

Elementary Program *overview*

The Montessori elementary curriculum focuses on developing the foundation for lifetime learning while emphasizing independent research. We teach children to think creatively and foster responsibility, self-motivation, curiosity, and self-reliance. Montessori students actively participate in the educational process.

Dr. Maria Montessori's educational philosophy has been confirmed by modern research: that internal, intrinsic motivation is the real power behind learning. The external reward of working for a grade can interfere with the child's natural receptiveness to learn, while working for intrinsic reward leads to originality and creativity.

In our non-competitive classes, students learn to challenge themselves beyond what is traditionally taught at certain ages. They are encouraged to gauge their success based on their own prior performance and the achievement of personal learning goals the student has developed with the teacher's guidance.

Our students work hard to learn for the sheer joy of it. They take pleasure in the solo mastery of skills and in cooperative learning. They are able to celebrate the success of others, not just their own, without competition-inspired motivation.

We expect a peaceful classroom, where communication skills, respect for others and the environment, and grace and courtesy are emphasized. We strive to foster our students' sense of membership in an extended learning community and to see themselves as citizens of their school, community, nation, and world.

A comprehensive academic curriculum is supplemented by Spanish, music, art, drama, cooking, P.E, environmental education, monthly field trips, and an annual overnight camping experience. An optional summer season rounds out the year with a fun and challenging enrichment program.

MSH conducts a multi-age elementary program for children six through twelve years old (first through sixth grades.) Students attend from 8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Extended Care (EC) is available from 7 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. before school and from 2:45 to 6 p.m. after school.

We encourage you to observe the classroom in session and meet with the teachers after class. You are welcome to bring your child, but some parents prefer to visit alone the first time so they are not distracted from learning all they can about the program.

Before a child attends MSH, the school must have a Preadmission Form and Addendum. A current State of Alabama Immunization Certificate ("Blue Card") obtained from your Pediatrician or Health Department, must also be on file.

A non-refundable annual Application Fee of \$150 is due upon enrollment (\$100 for children who pre-enroll) and Registration Fee of \$300 by the first day of school. Tuition for the elementary program for the school year is based on an annual fee and payable in ten equal monthly installments, August through May. A \$500 advance deposit is due in May with your child's registration forms and will be credited to your child's tuition amount in the fall.