

Parker Woods Montessori Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)



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2013 - 2014

Parent Resource Guide v01

A Supplement to the Parker Woods Montessori Parent / Student Handbook

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The First Edition of the *Parker Woods Montessori PTO Resource Guide* (formerly Winton Montessori PTO Resource Guide) was brought to you by the PTO Parent Academic Committee, October 2011. The Second Edition reflects our new school name, **Parker Woods Montessori**, which we moved to in the late fall of 2012. The new school is in the Cincinnati Northside community and the address is 4370 Beech Hill Ave, 45223.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Parker Woods Montessori Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is to positively impact the lives of our students, families, and teachers by empowering and supporting our school through fundraising, community development, and reinforcing academic achievements.

PWM PTO Standing Committees

➤ Communication Committee

The Communication Committee publishes newsletters, creates flyers, updates the PTO website, www.pwmppto.org, and maintains a parent volunteer database.

➤ End of the Year Picnic Committee

The End of the Year Picnic Committee plans our very fun picnic for all Parker Woods Montessori families, staff, friends, and community. The event includes a cookout, games, and music. Last year the bouncy house was hit with the children!

➤ Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee plans several events throughout the year that support funding of student field trips, special classroom supplies, teacher appreciation events, PTO events and food and prizes for school events such as the Soul Food Dinner and Grandparents Night. Previous events include City Access Coupon books, Box Tops for Education, Fun Factory Skate Nights, Scholastic Book Fair, and McDonald's coupon books. This year may include a walkathon and a spaghetti dinner to engage the Northside community.

➤ Green & Healthy Committee

The Green & Healthy Committee leads our efforts to be more “green and healthy” such as expanding the school recycling program and creating/maintaining the school gardens. Last year we hosted the Cincinnati Public Schools district-wide workshop on How to Start a School Garden led by the Cincinnati Civic Garden.

➤ Parent Academic Involvement Committee

The Parent Academic Involvement Committee is focused on finding and trying innovative ways to create an academically focused home culture. Educational events for parents are hosted. Previous activities include PowerSchool training, Math Night, and a fun workshop for parents to help child prepare for the Ohio Academic Achievement test. This year we will roll out the Parent Involvement Incentive Plan.

➤ Science Night Committee

The Science Night Committee plans our annual Family Science Night. Last year featured:

- ✧ *Soda Blast* ✧ *Birds of Prey* ✧ *Owl Pellets* ✧ *Bats* ✧ *Chickens* ✧ *Arches & Bridges*
- ✧ *Chemistry Fun* ✧ *Wally Roller Coasters* ✧ *Balloon Poke* ✧ *Bees* ✧ *Fitness*
- ✧ *Worms & Gardening* ✧ *Papermaking*

Parent Involvement Schedule

**Parent Teacher Organization - for all PWMS parents & staff:
3rd Wednesdays*, 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

*Wednesday, August 28, 2013 (4th week due to start of school year)

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

2013-14 Parent Academic Involvement Committee Educational Topics (topics subject to change):

1. September – New School Parent Visioning
2. October - Learning Styles - Understanding and Leveraging Your Child's Gifts
3. November – Math Night
4. December – PowerSchool Training
5. January - OnePlan review
6. February – OAA (Ohio Achievement Assessment) Prep for Parents
7. March – Science Night Prep
8. April – Summer Enrichment Opportunities at the Health Fair
9. May – IEP (Individualized Education Program) and 504 Plan Training

PWY- Parker Woods YMCA afterschool program parents: Parent meetings and volunteer opportunities To Be Announced.

The PWY afterschool program is a partner to the PTO and parents that participate provide parental input to student and adult before school and after school enrichment programming. Activities for PWY include 9 core components:

21st Century Skills, Career & College Exploration, Service Learning, Tutoring & Mentoring, Global Learning, Arts Education, Health & Wellness, Parent & Family Engagement, and Leadership Development.

Please see the weblinks YMCA of Greater Cincinnati, www.myy.org, and CincyAfterSchool my.cincyafterschool.org, for more information. Free workshops for ALL PWM parents will offered also.

Parker Woods Montessori Partners & Resources

Partners - contact the school for more information

- ❖ **Inspirational Baptist Church** – Provides free tutors and mentors
- ❖ **Gray Road Church of Christ** – Provides free tutoring on Wednesdays at 6pm, mentors, and family counseling
- ❖ **NOR-COM** – Provides book bags and supplies for all students along with school beautification projects and audio-visual support
- ❖ **Tri-Health** – Provides individual and family counseling
- ❖ **YMCA of Greater Cincinnati** – Powel Crosley, Jr YMCA provide the before-school and after-school enrichment programs

Resources



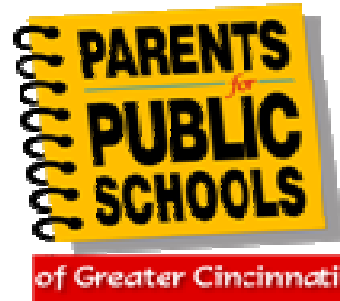
Beech Acres Parenting Center – Provides parental support and coaching.

