
Expectations for the School

The Montessori program is based on the child-centered educational philosophy founded by Maria Montessori. In addition to this philosophy, specialized materials and strategies contribute to the Montessori approach unique to the school environment, producing a non-traditional instructional experience for the student. The Montessori approach will help students develop strong self-esteem and self-confidence and become socially and emotionally able by guiding children in developing an inner discipline, strengthening their coordination, and extending their attention span.

Montessori classrooms will be directed by teachers certified by the State of North Carolina and trained in Montessori education. Within classrooms, children will be mixed by ages. The school’s Montessori classroom will be a prepared environment specifically designed to meet the developmental and academic needs of a mixed-age grouping of children who move freely, choosing and exploring curricular materials of instruction.

Expectations for the Teacher

The Montessori teacher is trained to observe and assess each student’s use of specially designed, attractively displayed developmental materials to determine interests, self-motivations, and styles of learning. These observations form the basis for the strategies of instruction designed to offer children an individualized approach to education. Each child’s individualized approach to instruction is designed to enhance their ability as an independent learner. Students will be taught how to care for themselves and their environment and they will learn to view themselves as responsible members of a class setting.

Expectations for the Student/Family

Montessori students are expected to demonstrate conscientious academic effort by regularly completing assignments and by participating constructively in lessons, activities, etc. Children in the Montessori program will learn by working with the specially designed Montessori materials that support the goals and objectives of the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study*. Working individually or in small groups, children will develop a sense of self-esteem because they will be given a balance of freedom and responsibility.

The family is encouraged to attend a Parent Information meeting at the school prior to application and should embrace the Montessori philosophy. Parents should support the teacher in this non-traditional method of education. Instructional time is valuable; to receive the maximum benefits, children are expected to attend school regularly and for the entire day. Students should be self-motivated and enjoy the exploration of new ideas and concepts. Students must be four years old on or before August 31st in order to qualify for the Montessori Pre-K program. Children who enter the program at age four will benefit most from the program. Tuition is required for the four year old program and an additional charge is required for bus transportation. Scholarships may be available; contact the school for more information. Students who have completed two years of Upper Elementary Montessori education or a successful late entry interview assessment are eligible for the middle school program. In order to gain the greatest benefit, families should commit to their child attending through the terminal grade.

I have read and understand the expectations stated above. I also understand that, if I do not wish to continue in the Montessori program at my school, I must request a transfer into my home school or another magnet program.

Student Name: _____ **Student Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Name: _____ **Parent Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____