

## ***Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)***

### **Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106**

It is the goal of Sterling Montessori Academy and Charter School (Sterling Montessori) to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the *Parent's Guide to Student Achievement* (PGSA). Should you wish to obtain paper copies of this document and its contents, you can make a request through your child's respective section director.

<p><b>1a) How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?</b></p>	<p><a href="#">N.C. Grade Level Promotion Guide</a> contains the relevant State and local requirements for a child to be promoted to the next grade level. The relevant part of this link is found in <u>Part 1A (pp. 15-28)</u> regarding retention, promotion, alternatives to show reading proficiency, etc.</p> <p>For information about Sterling Montessori's Promotion and Accountability procedures and Graduation Requirements, please click here: <a href="#">Student Promotion and Accountability</a> (pg 34).</p>
<p><b>1b) What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?</b></p>	<p>In North Carolina, all schools use the same Standard Course of Study, determined by the State Board of Education. These standards are the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade/course.</p> <p>The following standards can be found on the website below: Arts Education, English Language Arts, English Language Development, Healthful Living, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Language.</p> <p><a href="#">NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website</a></p>



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Access the links below to understand the curriculum at Sterling Montessori as well as our policies for reviewing the curriculum:

[K-8 Curriculum Documents](#)

[Selection of Instructional Materials](#)

## **HEALTHFUL LIVING: Reproductive Health and Safety**

Sterling Montessori has partnered with [The Poe Center](#) to speak with our parents and students about age-appropriate reproductive health and safety. Prior to presenting to students, The Poe Center offers an online meeting with Q&A for parents. This typically occurs in mid-March.

## Upper Elementary Health Sciences Curriculum

Sterling uses Montessori lessons and resources found in the [Wonder Years Puberty Curriculum](#) to meet NC Health Standards. In Upper Elementary (grades 4-6), Montessori science lessons and materials cover all human body systems. In this way, students discover how their body works and how to keep it healthy within the confines of scientific exploration. Students learn that these systems must function together and not in isolation of one another. The integrated study of these topics removes any embarrassment or stigma that might be otherwise attached to health sciences. It also satisfies the upper elementary student's intense curiosity and need to know how and why things work the way they do.

In addition, topics such as nutrition, wellness, physical fitness, digital citizenship and maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships are discussed as aligned with NC Science and Health standards. More detailed health and anatomy lessons which require developmental readiness are introduced to the students in grade level groups in the spring of each year. Prior to these lessons, parents are invited to an overview of the curriculum in



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	<p>order to better understand the content and have an opportunity to ask questions.</p> <p><a href="#">4th Grade Health Curriculum</a></p> <p><a href="#">5th Grade Health Curriculum</a></p> <p><a href="#">6th Grade Health Curriculum</a></p> <p>Sterling Montessori section directors will communicate with parents prior to The Poe Center presenting to students. <b>All parents/guardians have the right to “opt out” of this unit.</b> If you choose to exclude your child, you must do so in writing to the director and teacher stating you do not want your child to participate.</p>
<p>1c) <b>How will a parent learn about a child’s progress in school or with a class?</b></p>	<p>Sterling Montessori shares the progress of students in a variety of ways. Each division, Children’s House through Middle School, offers 2 conference days per year on the Academic Calendar. Progress reports are provided throughout the school year to reflect the work your child has performed. Student reading and math progress is monitored by formative online assessments three times a year (beginning, middle, and end) using iReady, which parents can access.</p> <p>PreK 3, PreK 4, and Kindergarten students receive progress reports denoting accomplished skills that the students have developed based on the <a href="#">Children House Scope and Sequence curriculum</a> which are aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.</p> <p>Students in grades 1-6 receive progress reports showing the accomplished skills that the students have completed. These skills are developed based on the <a href="#">Elementary Scope and Sequence</a> curriculum throughout Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.</p>



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Middle school (7-8) students are on a more traditional grading system, in preparation for the rigors of high school academics, and thus receive grades based on a 100-point scale. Assignments are collected and graded through Google Classroom, which parents can access by request through their student's teacher. Additionally, parents have access to their child's grades 24/7 using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If you do not yet have a Parent Portal login, contact your child's section director.

## **State Assessments:**

All NC students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. Eligible students take end-of-course assessments in NC Math 1. These results were mailed home in the 2024-25 school year. In future years, Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) will be accessible in the parent portal of the NC-SIS (Infinite Campus).

North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) selected mCLASS DIBELS<sup>®</sup> 8th Edition as the state's K-3 Literacy Assessment. mCLASS is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading. mCLASS has been revised and upgraded from the assessment NC districts have used in the past, based on the latest research and the Science of Reading. It is a valid and reliable assessment, supporting universal literacy screening and progress monitoring.