○ www.BeechAcres.org, www.myparentingresource.com, 513-231-6630. Services include:












- Building Strong Marriages and Relationships
- Coaching and Consultation
- Community Support Services
- Counseling Services
- Education & Support Groups
- Every Child Succeeds
- Family Peer Support
- For the Love of Kids workshops
- Foster Care
- Mediation Services
- Medical Somatic / Psychiatric Services
- Parent / Child Interaction Therapy
- Power in Parenting workshops
- Therapeutic Mentoring

**Ohio Parent Information
and Resource Center
(PIRC) –**

www.ohiopirc.org , 1-888-
OHPIRC9 (647-4729.)



Resources

-  [Help with School Success](#)
-  [Bullying Prevention](#)
-  [Children with Disabilities](#)
-  [Cultural and Linguistic Diversity](#)
-  [Early Childhood Development](#)
-  [Education Research](#)
-  [Learning at Home](#)
-  [Literacy & Technology](#)
-  [Parent Involvement](#)
-  [Partnerships](#)
-  [Safety, Health and Nutrition](#)

- **Parents for Public Schools of Greater Cincinnati (PPSGC)** 1821 Summit Road, Suite 201, Cinti, OH, 45237, 513-751-5437, www.ppsgc.org

Parent Coach:

Mariana White,
mwhite@ppsgc.org

Mission: Parents for Public Schools of Greater Cincinnati is part of a national organization of community based chapters that advocates for excellence in public schools. We exist to develop and sustain constructive parent and community involvement so that all students will achieve.

- **Parent Mentor, Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS)**, Sandra L. Tolliver, Department of Student Services, 513-363-0178, Tollivs@cpsboe.k12.oh.us, <http://www.cps-k12.org/parents/parents.htm> The CPS Parent Mentor is an advocate for parents and can help resolve issues that have not been resolved at the school level. The CPS Parent Mentor also assists with the following CPS Vision and Strategy:

Creating a district that is more supportive of the needs of families and the community is a key component of the district's strategic plan called *Building Futures*. The plan's goals spell out clearly that Cincinnati Public Schools will engage its families in student learning, work with parent groups to increase parent involvement and provide more training opportunities for parents. Following are several of the district's parent-engagement initiatives and activities:

- Parent Leadership Institute (collaboration with PPSGC)
- Family Friendly Schools
- PowerSchool
- Parent Report
- Parent eNewsletter

- **Transportation** – CPS: 513-363-0330 , www.cps-k12.org; First Student Bus Company: 513-761-6100
- **Wellness** – **The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati** is an independent 501(c)(4) social welfare organization dedicated to improving community health. The foundation awards grants to non-profit and governmental organizations for programs and activities that improve health in Cincinnati and 20 surrounding counties in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.

Contact: <https://www.interactforhealth.org/>



Parker Woods Montessori Dictionary

504 Plan

The "504" in "504 plan" refers to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#), which specifies that no one with a disability can be excluded from participating in federally funded programs or activities, including elementary, secondary or postsecondary schooling. "[Disability](#)" in this context refers to a "physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities." This can include physical impairments; illnesses or injuries; communicable diseases; chronic conditions like asthma, allergies and diabetes; and learning problems. A [504 plan](#) spells out the modifications and accommodations that will be needed for these students to have an opportunity perform at the same level as their peers, and might include such things as wheelchair ramps, blood sugar monitoring, an [extra set of textbooks](#), a peanut-free lunch environment, home instruction, or a tape recorder or [keyboard](#) for taking notes.

Enrichment Programs

The Powel Crosley, Jr. YMCA program provide before school and after school enrichment programs for Parker Woods Montessori students for a fee. Programming has included in the past (this year tbd):

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. Karate | f. Dance Club | m. Debate / Civic Responsibility |
| b. Chess Club | g. Drama | n. Homework Help / Tutoring |
| c. Lego Club | h. Yoga | o. Kid's College Academic Enrichment |
| d. Science | i. Choir | p. Tri Health Program |
| e. Language Clubs - Mandarin Chinese, Spanish | j. School Newspaper | |
| | k. Art | |
| | l. Ping Pong Club | |

IEP- Individualized Education Program

A plan written together with staff and the family to provide instruction to meet special student needs.

ILT – Instructional Leadership Team

The ILT oversees the instructional content of the school. The Parker Woods Montessori ILT includes parent representatives.

LSDMC -- Local School Decision Making Committee

LSDMC consists of parents, teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals (instructor assistants) and community representatives. Parker Woods Montessori's LSDMC meets monthly to support the mission of the school. This involves gathering and evaluating information, supporting the Montessori philosophy at the school and district level, and making important decisions for the benefit of the students of Parker Woods Montessori.

