultural study focus
11:30 - 12:00 noon - Specials (French / Chichewa)
12:00 - 12:20 pm - Lunch / recess
12:20 - 1:00 pm - Science experiments / Art
1:00 - 1:30 - Pick Up
NB: Friday -Pick up is between 12:00 and 12:30 pm

PRESCHOOL

6:45 - 7:45 am - Arrival for all preschoolers.
7:45 - 8:00 am - Circle Time
8:00 - 9:30 - Instruction and Independent work time
9:00 - 9:30 am - snack time (time may vary according to individual needs)
9:30 - 10:00 am - outdoor play
10:00 - 10:30 - Creative play / Practical Life Activities
10:30 - 11:00 am - Cultural Study focus
11:00 - 11:30 - Science Experiments
11:30 - 12:00 noon - Story time and closing circle
12:00 - 12:30 pm - Pick Up

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND OUTDOOR PLAY

Our program allows children to benefit from the scheduled periods of rest and play. On a daily basis, children in both sections of the school are awarded time for outdoor activities and play. Friday is our Sports day. We will have sports uniform for both sections. Yellow top and black bottom for Preschool while red top and black bottom for Lower Elementary students. The t-shirts can be obtained from our uniform supplier more information on the same is presented in the fee structure note. Running shoes are a must on this day.

SCHOOL PETS AND GARDENING

We have Chickens, rabbits and tortoises on campus. Children in their particular groups, are allowed to visit the pens under the supervision of their teachers.

Preschoolers go to the garden on Wednesday, while the Lower Elementary students go on Tuesday. You are requested to provide your child with necessary gardening tools (watering can, spade or gardening fork) and plastic boots for this exercise.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We offer the following After School activities:

- ⇒ Music (Guitar and Keyboard Lessons)
- ⇒ Football
- ⇒ Ballet
- ⇒ STEM
- ⇒ Cookery
- ⇒ Karate
- ⇒ Arts and Crafts
- ⇒ Swimming (more information TBA)

A detailed schedule of the activities is offered separately from the handbook.

NB: These activities are charged separately from school fees, since they are sourced outside the school.

" A child is both hope and a promise for mankind"

Maria Montessori