

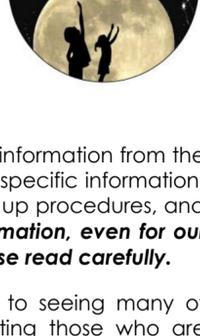


# High Desert Montessori WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

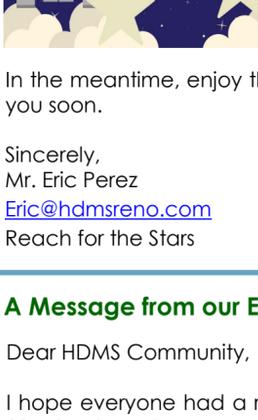
July 28, 2021

## A Message from our Principal, Mr. Eric

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of High Desert Montessori, I want to welcome all of you to the 2021-2022 school year. I am so excited to blast off into an amazing year with all of you. Our theme this year is "Reach for the Stars!" As Maria Montessori believed, education is the key to human flourishing, peace among man and nature, and making the world and everything beyond it, a better place.



In the next few days, you will be receiving lots of information from the school regarding classroom placements to level specific information, safety and health information, drop off and pick up procedures, and everything in between. **This is all important information, even for our families who have been with us for years, so please read carefully.**



I am looking forward to seeing many of you again, and meeting those who are new to our HDMS family. I hope to see you at our open-house event on Friday, August 6th. Classrooms will be open to tour in both of our buildings from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. This is a good opportunity to meet the teachers. Also at 12pm, "The Lift Off Fair," our welcome back event, hosted by our amazing Friends of High Desert PTO, will be held at our Orovada playground. This will go until 4:00pm.

In the meantime, enjoy the remaining summer break and we will see you soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Eric Perez  
[Eric@hdmsreno.com](mailto:Eric@hdmsreno.com)  
Reach for the Stars

## A Message from our Executive Director, Miss Tammie

Dear HDMS Community,

I hope everyone had a restful summer and is ready to begin the 21-22 school year!

In terms of health and safety practices, we will be following [Governor Sisolak's Directive 047](#) which requires all students, staff, and visitors to wear masks while inside the buildings, unless eating, drinking or napping. We are not required to wear masks outside of the school buildings and our staff will be working diligently to give students "mask breaks" throughout the school day. Just like last school year, we will update and inform our community as needed when guidance changes. If interested, the entire HDMS Re-opening Plan can be located [here](#).



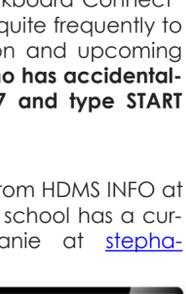
In terms of school construction, we had a busy and productive summer! The Silverada new entry plaza is well on its way including updates to the parking lot. This area will remain a construction zone, so please only park or walk in designated areas. Inside the 3 story building, plumbing, electrical, and framing have started. We have a [blog](#) with photos on our school website with photos of the progress. Check it out! Thank you to our partners at Dennis Banks Construction for all of their hard work. Our goal is to begin the 22-23 school year with our entire school on Fantastic Drive, a long time goal for our community!

We appreciate you choosing to be part of the High Desert Montessori community. Together, we are going to have a star-studded year!

Warmly,  
Miss Tammie Stockton  
[Tammie@hdmsreno.com](mailto:Tammie@hdmsreno.com)

## Upcoming Events

- 8/6/21: 12:00-3:00 HDMS Open House
- 8/6/21: 12:00-4:00 PTO "Lift Off" Back to School BBQ
- 8/9/21: First Day of School (Pre-K, 1st-8th grade **no kinders**)
- 8/9/21-8/13/21: Kindergarten Assessments
- 8/12/21: 5:30 PTO Meeting
- 8/16/21: First Day of Kindergarten
- 8/17/21: 6:00 PM Elementary Back to School Night
- 8/19/21: 6:00 PM Adolescent Back to School Night
- 8/24/21: 6:00 PM Primary Back to School Night
- 8/25/21: 1:00 PM Early Release
- 8/25/21: 5:00 PM HDMS Board Meeting
- 9/6/21: Labor Day—No School
- 9/9/21: 3:45 PTO Meeting
- 9/15/21: 1:00 PM Early Release
- 9/22/21: 6:00 PM Montessori Through My Eyes—Literacy Focus
- 9/25/21: PTO Brews & Bites
- 9/29/21: 1:00 PM Early Release
- 9/29/21: 5:00 PM HDMS Board Meeting



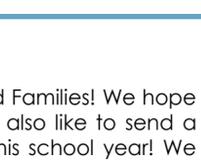
## Community Connection

We are a very dynamic and exciting school. *In addition to the Weekly Newsletter*, we offer the following communication links for your convenience:

**Blackboard Connect** We use the "Blackboard Connect" phone messaging and text messaging quite frequently to inform parents of important information and upcoming events. **If you are a returning family who has accidentally unsubscribed, send a text to 23177 and type START 1136102**

**School-Wide Email** Watch for school-wide emails from HDMS INFO at [hdmsinfo@hdmsreno.com](mailto:hdmsinfo@hdmsreno.com). Please make sure the school has a current email for you. Reach out to Stephanie at [stephanie@hdmsreno.com](mailto:stephanie@hdmsreno.com) with any changes.

