



Fully Accredited by the

AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY®
education that transforms lives

Montessori

The Montessori program is an option that provides an environment consistent with Dr. Maria Montessori's philosophy in which children learn through spontaneous and prescribed activities based on developmental needs as they become self-directed. Millard Public Schools has preschool through grade 5 at two elementary buildings and grades 6-8 at one middle school.

Program Philosophy

Dr. Maria Montessori believed that the role of education is to create a learning laboratory where the individual is allowed to continue the developmental process, a process begun at conception. This process assists the individual to grow up with a healthy spirit, a strong character and a clear intellect, realizing the interdependence with all of life. The elements of the educational process include the following:

- Methodology is based on movement, activity and habits of work and order.
- The child is guided, moving from simple to complex and concrete to abstract concepts for perceptual and conceptual proficiency.
- The child learns through spontaneous and prescribed activities based on developmental needs and individual learning styles.
- The child learns to become inner-directed or self-directed rather than "other-directed".
- There is intrinsic concern for rhythm, balance, and order, which make the life process possible and provides continuity in nature and the universe.

Program Overview

- Each Montessori classroom is multi-aged, except 6th grade. Pre-primary is ages 3-6 or preschool and Kindergarten. Primary classrooms are grades 1st-3rd or ages 6-9. Students in 4th and 5th grade, age 9-11, are in Intermediate classrooms. 6th grade is at the middle school and is a single grade as students complete the third year of the Montessori cycle. Grades 7 and 8 are together again in the middle school or adolescent program.
- The classroom environment is designed to facilitate maximum independent learning and exploration by the child.
- The curriculum is interdisciplinary and interactive.
- Concepts are taught using materials that encourage exploration, independence and analytical thinking.

- At the elementary level, Physical Education and music are taught on a daily rotation basis for 30- 35 minutes, depending on the age of the child. In middle school, students have PE during certain hexters and music is an elective.
- Drama and art are integrated into the prepared environment.

Preprimary: Ages 3-6

The prepared environment consists of five areas:

- **Practical Life:** which includes care of the person, care of the environment, food preparation, and social graces, consists of exercises designed to assist the child to lengthen the span of concentration, pay attention to details, develop good working habits, perfect coordination and encourage independence.
- **Sensorial:** prepares the child for accurate perception of different details in the qualities of things including size, shape, color, taste, form, touch, and smell; to categorize and relate new information to what the child already knows.
- **Mathematics:** Manipulative materials help the child internalize concepts of number and sequence, symbol, memorization of facts and operations.
- **Language:** The materials for written language equate written symbol and sound that assist the child in composing words, sentences, and whole stories. Books representing the best in children's literature from very simple texts to chapter books are available to meet the needs of each child. Literature may be explored individually or in a group, other materials are used to assist in the development of handwriting or understanding the parts of speech. Spanish instruction is also a part of the language program.
- **Cultural Studies:** Cultural Studies include biology, physical science, history, geography, and space studies and fine arts.

Primary and Intermediate: Ages 6-12

- The elementary program offers a continuum that is built on the preschool experience. The integrated studies of the arts, geography, history, and the sciences become the core of the curriculum with the intention of engaging the imagination of the child in developing a global perspective.
- Textbooks and worksheets are used by the children as reference materials only, not as a basis for assigned work in curricular areas.
- The materials for language, grammar, and math further expand and deepen the child's understanding of the concepts in their movement towards abstraction. There is an emphasis on the six traits of writing, research with primary sources, grammar and sentence analysis, spelling based on usage and grapheme "families", and oral expression./speech. In math, the materials work to help the

child discover the correlations between arithmetic, geometry and algebra. The discovery of the rules and formulae in math is the goal, not the point of departure.

- Most Montessori programs combine grades 4, 5, and 6. In Millard the 6th graders are located in the middle school and will be the only time that the students are not in a multi-aged class. The students will complete the intermediate curriculum that year while also participating in additional classes offered at the middle school level such as PE, Music and World Language.

Middle School: Ages 12-15

- Consistent with Montessori's belief in a prepared environment for each stage of development, an environment has been prepared for the needs of the adolescent. Using the background knowledge gained from elementary Montessori, this environment permits the student to explore knowledge, the world and themselves within a safe community of learners. As part of the prepared environment, teachers have been specifically trained and certified to guide the adolescent to meet their potential. The students are encouraged to take on more responsibility and become more independent as the student progresses through the program. The classroom is multiage and the curriculum is integrated. It runs on a two-year rotation consisting of 4 cycles each. Each cycle is based on guiding questions from three major focal points that are important to the developing adolescent: Personal World (Psychology, Health, Cosmic and Peace Education); Natural World (Science); and Social World (Social Studies). The student is responsible for both individual and group work projects within these areas.
- One part of the prepared environment is a democratically run classroom. Students facilitate decision making as a part of the entire class, developing rules, procedures, and other decisions. This civics education teaches students responsibility for their own learning environment.
- Mathematics instruction involves materials, projects, and problems from district texts. Students work in one of four different district math levels, general math, pre-algebra, algebra, and geometry.
- Students run their own business to learn about the "real world" of income and expense. They earn money, which is applied to their end-of-the-year immersion/adventure trip.
- Communication Arts includes, vocabulary, literature, grammar and mechanics, and writing. These areas of the curriculum are integrated into the three major focal points listed above.
- Students in both seventh and eighth grade take elective classes, PE, Health, World Languages and music within the traditional Central Middle School program.
- Four times each year, the students spend a week away from school on "Immersion." These immersion times extend the curriculum into a bigger arena, both for their emotional development, and learning about the world; school away from school.

Montessori sites and Contact Persons:

Montclair Elementary

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Norris Elementary School

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Mrs. Colleen Ballard, Principal

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Russell Middle School

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