

## MVM First Day Flowers Tradition ~ Virtual for 2020-21

All children come to Monocacy Valley Montessori Public Charter School with their own gifts, filled with a desire to learn. Traditionally, on the first day of school, each student is given a flower, meant to symbolize these gifts. The flowers are then placed in a community vase at their classrooms to show that, when we all come together, we become something bigger than the individual. The complete, beautiful vase of flowers symbolizes our lovely, strong community. It shows that when we put together all of our gifts, we create a unified community of learners working toward peace.



Though we will not physically be together on the first day of the 2020-2021 school year, we still wish to celebrate our community of unique learners, which remains strong, even during this time of physical distancing. As with many traditions during this time, we need to celebrate in a new and different way, but we hope it will still be as meaningful.

This year, we are asking that students submit their first day flowers virtually, in the form of photos. As our students all have their own special ways of expressing themselves, we feel it is fitting that the students choose how to represent their flowers. **They may choose to pose in a garden, pick a favorite flower to hold, color or paint a picture of a flower, or create their own flower from whatever materials they choose. Students should work on their flowers prior to the start of school, so that the photos can be sent on the first day of school, just as flowers would traditionally be presented on that first day.** It is our hope that working on this project prior to the start of school will help to build each child's excitement and feeling of connection with our community.

Parents, if you choose to have your child participate, please take a photo or two of your child's flower, preferably with your child in the picture, but **please be aware that these photos will be shared within our community, so if you do not wish for your child's picture to be shared, please submit a photo of your child's flower alone. Choosing to submit photos means that you are consenting to have your photos shared within our MVM community, on our Meerkat Guidepost.**

**Photos should be submitted by email to [Amanda.Bodden@fcps.org](mailto:Amanda.Bodden@fcps.org) by Friday, September 4th.**

In the subject line, please include: **FLOWER - level - teacher's name**. In the email, please **include your child's first and last name, along with one or two photos.**

Thank you so much for doing your part to keep this cherished tradition alive this year. We look forward to seeing all of the beautiful flowers our children will present!