

**CORNERSTONE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SERVICE LEARNING POLICY**

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Plan is to provide organizational guidance and articulate expectations for service.

II. DEFINITION: Service learning is an integral component to learning in a Montessori program that encompasses meaningful community service as an extension of the child's work or the collective work of the classroom environment. Service learning at Cornerstone emphasizes critical thinking and personal reflection as children find and seek to meet a need in their classroom, school, or neighborhood, encouraging a heightened sense of community, civic engagement, and personal responsibility.

III. STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS:

- A. Children will participate in on-going service learning projects each year as a natural part of, and extension of, their classroom work. In a Montessori environment, small groups of children are supported in independently planning and executing the entire outing or project, increasing the value of the learning experience exponentially.
- B. Each classroom may engage in service-learning projects annually or more frequently following the children's interests.
- C. Each faculty member and child will be encouraged to engage in and promote the value of ongoing service to others: within the school, the family, to friends and community.
- D. Children will freely exhibit examples of service to others either by displaying a write up of work that has been done or by presenting the work to schoolmates and/or parents at the monthly parent coffees and board meetings.
- E. Families will be invited to engage in community service by donating items such as canned goods or winter clothing during organized drives and at the request of the school.

Adopted: November 15, 2016

Updated: September 17, 2019

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