



Fernwood Montessori Elementary

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Montessori Elementary education speaks to a child's imagination and sets them off on a lifelong voyage of discovery.

The Montessori Elementary classroom has a unique approach to drawing out the knowledge and wisdom in a child. The year begins with The Great Lessons, a series of five stories designed to ignite a spark of curiosity, imagination, and creativity in the mind of the child. These connected stories set the tone for exploration of the vast and extraordinary span of history across time and space. This exploration encourages awareness of the interdependence and interconnectedness of all life and a global and ecological view, key elements in what is called "cosmic education" in the Montessori elementary classroom.

The Elementary Classroom



◆ Three year curriculum which provides flexibility and ability to return to concepts again and again on a more complex level, leading to a more comprehensive education.

◆ Multi-age environment (6-12 years old) which

supports the developmental need for socialization and collaboration.

- ◆ Interdisciplinary approach across curriculum areas.
- ◆ Work is based on interest and skill level- not age—while still adhering to common core standards across public school curriculum. Students move at their own pace with guidance and accountability.
- ◆ Small group lessons and individualized follow up work support differentiated learning approach.



◆ Research projects allow children to "dive deep" into academic interests

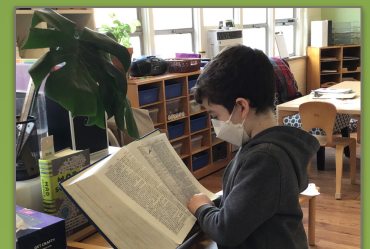
◆ Empowering and encouraging environment that is community-oriented; teacher is a guide and decentralized.

◆ Focus on social justice, fairness, and compassion



◆ "Going Out" experiences: Because no classroom is able to provide all of the answers to a child's questions, the "Going Out" is a response to the need to explore and seek knowledge beyond the walls of the classroom.

◆ Maximizing the potential of each individual child in an environment that has a place for everyone, providing a profound sense of belonging, unity, and harmony with all.



What Makes Us Unique:

- ◆ Daily Expectations and lessons written on chalkboard where they can be viewed by the children upon entry into the classroom. Children are responsible for planning their work period around their lessons and follow up activities.
- ◆ Journal used to plan, organize, and keep track of the work record. Tracking work builds time management and goal-setting skills, accountability for lessons received, independence and responsibility for individual learning.
- ◆ Rigorous writing program with Weekly Writing Expectation



- ◆ Weekly presentations where students can develop and practice public speaking skills
- ◆ Weekly spelling tests (2nd year and up)

- ◆ Weekly Community Meetings led by the students to discuss classroom matters and upcoming events. Modeled after a student government system with minutes, agenda items, and more.



- ◆ Community Meals where students can prepare, serve, and eat a dish together.
- ◆ S.A.G.E. Meetings to guide elder students as they step into leadership roles in the classroom community.
- ◆ Weekly P.E. and extra curricular classes
- ◆ Class Newspaper (The S.A.G.E.) distributed seasonally and written independently by the upper elementary team
- ◆ Education for Peace/Social Justice
- ◆ Stewardship of the self and community

“My vision of the future is no longer of people taking exams and proceeding on that certification. . . but of individuals passing from one stage of independence to a higher [one], by means of their own activity, through their own effort of will, which constitutes the inner evolution of the individual”

-Maria Montessori

Annual Events:

- ◆ **Curriculum Night** (fall and spring) where students present lessons from the Montessori curriculum to families
- ◆ **Historical Halloween** where students present research and portray important historical figures in a museum-like setting
- ◆ **Elementary Bazaar** where students sell handmade crafts. Proceeds from this event are collected and counted by the students and donated to a charity of their choice.
- ◆ **Poetry and Tea** where students perform recitations of chosen poetry to parents.



What about after Montessori Elementary?

Follow up studies have indicated that Montessori graduates have little or no trouble with transition. Most excel academically as well as socially. Because they have had the advantage of sustained relationships with the multi-age group and their guides, they have insight into the personalities of other children and a strong sense of self. They make friends easily and have a balanced outlook on life.