

Santa Cruz Montessori Code of Ethics and Communications

We acknowledge that the effectiveness of SCMS in fulfilling its mission is greatly determined by the behavior of the staff and parents in our school community. Our behavior serves as a model for the children. The adults' communication skills and attitudes contribute to the atmosphere of the school. These skills are also vital in parent-staff communications regarding individual children, and affect not only the social climate of the school, but the academic progress of our students as well.

By following this code, we demonstrate our commitment to a supportive and respectful community for children and adults and move SCMS toward Maria Montessori's guiding vision of Montessori as "an education for peace".

- We agree to be proactive in solving problems and finding answers. Parents and staff will communicate directly with the person or persons who can answer their questions or address their concerns. Parents' questions regarding individual children or classrooms will be directed to the head teacher of the class. After this discussion, if the parents and/or teacher feel that the issue has not been satisfactorily addressed, we will bring it to the attention of the director. Concerns regarding educational issues of a more general nature, or the day-to-day workings of the school will be discussed with the director. Policy issues (i.e., long range planning for the school, budget considerations, etc.) will be brought to the attention of the Board. It is most effective to present Board questions or concerns in writing. This system will assure that issues are brought to those with responsibility for developing solutions.*

- Communications will be direct, honest and appropriate in a manner that respects the rights of all parties. We will each strive to use effective listening skills focusing on responding rather than reacting. We recognize the importance of each person being heard and acknowledged for his or her interests and concerns. We will use conflict resolution skills in difficult situations, and the school will make this skill training available to interested parents as we do to our students.*

- We agree, as a community of adults, to respect the reputations and privacy of the children, families and staff at our school.*