

## **CMAP Basics**

Welcome!

We are excited to be working with your children this year! Here is some important beginning-of-the-year information:

We want our students to read voraciously. We have time every day during school designated for reading, but we also expect students to be reading 20-30 minutes (or more!) at home every evening. More details will follow about weekly & yearly independent reading goals and grading.

Many of you know Ms. Nine Dodge who has been at CMAP for several years. I'm glad to get to know all of you better. Contact me anytime (info at end of this letter).

Welcome back Mrs. Micksch! I'm so excited to be teaching at CMAP/ SOTA II. I can't wait to learn all about you, but first here is a little about me. I was born in Massachusetts and moved to La Crosse in 2014. I went to school for Political Science but I really wanted to become a teacher, so I got my master's degree in Education. This will be my 4th year teaching and my first year in middle school. I have previously taught grades 3-5. Some of my hobbies include beekeeping, hiking/camping, cooking, and reading. I can't wait to start learning together this year!

We send out paper information for parents and families when there are field trip slips to be signed, but our primary methods of keeping students and families updated about what's going on in CMAP are digital - email updates and feedback on Canvas.

1) Skyward is the district grading and attendance system. We also use the Canvas Learning Management System ('Canvas' for short). Students will be taught & given opportunities to practice how to access their accounts within the first weeks of school. Please ask Ms. Dodge if you have any questions about accessing Skyward or Canvas. Please note that we, along with all secondary schools in the district, are moving to standards-based learning and assessment. Report cards will

look different, but this is very much in line with Montessori methods and philosophy: observing what a person has learned and what we're still working on, all with a Growth Mindset. We'll figure it out together!

2) We have lots of field trips to look forward to! We have two trips in the fall we want you to plan for; we're asking for help to cover costs and if you're willing and able to chaperone we'd love to have you. September 21st we'll make our first big bus trip south to Effigy Mounds National Park and the Villa Louis Historic Site. October 5th we'll head to Winona for the Woodlawn Cemetery Tour and the Minnesota Marine Art Museum. We're asking \$25 per student to cover costs for buses and fees for these fall trips. Make checks payable to Coulee Montessori Adolescent Program (CMAP). Expect details and slips for these trips in September.

3) Supplies: Please see the CMAP section of the supplies sheet. If you need help with school supplies check out the Back2School website at <https://cclse.org/back-to-school-program/> or call Catholic Charities at (608) 782-0710, M-Th between 9am and 4pm. If you want to contribute something to the classroom, please feel free to do so – any time! Keep an eye out for 'Wish List' items in updates, otherwise the two things we could currently use most are snacks and interesting historical costumes. Completely optional, but all contributions are appreciated. Healthy snacks like fruit, veggies, pretzels, or string cheese are preferred.

4) Forms: Please return the walking field trip permission form, along with \$25 payment for fall trips, to the school office during Open House.

5) If you're interested in visiting or volunteering (i.e. stopping in to observe or facilitate a discussion or book group, chaperoning a field trip) - we can use your help! Or perhaps you have a suggestion for our learning work...we are open to your input! Please fill out the Volunteer Service Application early in the year to ensure that you are approved ahead of time. This application can be found on our website <https://www.lacrosseschools.org/coulee-montessori-adolescent> using the 'Parent Volunteers' orange box on the right hand side toolbar menu.

Important Dates:

Use the Lincoln Activity Calendar! <https://3riverswi.org/public/genie/41/school/3/>

- Monday, August 22nd, 12-4pm Cougar Kickoff for 6th graders & new students
- Monday, August 22nd, 4-5:30pm 6th Grade Open House
- Wednesday, August 24th, 4-5:30pm Open House
- Thursday, Sept. 1st - First day of the school year!
- Monday, Sept. 5th - No School - Labor Day
- Thursday, Sept. 8th - iPad rollout during school. iPad use will be limited and we plan to keep iPads at school for some time (not send them home). Chargers will be kept at school and students will be expected to dock their iPads before the end of the school day.
- Tuesday, Sept. 20th, 5:30-7pm Coulee Montessori Charter School 'SET' Meeting. You are welcome to visit; please also consider becoming a member. We need new members! If you're interested in getting involved in our School Effectiveness Team, whether you can make it to that meeting or not, please contact SET President Kim Shively - [kshives43@gmail.com](mailto:kshives43@gmail.com)
- (tentatively) Wednesday, Sept. 21st, 8am-4pm first bus outing - Effigy Mounds and Villa Louis (in connection with our Humanities studies in 'Indigenous and Explorers' History of the Americas)
- Wednesday, October 5th trip to Winona for Woodlawn Cemetery Tour, Minnesota Marine Art Museum
- Trying to decide about a Fall Overnight Experience. Please look for information soon.
- Late October 'Hike-a-Thon' Coulee Montessori fundraiser and celebration

Thank you for all your support. Please contact us with any thoughts or questions.

In peace and solidarity,

Nine Dodge [ndodge@lacrossesd.org](mailto:ndodge@lacrossesd.org) (608) 789-6656

Courtney Mickschl [cmicksch@lacrossesd.org](mailto:cmicksch@lacrossesd.org)

## CMAP Parent/Family Survey

Parents complete this survey digitally or below in paper form, return to Ms. Dodge at Open House or on the first day of school. If you have more than one child in CMAP this year, please complete one for each child.



Link to digital survey: <https://forms.gle/GMsLi8yFGEr6BkyQA>

Adolescent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

1) We want to be able to communicate with you in the ways that work for you. Check boxes to designate your preferences and fill in the corresponding blanks:

a) For more urgent communication (discussions within a day or two), I prefer to be contacted:

via phone call at this/these number(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

via text message at this/these number(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

via email at this/these email addresses

\_\_\_\_\_

b) For general updates about events and learning, I prefer to be contacted:

via email at this/these email address(es)

\_\_\_\_\_

I'd like paper copies of updates sent home with my child

c) A good time to reach me is usually...

\_\_\_\_\_

2) I consent for the following information to be included in a CMAP 21-22 directory which will be made available to parents and guardians of current students:

Parent/Guardian Name(s)

Phone Number(s)

Email Address(es)

I do not want our family's info included in this year's directory.

3) Getting to know your child...

- a) What does your child like to be called? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What are your child's special interests and activities? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) What does your child like to do in school? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d) Does your child have any special learning concerns or strengths? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e) Does your child have any special health requirements/food allergies?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f) Is there anything else you would like us to know about your child?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g) Would you like to be contacted by the teacher to discuss any concerns you may have? (Circle) Yes No

4) Parent/Guardian Goals

- a) Academic goals I have for my child this year:

- b) Social goals I have for my child this year:

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this input survey! It helps us immensely to understand and collaborate.*