

Drachman Montessori K-8 Magnet School Focus Group

Date | time 4/6/2026 4:00 PM | *Location* Zoom

Meeting called by	Drachman Family Engagement Team	5-10 Parents to give ideas on how to improve our school based on site survey results
Type of meeting	Focus Group	The Focus Group will last no longer than 1 hour
Facilitator	N. Scott	Please bring a pen and paper to make notes
Note taker	K. Enriquez	
Parents present	KS KE FM	

Agenda Items

Topic

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome & Introductions (Adriana Manrique) | 10 Minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Question #1 – Physical Education at the Middle School Level will be an elective and not required of all middle school students to participate in, since they may be interested in other electives happen at the same time as the PE Elective. Would this be a factor that would detract from your choice to have your child in our Middle School Program? | 15 Minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Question #2 – Most Montessori Schools do not assign homework for students. Would the absence of homework from our program detract from your choice to have your child in our program? | 15 Minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Question #3 – What strategies do you recommend for parents to use to help spread the word about our program to specifically attract students for kindergarten and first grade for next school year? | 15 Minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | |

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Other Information

Meeting began at 4:00 P.M.

Meeting completed at 4:45 P.M.

Question #1 – Physical Education at the Middle School Level will be an elective and not required of all middle school students to participate in, since they may be interested in other electives happen at the same time as the PE Elective. Would this be a factor that would detract from your choice to have your child in our Middle School Program?

P1-Yes, it's possible. Our observations at home indicate that when left with choice, our child will gravitate to electronics. While we take action to involve our child in physical activities within his community, we would hope that school could foster the same. We believe cooperative activities such as those taught in a PE class promote a love of movement for joy. I say possible, because if the other electives offered are enriching such as bike club, cooking, etc... then we understand that it is a tradeoff.

P2- This is not a problem for me. I think it is good that students can choose their own classes. When kids are interested in what they are learning, they do better in school. I just want to make sure they are still active during the day, but I really like the idea of letting them pick their own path.

P3- I do not mind P.E. being an elective; however, I do believe that P.E. should be more structured for students. Students should not be able to just sit around during this elective period. P.E. should have specific games, rules, and activities that they are learning and working on. Whether or not there is a P.E. does not affect my view on the whether I would continue with my child being at Drachman.

Question #2 – Most Montessori Schools do not assign homework for students. Would the absence of homework from our program detract from your choice to have your child in our program?

P1- Absolutely not. Homework has created a level of stress in our home that our child, nor we, want to experience. A reading log and encouragement for activities to do as a family are enough and encourage a great school/life balance.

P2- I think a little bit of homework is important for middle school, especially in 8th grade. My children will go to a traditional high school later, and I want them to be ready for the work there. If they get a few assignments now, they can practice and be prepared for the next step. Honestly, if there is no homework at all, it might make me think twice about staying in a Montessori school for these years. I want to make sure my children are ready for what comes next.

P3 - No, lack of homework in middle school is not a negative. I think the lack of homework motivates students to complete their work throughout the school day, so they don't have to bring the extra work home to complete. The lack of homework also allows students to pursue activities outside of school without having to worry about the pile of work waiting for them and allows for an earlier bedtime.

Question #3 – What strategies do you recommend for parents to use to help spread the word about our program to specifically attract students for kindergarten and first grade for next school year?

P1- Social media works wonders! I think promoting those that follow Drachman's social media pages (staff included) to share those posts and speak to what they like about Drachman as a family could be a great word of mouth effort that could really gain momentum.

Adding parent testimonials in the Drachman communications out - it would be easy for those to be forwarded by recipients to families they know who are looking for the perfect school!

Car magnets!

P2- I think a "Kinder Round-Up" event would be a good idea to promote the school. It can be a quick 30-minute visit where the potential kinders jump into a classroom activity with our current students to see what Montessori is all about. While the kids are busy, the parents can take a tour and ask us questions. We can post about it on Facebook to find local families. It's a simple way to let kids get a feel for the classroom while the parents see how great the program is.

P3 - I recommend sharing Drachman's Facebook page onto their own feed, wearing Drachman shirts/gear, and just talking with friends about how much they love the school. I think having an open house/kinder round up for potential parents and students to come and visit is also another good strategy. I know there are walkthroughs, but you don't really get to meet the teachers. I believe having parents hype up the FREE Montessori experience is important too as most are pricy private schools.