OAA- Ohio Achievement Assessment

Required tests that measure students on what they know and are able to do in mathematics, reading, science, social studies and writing, with administration to students spread out from third to eighth grade (replace Ohio's proficiency tests.)

Ohio's Grade 3-8 Achievement Assessments in reading, mathematics, science, social studies and writing are aligned to Ohio's academic content standards. These are the primary tests that determine a school's academic standing. Please visit the Ohio Department of Education website, <http://education.ohio.gov/>, for more information on standards, practice tests, parents rights and responsibilities, school and district performance, and more.

OnePlan

A comprehensive operational plan for attaining Parker Woods Montessori and CPS district goals. It includes the following: Title I Compliance Required Components; Building Futures School Standards, Self-Assessment, and Rubrics, and the following sections:

1. List of planning team with signatures
2. School summary and strategies
3. Needs assessment of school (academic) and intervention strategies
4. Needs assessment of additional non-assessment academic indicators and intervention strategies
5. Professional Development plan summary
6. Coordination of federal, state, and local programs
7. Transition plan
8. Family Partnership plan
9. OnePlan monitoring
10. School budget

PWMF– Parker Woods Montessori Foundation

PWMF is an Ohio nonprofit corporation responsible for raising funds to purchase needed items for the classrooms and the school. It funds the PTO activities.

Title I — Improving The Academic Achievement Of The Disadvantaged

SEC. 101. IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

TITLE I--IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED

SEC. 1001. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

This purpose can be accomplished by —

- (1) ensuring that high-quality academic assessments, accountability systems, teacher preparation and training, curriculum, and instructional materials are aligned with challenging State academic standards so that students, teachers, parents, and administrators can measure progress against common expectations for student academic achievement;
- (2) meeting the educational needs of low-achieving children in our Nation's highest-poverty schools, limited English proficient children, migratory children, children with disabilities, Indian children, neglected or delinquent children, and young children in need of reading assistance;
- (3) closing the achievement gap between high- and low-performing children, especially the achievement gaps between minority and nonminority students, and between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers;
- (4) holding schools, local educational agencies, and States accountable for improving the academic achievement of all students, and identifying and turning around low-performing schools that have failed to provide a high-quality education to their students, while providing alternatives to students in such schools to enable the students to receive a high-quality education;
- (5) distributing and targeting resources sufficiently to make a difference to local educational agencies and schools where needs are greatest;
- (6) improving and strengthening accountability, teaching, and learning by using State assessment systems designed to ensure that students are meeting challenging State academic achievement and content standards and increasing achievement overall, but especially for the disadvantaged;
- (7) providing greater decision-making authority and flexibility to schools and teachers in exchange for greater responsibility for student performance;
- (8) providing children an enriched and accelerated educational program, including the use of school wide programs or additional services that increase the amount and quality of instructional time;
- (9) promoting school wide reform and ensuring the access of children to effective, scientifically based instructional strategies and challenging academic content;
- (10) significantly elevating the quality of instruction by providing staff in participating schools with substantial opportunities for professional development;
- (11) coordinating services under all parts of this title with each other, with other educational services, and, to the extent feasible, with other agencies providing services to youth, children, and families; and
- (12) affording parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

Montessori Background (Please see the Parker Woods Montessori Parent / Student Handbook for more information regarding Parker Woods Montessori's program.)

Maria Montessori Biography



Maria Montessori

Born Aug. 31, 1870 in Chiaravalle, Italy. Died May 6, 1952.
Founder of the Montessori Method. First

Italian woman to earn a medical degree in 1896.

"Our aim is not only to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core."

Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori's first appointment was as an assistant doctor in the psychiatric clinic of the University of Rome. She began to analyze how children learn. Her desire to help children was so strong that in 1906 she gave up both her university chair and her medical practice to work with a group of 3-to-6-year-old children from poverty-stricken families. Her early successes with learning disabled children motivated her to try the same educational methods with average children.

The *Casa dei Bambini* ("Children's House") in Rome is where the Montessori Method blossomed, based on her scientific observations of the children's almost effortless ability to absorb knowledge from their surroundings, as well as their tireless interest in manipulating materials.

Every piece of equipment, every exercise, every method Montessori developed was based on what she observed children doing "naturally," by themselves, unassisted by adults.

The basic features of the method are expansion of the child's natural curiosity by honoring the child with personal freedom and responsibilities, by improving the sharpness of the five senses (hearing, seeing, tasting, touching, and smelling) and by training and developing of physical coordination.

Montessori discovered children truly learn a concept or subject by performing a task and discovering the outcome for themselves, not by passively accepting an adult's ideas or preexisting knowledge.

She took into account the natural development of children. The 1st level (birth to 6-years-old) children are sensorial explorers who build their intellect by absorbing every aspect of their environment, language and culture. The 2nd Level (6 to 12-years-old) children become conceptual explorers. They build on their powers of abstraction and imagination.