

Introduction

Welcome to Charles Ellis Montessori Academy! We are glad you are considering our school, and we know what an important decision this is. We want to help your research by explaining what makes our school unique. A Montessori education is quite different from the traditional school, in the school's structure and in how instruction is given. The Montessori philosophy was developed in the early 1900's by Dr. Maria Montessori, who believed that children have a natural curiosity and love for learning. Her philosophy calls for a family-like atmosphere, where children are encouraged to work independently at their own level, with the teacher as a guide.

There are three main parts to the Montessori system: The Child, The Environment and The Teacher.

The Child

The child is at the heart of any successful educational program. At Charles Ellis Montessori Academy, students are free to pursue subjects that fit their interests, abilities and individual rates of learning. Every student has their own individualized work plan that allows them to move naturally at their own pace through the curriculum. Children are grouped in multi-age settings. The multi-age setting allows for students to gain a sense of competence and achievement while seeing themselves as contributors to the community. As each child learns how to be responsible for their own learning, he or she becomes role models for others.

The Environment

The environment of each Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade classroom is designed to help children develop as total human beings. Having both elementary and middle school under one roof gives students the opportunity to grow within a nurturing setting. The classroom is structured to cultivate and challenge the child's own natural desire to learn. Each classroom is equipped with books, teacher-made materials, and manipulative resources that are the hallmark of Montessori's hands-on learning philosophy. The environment is prepared with materials varying at different levels to satisfy the needs of each child.

The Teacher

All teachers at Charles Ellis Montessori Academy are either trained or are being trained in the Montessori Method. Their job is to act as a guide for the student. The teacher is not typically found in front of the room giving whole-group instruction. Instead, they conduct individual and small group lessons. They are observers of their students so that they may better develop a plan to meet the needs of each child. They encourage self-reflection in the child in order for them to move toward greater awareness and deeper knowledge of themselves. This in turn helps the child build self-esteem, cooperation skills and instills in them a broader understanding of respect for the community and diverse cultures.