

Admissions

We welcome diversity in our student body and in our staff. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please call the school to arrange for a visit.

If after touring the school, you wish to apply, you will need to complete our application and pay a \$75 non-refundable application fee. This fee does not guaranty admission, but begins the admissions process. Next an evaluation of the student is required for the purpose of determining whether the child is a good match for our school.

Criteria for acceptance include the child's readiness and willingness to learn; the parent's understanding and acceptance of our basic goals and philosophy; the student being the proper age for our programs; and, for the early childhood program, the child having been potty trained.

We encourage enrollment for the beginning of the school year, but we accept children throughout the year, if openings are available.



Early Childhood Program for Ages 3-6
Extended Childcare
Lower Elementary Program for Ages 6-9
Summer Camp Program

Providing Montessori Education in a Prepared Environment Since 1992

Associate Member American Montessori Society
Member National Association of Episcopal Schools



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The secret of good teaching is to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flaming imagination.

—Dr. Maria Montessori

Why Montessori?

By the age of five children of Montessori schools are better at basic word recognition and mathematics, and are more likely to play co-operatively with other children. By the age of twelve, they are more creative and better able to resolve social problems....

- Angeline Lillard, the **Journal Science**

Attending a Montessori program from approximately the ages of three to eleven predicts significantly higher mathematics and science standardized tests in high school....This study supports the hypothesis that Montessori education has a positive long-term impact.

-A Longitudinal Study of the Experience in the Milwaukee Public Schools

Within the child lies the fate of the future.
-Dr Maria Montessori

Philosophy

Developed by Dr. Maria Montessori in Italy at the turn of the 20th century, Montessori education has as its primary goal the development of the child's self-esteem and the cultivation of the child's natural desire to learn. Children are regarded with respect and treated as individuals. The child is seen as an intelligent person, capable of learning primarily through exploration and discovery.

The program is designed to be child-centered, rather than teacher-directed, in order to empower the child. The role of the adult is to prepare opportunities that meet the needs of the child, to provide a foundation for the child's social and emotional growth, and to act as an agent in facilitating the discovery process of the child. Children are encouraged to become self-directed and independent within a social context, helping them to achieve responsibility and true discipline.

The philosophy is committed to standards of excellence in the quality of the curriculum, staff, aesthetics, and environment provided.





The Montessori method is the guiding principle behind Grace Montessori School and thousands of schools all over the world. The test of time has proven it wise.

Grace Montessori School's continual focus on educational excellence, moral grounding and the diversity of its students has earned it a reputation as one of the best early childhood and Montessori schools in the Lehigh Valley. The school serves children living in inner city Allentown, children of parents who work in the downtown, and children of families who drive from all over the area to give their children the unique educational benefits offered by the school.

A grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Economic Development and partnership with the Allentown Parking Authority in developing City Center as well as gifts by foundations and private individuals made possible the 2004 renovation of the old Hess's Parking Garage into our state-of-the-art early childhood facility. Awards from foundations and money provided by Grace Episcopal Church funded the 2006 expansion into the beautiful lower elementary classroom in which children ages six through nine are taught.

Continued growth to allow for an upper elementary program is planned and under development.

The most formidable time for a child to learn is when she wants to do it herself.

—Aline D. Wolf



Early Childhood Program

Here at Grace Montessori School, we rejoice in the basic tenet of Dr. Maria Montessori—children want naturally to learn. Children delight in seeing how the world works and in mastering it. Our teachers respect the children's interests and abilities. Free to follow their inner dictates, children acquire an ability to learn that is virtually unlimited.

Our children learn in multi-age classroom settings (ages three through six) and explore prepared environments with the finest Montessori materials designed to be self-teaching and with child-size furnishings. Growing in a safe harbor with Montessori-trained teachers, they learn in the following areas:

- Practical Life ▪ Sensorial ▪ Language
- Mathematics ▪ Science ▪ Cultural ▪ Creative

Extended Childcare

Childcare is available for children in our Early Childhood Program. Hours are from 7:30 a.m. until the start of school and from the end of school until 5:30 p.m.

Summer Camp

Four two-week summer sessions are available each year. The camps include themes, arts and crafts, and outdoor play. Camp is for children ages three through six.



Lower Elementary Program

Our lower elementary classroom is located at Grace Church, 108 North Fifth Street, Allentown, PA 18102 in our beautiful new, fully equipped and modern classroom. Children ages six through nine study the Montessori curriculum designed specifically for this age as children are growing more into social awareness.

Areas of study include:

- Reading ▪ Practical Life ▪ Creative Writing ▪ Science ▪ Math ▪ Botany ▪ Zoology ▪ Anatomy ▪ History ▪ Geography ▪ Human Values ▪ Computers ▪ Spanish ▪ Art at The Baum School ▪ Music ▪ Movement ▪ Interfaith Chapel

The program emphasizes:

- Love of learning
- Reason and imagination used to explore reality from the tiniest parts of the universe (atoms) to distant galaxies
- Growth in cultural experiences and knowledge
- Competencies fostered through repetitive experiences of success; failure is de-emphasized
- Un-graded classrooms
- Spontaneous activity encouraged along with peer help and collaboration
- Movement from sensorial learning to abstract concepts
- Development of imagination, responsible freedom
- Social awareness



History

In September 1992, Grace Montessori School opened its doors, funded by a seed grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem in the amount of \$10,000 provided to fund social justice work in the inner city.

The founder, Cathy Constantin Reid, a member of Grace Episcopal Church, saw a need for quality pre-school education experiences in the faces of the children whose parents received food from the church's food pantry.

That first year, two teachers taught seven children in a church basement classroom. With the passing years, numbers grew as did economic, religious, and cultural diversity. But the school remained faithful to its original mission by committing to provide scholarship assistance to 30 percent of its students. Now with 16 staff members and 100 students, the school serves the entire Lehigh Valley.

Our Lower Elementary Program is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Our Kindergarten and Lower Elementary Programs are registered with the Pennsylvania Department of Education as non-public, private schools.

Our school is an official MACTE certified early childhood training site, one of only thirty certified training centers in the U.S., through our collaboration with Lehigh Carbon Community College. Courses are taught at our school, with one of our teachers acting as director of the program, which offers early childhood college credits.

We are an associate member of the American Montessori Society and a member of the National Association of Episcopal Schools.