**Our Website** [www.hdmsreno.com](http://www.hdmsreno.com) is full of helpful information like an [Events Calendar](#), the [Parent Student Handbook](#), [Blog Posts about the ongoing Building Remodel](#), [Lunch Menus](#), [Arrival & Dismissal Information](#), [Current & Past Newsletters](#), [School Calendar](#), and so much more!



**Our Public Facebook Page** @hdmsrenoschool contains important announcements and information.

**Our Private Facebook Group** (link on the Facebook page at @hdmsrenoschool ) This is a great place to connect with other HDMS families! Ask your questions, let people know about family events in the community, pass along items you no longer need that someone might find useful, get recommendations and more!



**Transparent Classroom** Many of our teachers use **Transparent Classroom**. This is a great way to stay involved with what is happening in your child's classroom. If your teacher does not use Transparent Classroom, you can expect regular classroom updates via email from your child's teacher.



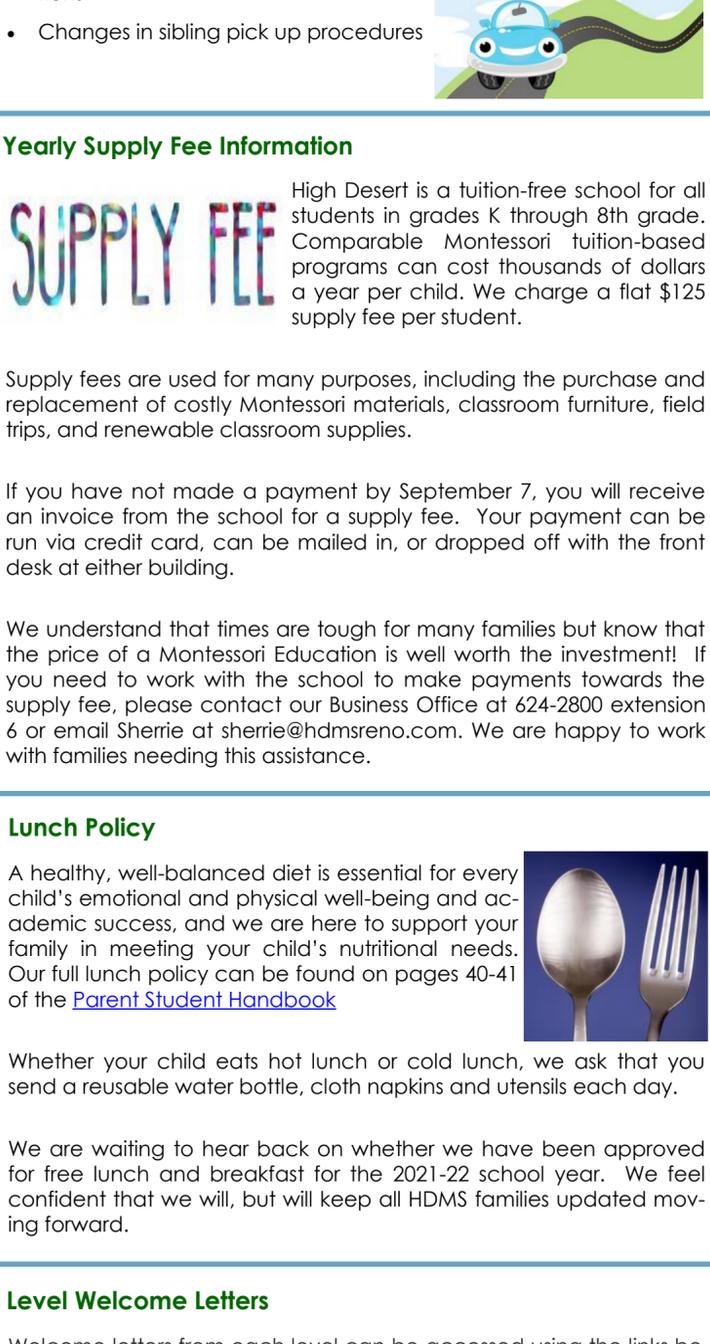
## Notes from the PTO

Welcome back HDMS Admin, Teachers, Staff, and Families! We hope you've enjoyed your time away. The PTO would also like to send a big welcome to all of our new families starting this school year! We know you're eager to get started and so are we.

