



The DuFrocq School Community Meeting FAQ

*** All questions are copied from online submissions and individuals who submitted comments during the meeting. ***

- **How many teachers are currently certified to teach in the Montessori program?**
 - Currently, there is only one teacher and one school administrator that are Montessori certified.
- **I appreciate the hard work you all are doing to implement sustainable standards for Montessori education at Dufrocq. It was stated that the district will pay for teachers' training and plan to recruit teachers to be Montessori teachers at an event but only if they are already certified. Is that correct?**
 - Yes, we are recruiting certified teachers at the event.
- **What incentives will be given to teachers who are already certified?**
 - We are still working to determine the incentives for current teachers. Any decision must be presented to and approved by the board.
- **What incentives aside from paying for training will be given to interested teachers? MACTE is going to be the standard, which is great to hear. Thank you all so much for your commitment to improving this wonderful program!**
 - We are still working to determine the incentives for current teachers. Any decision must be presented to and approved by the board.
- **Is the Elementary 1 split a temporary or permanent change? If switching up the classes is temporary, how long will it last?**
 - It's important to keep communication channels open and be transparent during this period to address any concerns and ensure that decisions align with the best interests of the students and the school community. During the reevaluation process, administrators and educators may consider feedback from teachers, students, and parents. The decision to reconfigure the grade bands or continue the split of

Elementary 1 classes may depend on various factors such as teacher certification, student needs, classroom dynamics, and overall educational objectives. Reevaluating progress toward teacher certification and teacher comfortability indicates a commitment to ensuring that the educational environment is optimal for both students and teachers.

- **Where can parents get a materials list for each classroom and see how those materials align with the required curriculum?**
 - Parents may contact our school's Magnet Site Coordinator for a list of materials currently being used in the classrooms. The list of materials used may vary due to student needs and resources that support their grade-level instruction. Additionally, the purchase of Montessori Curriculum to Standards Alignment manuals is a proactive step towards ensuring that Montessori materials align with required curriculum standards. This alignment can help provide students with a well-rounded educational experience that meets both Montessori principles and broader academic requirements.
- **What is the plan for having a permanent teacher in the classroom for the teacher who resigned? Will Ms. Hall remain in this class for the school year?**
 - Mrs. Saing resigned from her position as a Primary Montessori teacher. Since her resignation, substitute teachers and our District Literacy Coach, Ms. Hall have worked to support our students. After careful consideration, Mrs. Crayton has been selected to fill the Primary Montessori Teacher vacancy. Mrs. Crayton has twenty-plus years of Montessori experience here at The Dufrocq School. Most of her experience is at the primary level, and she will be a good candidate for this position.
- **What is the plan to keep teachers once they are certified in Montessori?**
 - We are still working to determine the incentives for current teachers. Any decision must be presented to and approved by the school board.
- **Do they get certified teachers for the next years?**
 - The District is currently working to recruit certified Montessori teachers. Current teachers are certified to teach through the State of Louisiana (Birth - 5).
- **What changes have been made since the implementation of the new vice principal? What was the purpose of this restructuring?**
 - The new Assistant Principal holds Montessori certification in Primary and Lower Elementary from Southwestern Montessori Training Center, which is a

MACTE-accredited training facility. Her wealth of knowledge has been used to assess our current program providing insight to aid in strengthening the implementation of Montessori philosophy and methodology throughout the school. She has been tasked with prioritizing professional development opportunities for teachers to deepen their understanding of the Montessori experience and refine their teaching practices accordingly.

- **Work done to help get teachers MACTE certified for the Montessori classrooms is appreciated. Getting trained and certified in early childhood development, especially for the primary level classrooms, is equally, if not more, important. It seems like some of the younger children are being held to developmentally inappropriate standards.**
 - All of the assigned Primary Montessori teachers hold a state certification from either birth or pre-kindergarten. Additional professional development opportunities, such as the Early Learning Center Training have been provided by the Louisiana Department of Education and other providers which further enriches teachers' pedagogical knowledge about the Primary Montessori classroom.

- **How will the students be prepared for the transition-switching classrooms, changing teachers, etc? Will the children be notified by the current teacher? When will they be informed?**
 - It is the goal of the school administration to prepare students for the transition of switching classrooms and changing teachers. School Leaders will also communicate with Parents/Guardians informing them of the transition and they will be encouraged to discuss it with their children. This ensures families are aware of the change and can support their children through the process. Classroom teachers and school administrators will have conversations with students to share the news of the transition.

This direct communication from school administration helps students understand the rationale behind the change and allows them to ask questions or express concerns.

Date(s)	Task
<p style="text-align: center;">January 25th & 26th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will receive assistance with the transition (This timeframe allows for adequate preparation and minimizes disruptions to the learning environment). ● During this time, classroom teachers and paraprofessionals will assist students in transitioning their materials to their newly assigned classrooms. (This practical support ensures that students have

	everything they need for a smooth start in their new environment).
January 29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will begin instruction in their newly assigned classrooms. • Transparent communication from school administration and district support will help to facilitate a successful transition for students, teachers, and staff alike.

- **Why were we just given this information? Why haven't we been given any information prior to the meeting?**

- We apologize for the delayed response from the district. After parental and community concerns were shared, it was necessary to establish a District taskforce that would organize efforts expeditiously. We began to research and compile information from the Louisiana Department of Education, Montessori accrediting agencies, and the instructional core framework. It was important for the task force to establish what a high-quality Montessori experience should be for our students, teachers, and parents.

- **Why are the 4th and 5th grade Montessori classes being kept together?**

- This decision was based on several factors including grade levels and class size. There are low numbers of students in both 4th and 5th grade. The assigned paraprofessional will remain in the class. An additional paraprofessional will be assigned on designated days for instructional support.