An **Individual Reading Plan** (IRP) shall be developed for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading. An IRP will have specific strategies/ideas that can be done at home.

<p><b>1d) What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?</b></p>	<p>All lead teachers at Sterling Montessori are required to hold credentials in their assigned teaching area. In addition to state licensure, the majority of Sterling's teachers hold Montessori credentials from MACTE-accredited programs. Parents may look up your child's NC teacher licensure status at <a href="#">this website</a>.</p> <p>The licensure look up webpage does not include current employment information. Parents may need additional information (i.e., middle name or license number) to identify the teacher accurately. Substitute teachers (either short or long term) might not hold a NC teaching license.</p>
<p><b>1e) What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?</b></p>	<p>The following are the North Carolina statutory school entry requirements, including required immunizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admission requirements: <a href="#">GS 115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov)</a></li> <li>• Immunization records: <a href="#">GS 130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov)</a></li> <li>• Immunization requirements: <a href="#">GS 130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov)</a></li> </ul> <p>Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) <a href="#">Immunizations</a> Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expected Immunization Schedules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>2a) How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?</b></p>	<p>Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions daily about your child's school day.</li> <li>• Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning.</li> </ul>



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- Connect with teachers to understand your child's progress.
- Ask the teachers how you can help your child learn.
- Attend different events at school to stay connected and learn how to support them.

## **Parent Guides for Academic Standards:**

The following grade level guides contain information to support parents and caregivers with understanding the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The purpose of these guides is to inform parents about the standards, as well as provide useful strategies to incorporate at home.

Parent Guides for [ELA](#)

Parent Guide for [ELD](#)

Math Parent Guides: [K-5](#), [6-8](#)

[Social Studies Parent Guides](#)

[Science Parent Guides](#)

## **Reading and Literacy Support:**

This following site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children who are being assessed with mCLASS reading assessments: [Amplify Parent Resources](#)

Home activities, printables, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at North Carolina's [Digital Children's Reading Initiative](#) (DCRI). These activities include the following topics, Pre-K-Grade 5:

- (1) Phonemic awareness
- (2) Phonics
- (3) Vocabulary

	<p>(4) Fluency (5) Comprehension (6) Oral language</p> <p><a href="#">Printable activities</a> will be made available for students who do not have digital access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources. For paper copies, please contact <a href="mailto:office@sterlingmontessori.org">office@sterlingmontessori.org</a></p>
2b) <b>How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</b>	<p>Parents can develop their child's social skills and citizenship by being a positive role model, fostering a nurturing and inclusive home environment, practicing empathy through shared activities and volunteering, teaching communication skills like active listening, and encouraging community involvement and media literacy. By consistently demonstrating kindness, respect, and responsibility, parents can effectively guide their children to become informed, engaged, and considerate members of their community. Please visit this <a href="#">resource</a> from the Annie E. Casey Foundation for more information.</p>
2c) <b>How can a parent strengthen their child's realization of high expectations and setting lifelong learning goals?</b>	<p>Parents play a key role in helping their children set high expectations and set lifelong learning goals. Sterling Montessori is committed to helping with students' self-actualization, as reflected in our <a href="#">mission statement</a>.</p> <p><b>Tips for Parents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visit the Curriculum sections of each level (CH, LE, UE, MS) on our <a href="#">website</a> for parent/family resources.</li> <li>● Stay informed of school activities by visiting school websites, registering your ParentSquare account, and reviewing newsletters and notes.</li> <li>● Review progress reports and report cards with your child. Set goals with your child.</li> <li>● Communicate with your child's teacher about his/her progress and upcoming events.</li> <li>● Talk to your child about his/her school experience. Indicate to your child that you</li> </ul>



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	<p>expect school to be a positive experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage daily reading by providing opportunities for your child to read both fiction and non-fiction books and articles.</li><li>• Utilize digital resources to support your child's individual learning. Check our school website for more details.</li></ul>
<b>2d) How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?</b>	<p>Communication with parents and families is very important to us. Our <a href="#">website</a> is one way that we communicate with parents, students and the community. Parents should also reach out to their <a href="#">child's teacher</a> as the first point of contact.</p> <p>Additionally, Sterling Montessori uses the following platforms for communication between home/school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ ParentSquare</li><li>○ Weekly e-newsletters</li><li>○ Infinite Campus</li><li>○ Facebook</li></ul> <p>The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building strong relationships with your child's teacher and supporting communication between home and school.</p> <p><a href="#">Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher</a> (NC Rethink Education Program)</p> <p><a href="#">How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning</a> (NC Rethink Education Program)</p> <p>Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the <a href="#">following website</a>.</p>
<b>3) What services are available for parents and their children?</b>	<p>We provide SEL and counseling <a href="#">resources</a> through the daily curriculum, our website, and our on-site school counselor.</p>