Save the date! HDMS and the PTO proudly bring you The Lift Off Fair on Friday August 6th from 12:00-4:00 PM. Immediately following the Open House, you and your family are invited to a fair at the Orovada Campus Playground.

Featuring: Food, Drinks, Games, Activities, School information, Vendor fair to learn more about school activities and local businesses.

More info on our Facebook page and you can use #HDMSReno to post about the event or ask questions!



Please join us at our next PTO meeting on Thursday August 12th at 5:30 PM. We will be discussing the upcoming year and planning big events. Email us at [pto@hdmspto.com](mailto:pto@hdmspto.com) if you have any questions or would like more information.

## Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

**Arrival and Dismissal procedures have changed for ALL LEVELS!** Even if you are a returning family, please take the time to familiarize yourself with the updated procedures located on our [website](#) before the first day of school.

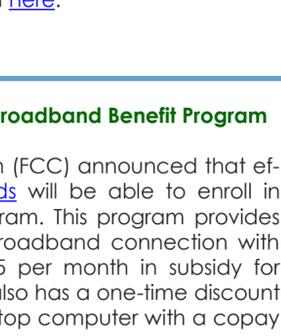
Primary Program Arrival & Dismissal informational [video](#)

Elementary Program Arrival & Dismissal informational [video](#)

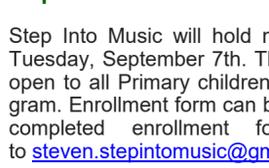
Adolescent Program Arrival & Dismissal informational [video](#)

### Key Changes to look for:

- Changes in drop off and pick up time windows
- Changes in drop off and pick up locations
- Changes in sibling pick up procedures



## Yearly Supply Fee Information



High Desert is a tuition-free school for all students in grades K through 8th grade. Comparable Montessori tuition-based programs can cost thousands of dollars a year per child. We charge a flat \$125 supply fee per student.

Supply fees are used for many purposes, including the purchase and replacement of costly Montessori materials, classroom furniture, field trips, and renewable classroom supplies.

If you have not made a payment by September 7, you will receive an invoice from the school for a supply fee. Your payment can be run via credit card, can be mailed in, or dropped off with the front desk at either building.

We understand that times are tough for many families but know that the price of a Montessori Education is well worth the investment! If you need to work with the school to make payments towards the supply fee, please contact our Business Office at 624-2800 extension 6 or email Sherrie at [sherrie@hdmsreno.com](mailto:sherrie@hdmsreno.com). We are happy to work with families needing this assistance.

## Lunch Policy

A healthy, well-balanced diet is essential for every child's emotional and physical well-being and academic success, and we are here to support your family in meeting your child's nutritional needs. Our full lunch policy can be found on pages 40-41 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#)



Whether your child eats hot lunch or cold lunch, we ask that you send a reusable water bottle, cloth napkins and utensils each day.

We are waiting to hear back on whether we have been approved for free lunch and breakfast for the 2021-22 school year. We feel confident that we will, but will keep all HDMS families updated moving forward.

## Level Welcome Letters

Welcome letters from each level can be accessed using the links below. Also look for these PDF's as attachments to the Weekly Newsletter email.

### Primary Team Welcome Letter

The Welcome Letter for the Primary Team is located [here](#).

### Elementary Team Welcome Letter

The Welcome Letter for the Elementary Team is located [here](#).

### Adolescent Team Welcome Letter

The Welcome Letter for the Adolescent Team is located [here](#).

## Before and After School Enrichment Program

High Desert Montessori School offers programs for 1st-8th grade students who need care for hours outside of the regular school day. Advance registration is required and rates are due monthly for a one month block of time or daily as a drop-in fee.

Due to Social Services ratios and regulations, we are unable to accommodate Primary aged students on a drop in basis. All Primary aged students who need before or aftercare must be registered for the "Extended Day Program".

Please use this [link](#) to register your 1st-8th grade child.

Please fill out the credit card form located [here](#).

## Community Information: Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that effective May 12, 2021, [eligible households](#) will be able to enroll in the [Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) program. This program provides up to \$50 per month in subsidy for a broadband connection with a [participating provider](#), and up to \$75 per month in subsidy for households on tribal lands. The program also has a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer with a copy under \$50.

## Step Into Music for Primary Age Children

Step Into Music will hold music classes starting Tuesday, September 7th. The class is \$10 and is open to all Primary children in the after care program. Enrollment form can be found [here](#). Submit completed enrollment forms and payment to [steven.stepintomusic@gmail.com](mailto:steven.stepintomusic@gmail.com).

