



A HISTORY OF MONTESSORI EDUCATION

Maria Montessori was an Italian educator, physician, and scientist who opened a school for underresourced/underserved children in 1907. Applying scientific observation and her knowledge as a physician to the learning of children, the instructional approach she developed proved to be highly successful. DPS has operated nationally recognized public Montessori schools for over 25 years; part of the 5,000 Montessori schools nationwide serving over one million children.

MONTESSORI INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Montessori education focuses on all areas of child and teen development: cognitive, emotional, social, and physical. Student learning environments are multi-age, student-directed, and involve multi-sensory, hands-on learning activities. Instruction is designed to engage student’s natural curiosity and desire for independence – Montessori philosophy is to always “follow the child.”

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR A STUDENT?

Time in a Montessori classroom is divided into sections of uninterrupted work time when students follow an individualized work plan to meet their learning goals. They engage in a variety of independent or collaborative tasks, hands-on learning activities, and conferences with the teacher. Students start the day in a morning meeting that builds community. Meal and snack times are also designed to develop real world skills and build community. At the elementary level, students still have art, music, and PE as well as recess. Middle school students still have elective classes.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A MONTESSORI EDUCATION?

A Montessori learning environment fosters independence, creates confidence, encourages empathy, establishes an understanding of social justice, and builds the foundation for joyful lifelong learning. Young children as well as adolescents develop the skills of self-regulation, self-assessment, and self-reflection. Students benefit from being part of caring community that models respect and effective conflict resolution and utilizes a multi-age environment to model and develop leadership.

HOW ARE MONTESSORI TEACHERS TRAINED?

Montessori experts certified by the American Montessori Society (AMS) train all of our teachers in our DPS Montessori program. This training is rigorous and consists of many hours of coursework as well as assessments, classroom application, and portfolios of teacher work. DPS is committed to a Montessori model with fidelity, and we consistently work towards 100% full Montessori training rates for our Montessori classroom teachers.



RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

- > [Comparison of Traditional vs. Montessori Education](#)
- > [Fast Facts: Montessori Research](#)
- > [Montessori education: a review of the evidence base](#)
- > [American Montessori Society Research Library](#)



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