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	<p>Sterling provides tuition-based before and after care as well as various clubs and after school activities; see our <a href="#">website</a> for more details.</p> <p>Resources for families wanting to learn more about Montessori, and Sterling in particular, can be found on our <a href="#">website</a>, along with parent education <a href="#">resources</a>.</p>
<b>4) What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?</b>	<p>We encourage parents to volunteer with Sterling Montessori, attend community <a href="#">events</a> including parent education nights, join the <a href="#">Parent Faculty Student Association</a>, and review the policy on <a href="#">Parental Involvement</a>.</p>
<b>5. What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?</b>	<p>Sterling Montessori provides a range of options for students to explore and develop their interests and skills at their academic level. Students in Montessori are placed in multi-age classrooms and encouraged to develop at their own pace through individualized work plans and a prepared environment, including hands-on materials and trained Montessori teachers. Parents interested in learning more about our approach to Montessori should visit our <a href="#">website</a>.</p> <p>Through the Montessori prepared environment, students are often provided the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups;</li><li>• Accelerated opportunities (subject and/or grade acceleration);</li><li>• Enrichment experiences, which may be during the school day or beyond, and may be within the regular calendar year or may include summer opportunities; and</li><li>• Other opportunities for extension of content standard.</li></ul> <p>Additionally, we offer students opportunities to earn high school credit in Math 1 and</p>

	<p>Spanish 1. These opportunities typically begin in 6-8 grade.</p> <p>NCVPS <a href="#">North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS)</a> is NC's state supplemental program and leader in online education, providing inclusive learning opportunities for students across the state. Founded in 2007, with a strong commitment to ensuring quality education for all students, regardless of location, NCVPS has over 16 years of experience serving diverse learners.</p> <p>Students may enroll in NCVPS courses for a variety of reasons. Work with your school counselor if you are interested in taking NCVPS courses.</p>
6) <b>What school choices are available for my child?</b>	<p>Sterling Montessori has been a free, public charter school since 1997, which children are able to apply for through the <a href="#">lottery process</a>. There are additional options for families to choose for their child's education.</p> <p><b>Charter Schools</b></p> <p>Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system.</p> <p>If you are interested in NC charter schools, visit <a href="#">NC charter school</a> for information, resources, and contacts.</p>



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	<p><b>Traditional District Base Schools</b> Families are able to choose for their students to attend the assigned base school in their school district. The school that is assigned to their home address. This would include <a href="#">Wake Co Public School System</a>, <a href="#">Durham Co Public School System</a>, etc.</p> <p><b>Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants</b> Nonpublic education is overseen by the <a href="#">NC Department of Administration</a>.</p> <p>For a list of private schools, visit this <a href="#">NC Private Schools</a>.</p> <p>For information on how to start a homeschool visit: <a href="#">Homeschool Information</a></p> <p>Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the <a href="#">NC State Education Assistance Authority</a></p>
<p><b>7) What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?</b></p>	<p>For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education.</p> <p><a href="#">Exceptional Children Programs/Rights of Students With Disabilities</a> <a href="#">Parents Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education: Notice of Procedural Safeguards</a></p> <p>The Exceptional Children Division of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is looking for all children and youth ages birth through 21 with special needs who may not be receiving the help needed. These include children and youth with physical disabilities, emotional disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, and children and youth with</p>



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	<p>suspected disabilities who are highly mobile, migrant and/or homeless. If your child has a disability, or you suspect that he/she may have a disability please contact your child's school or Dr. Gloria Jones, Exceptional Children Director at <a href="mailto:gjones@sterlingmontessori.org">gjones@sterlingmontessori.org</a></p>
<b>8) What is the contact information for Sterling Montessori?</b>	<p>Parents and guardians may contact the main office at 919-462-8889 or email <a href="mailto:office@sterlingmontessori.org">office@sterlingmontessori.org</a>. Additional information can be found on the <a href="#">Sterling Montessori Website</a>.</p>
<b>9) What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?</b>	<p>Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS):</p> <p><a href="#">Immunizations</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health Assessment</a></p> <p><a href="#">Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Expected Immunization Schedules<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <a href="#">Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements</a></li><li>- <a href="#">Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements</a></li></ul></li></ul> <p>Information about <a href="#">Influenza</a>, <a href="#">Meningococcal disease</a>, and <a href="#">HPV</a> are accessible at the embedded links. Information about our immunizations can be found at <a href="#">Wake County Health and Human Services</a>.</p>