

SP#460: Applicant: The Grumman Hill Montessori Association, Inc. **Application:** To amend SP#191C to allow preschool classes and grades Kindergarten through Eight, reflecting a grade extension from the previously approved "preschool classes and grades Kindergarten through Six"; for property located at 34 Whipple Road

Responses to Planning and Zoning Staff Report dated September 17, 2019

Question 1. Re: # of parking spaces needed based on this application.

Answer:

- We noted that the report erroneously lists our current enrollment cap as 240 students (should be **230**).
- We have been operating with our current # of spaces with no traffic issues.
- We are not asking for increased parking with this application, since addition of 7th and 8th grades will not exceed our current enrollment cap

Question 2. Re: Waiver of parking requirements (related to Q. 1)

Answer:

- We do not need any additional parking accommodations associated with this application.

Question 3. Re: ...does applicant foresee greater number of vehicles due to staff, changes in the function or hours of operation, etc.

Answer:

- We do not foresee a greater number of vehicles than we have experienced in the past; we do not contemplate that there will be changes in the function or hours of operation pertaining to this application.
- Students currently enrolled in our elementary program will matriculate to the 7th and 8th grades, and/or older siblings of younger students already being brought to the campus could be added to these grades.

Question 4. Re: Will the proposal result in increased after-school activities?

Answer:

- After-school activities for the 7th and 8th grades will be integrated to our current programs. Sports, music, and/or theatre programs fluctuate year to year with numbers of students involved and program needs.

Question 5. Re: Will the addition of grades potentially result in the need to expand the school campus facilities, either now or at some point in the future?

Answer:

- Our facilities can accommodate the additional grades. Our application is based on a desire for the flexibility to enroll 7th and 8th grade students, still within our existing enrollment cap of 230 students.

Question 6. Re: On-site septic system; applicant should discuss proposal with Town Health Dept.

Answer:

- Per recommendation from the P&Z Commission, we have reached out to the Town Health Department to confirm that our septic system is not impacted by the application changes.

Question 7. Re: Discuss the student drop off/pick up plan with the Commission.

Answer:

- We have staggered drop off and pick up in both the morning and afternoon based on the ages of our students and start and end times of program levels attended. This system was specifically designed to ensure smooth traffic flow during peak times.

Question 8. Does the applicant foresee the need for any exterior modifications necessary to accommodate the proposal?

Answer:

- No.

Question 9. Re: Building, Health and Fire Codes depend upon respective use groups; recommendation to discuss plans with appropriate agencies to confirm continued compliance with codes.

Answer:

- We do not anticipate any changes needed to our current compliance with these codes, but we have reached out to Fire, Building and Health Dept. officials to ensure compliance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED AT THE 10/28/19 PUBLIC HEARING:

Total enrolled students as of September 1, 2019 (i.e. beginning of year): 125

10 Year Enrollment Data* as of Sept 1 each school year

School Year	Toddler – 6th Grade	School Year	Toddler – 6 th Grade
2009-10	213	2014-15	196
2010-11	207	2015-16	190
2011-12	219	2016-17	158
2012-13	224	2017-18	141
2013-14	200	2018-19	142

*Enrollment data provided is for Whipple Road campus only and does not include 7th and 8th grade students who were accommodated on a separate campus in Norwalk from 2009-2017

10 Year Enrollment Data for 7th and 8th grades as of Sept 1 each school year

School Year	7 th and 8 th Grades	School Year	7 th and 8 th Grades
2009-10	30	2014-15	26
2010-11	32	2015-16	16
2011-12	37	2016-17	10
2012-13	31	2017-18	Program on hiatus
2013-14	24	2018-19	Program on hiatus