



Commitment Agreement

We strive to help families fully understand our school philosophy and its programs. The Commitment Deposit required upon enrollment into our school is also a symbol of your commitment to your child's education, the Montessori philosophy, and our school community. Your child's success here greatly depends on this commitment. Below are some of the main expectations we have for our parent/guardian community. The Commitment Deposit is refunded only upon completion of your child's final year in the Children's House (the "kindergarten year").

For Parents/Guardians: please initial with your acknowledgement.

Program Commitment

___ / ___ I understand that by enrolling my child in Cathedral Hill Montessori School, a program dedicated to authentic Montessori principles of education, I am making a multiple-year commitment for my child to attend through the kindergarten year (ages 5-6, typically the 3rd or 4th year of Children's House). I understand that continuity and consistency are best achieved when my child completes the full developmental cycle of the Children's House and an early withdrawal is an interruption of my child's Montessori education and the community.

Year Round Enrollment

___ / ___ I understand that CHMS is a year-round school, with an academic calendar commencing in September (after Labor Day) and ending in August, and my child is expected to attend year round, including the summer months. I understand that it is my responsibility to familiarize myself with the school calendar, which closely follows the Saint Paul Public School calendar, and plan accordingly for school closures related to federal holidays, breaks, professional development days, and parent-teacher conferences.

Authentic Montessori Education

___ / ___ I acknowledge that CHMS is recognized by AMI (Association Montessori Internationale), which requires the school to adhere to a philosophical approach that is consistent with AMI standards, such as hiring highly trained guides (teachers) and fully equipping classrooms with certified Montessori materials. (Visit www.ami-usa.org for more information on AMI school standards). I understand that this is what sets CHMS apart from other non-accredited Montessori schools.

Supporting the School Community

___ / ___ I understand that CHMS is a nonprofit 501(c)3 educational organization governed by a Board of Directors. Families are asked to contribute to our community in a variety of ways, such as with a monetary gift to the Annual Fund, participation in the silent auction, donations for school and classroom needs, and volunteering your time in order to help fulfill our mission. The Annual Fund is designed to supplement the school's budget, enabling us to go beyond our operational needs and continue to benefit, strengthen and diversify our children's educational experience. All contributions, donations, and gifts-in-kind are tax-deductible.

Learning about Montessori

___ / ___ I understand that CHMS creates opportunities throughout the year for families to gain a deeper understanding of Montessori principles through parent education events, classroom observations, and parent-teacher conferences. By attending these functions I understand that I am helping to create a community that is well-informed and supportive of the belief that education is an important and integral part of our lives.

Family Involvement

___ / ___ I understand that becoming involved sends the message that my child's education is meaningful. As a member of the CHMS community, I will be encouraged to get involved in a variety of ways, such as participating in school-wide events, hosting or attending Great Gatherings, volunteering for school improvement projects, becoming a "House Parent," grocery shopping for my child's classroom snack and practical life needs, donating items from teacher's wish lists, attending all parent-teacher conferences, joining the parent committee or serving on the Board of Directors.

Philosophical Agreements

Following the Child — *"Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed."*

___ / ___ I understand that the Montessori method emphasizes independence and the ability for a child to act for oneself. Unnecessary assistance to my child may interrupt precious learning moments and impede natural development of abilities. I understand that I can best support my child by incorporating at home what he or she is learning in school. Supporting my child's independence starts with the freedom to practice basic life skills (such as walking, talking, dressing, eating, sleeping, toileting) and leads to a natural love of learning.

Reality-Based Learning — *"Imagination is the real substance of our intelligence. All theory and all progress comes from the mind's capacity to reconstruct something."*

___ / ___ I understand that children under the age of 6 are best served if they have little to no screen time, and are presented with stories embedded in reality instead of fantasy. The Montessori method stresses the importance of a foundation that is set firmly in the real world by offering children opportunities to work with their hands. Real engagement and personal interaction is emphasized, while screen time and commercial influences become obstacles to a young child's ability to grow, develop, imagine and create. I understand that my child's guide may approach me with concerns of over-exposure to media, as it interferes with my child's ability to concentrate or relate socially at school.

Respect, Responsibility and Relationship — *"The things he sees are not just remembered; they form a part of his soul."*

___ / ___ CHMS values a strong family-school partnership which can lead to a positive and everlasting impact on a child's experience of school. I understand that my role as a parent is to approach the relationship with my child's guide with mutual respect and responsibility, which will ensure the best chance of success for my child.

Please return this signed statement of acknowledgement with your enrollment forms.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____