



Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year at Atala Montessori! We are looking forward to working with your children during this exciting stage of independence, leadership, and preparation for their academic futures. The first day of school is **Monday, August 25th**, and we are eager to begin a purposeful and empowering year together.

Arrival & Dismissal

- School starts promptly at **8:00 AM**. Drop-off is between **7:45–8:00 AM** at the **north gate** (formerly the preschool gate).
- Dismissal is from **2:45–3:00 PM**. Any student remaining after **3:00 PM** will be placed in **Study Hall**.

What to Bring

- A **backpack** to hold workbooks, homework, lunch, and personal items
- A **non-disposable** water bottle
- A **lunchbox** (please note: no refrigeration is available)
- Optional: personal supplies such as colored pencils or highlighters – all items should be clearly labeled
- For **P.E.**: A change of shirt is welcome but not required

Dress Code Expectations

Please ensure your child's attire is appropriate and respectful for the school environment:

- Clothing should not have rips, tears, crop tops, tank tops, or inappropriate imagery
- Shorts/skirts must be of modest length
- Shoes must be closed toe (no Crocs, sandals, or flip-flops)
- Hoodies are permitted, but hoods must remain **down during school hours**

Uniform Reminder

Uniforms are **not required**, but they are **encouraged** to maintain a focused and unified learning environment.

We are here to support your child's success and development as they navigate the middle school journey with confidence and curiosity.

Warmly,

Ms. Marie Ann Lespinasse & Mr. Neal Lewis
Middle School Team



Hello Atala Families,

My name is Neal Lewis. I'm truly excited to join the Atala community and to meet all of our wonderful middle school scholars and their families. It's an honor to be part of a school that values creativity, individuality, and academic growth.

While I've worked in various roles throughout my career, I've found my greatest passion in education. For the past 10 years, I've been fortunate to work in the field of education, with the last 3 years dedicated to teaching at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in subjects such as math, science, history, and English.

What I love most about teaching is creating an environment where students feel encouraged to express who they are while developing the skills they need to succeed academically. I believe that a nurturing, respectful space is the foundation for meaningful learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to partner with you in your child's educational journey. I look forward to a successful and fulfilling year ahead.

Mr. Lewis



Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Cecile Marie Anne Lespinasse, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Middle School Math and Science teacher at Atala Montessori. The students will come to know me as Ms. Marie Anne.

Originally from Haiti, I studied engineering architecture and discovered my passion for teaching early on. For over 30 years, I've had the privilege of teaching middle and high school students in Haiti and in Miami, working across American, French, and Haitian curricula. I've also supported learners as a private tutor, helping students build confidence and succeed in both math and science.

As a teacher, I strive to make every lesson engaging and relevant. I believe in helping students understand not just how something works—but why it matters. My approach combines curiosity, structure, and encouragement to help students thrive.

I'm truly excited to be part of such a thoughtful and nurturing community. On a personal note, I'm the proud mother of four adult daughters and a joyful grandmother to one granddaughter.

I look forward to working closely with you and your children this year as we explore, learn, and grow together.

Warmly,
Ms. Marie Anne