

Montessori Philosophy and Curriculum

At Charles Ellis Montessori Academy, we believe children learn best in a non-threatening, family-like atmosphere. Our goal is to provide a pleasant environment with beautiful, developmentally appropriate materials intended to meet the natural needs of each child. The Montessori Method is designed to maintain a sensible balance between freedom and structure. Children are encouraged to pursue areas of interest through individual, in-depth studies and projects throughout the curriculum. We provide our students with a strong base for developing into responsible, happy and well-rounded adults.

The curriculum at Charles Ellis Montessori Academy is based on the Montessori Method, which utilizes specific hands-on materials. The spiral education offered builds upon the whole child, moving the student developmentally to the next level at the rate the individual child learns. The *Common Core Standards* are correlated to the Montessori objectives to ensure a quality education. Traditional report cards are not issued for elementary students at Charles Ellis Montessori Academy. Instead, parent-teacher-student conferences are held each nine weeks to discuss what the student has accomplished. This allows for a much more comprehensive understanding of where the child is developmentally and provides for an opportunity for both parents and teacher to discuss a plan for that child. Report cards are issued in middle school to prepare students for the traditional high school experience.

Other Childhood Development Opportunities at Charles Ellis Montessori Academy

Childhood development doesn't just happen during the instructional time; there are many other opportunities for participation and development at Charles Ellis Montessori Academy. The fourth through sixth grade students present a musical in a polished public performance. In addition to the standard curriculum on math, language arts and sciences, our other components include grace and courtesy, practical life, sensorial, cultural studies, citizenship, humanities and ethics. Spanish and technology are also offered with specially certified teachers. Charles Ellis Montessori Academy also has middle school athletics, volunteer programs and educational gardens. Out-of-classroom activities such as frequent field trips, nature walks and camping trips play an important role to create more bonding experiences.

The Montessori educational philosophy has long been a popular education choice offered in the private sector. Therefore, Charles Ellis was designed to give the same experience through Savannah-Chatham's public school system. Charles Ellis was established in 1988 as the first Montessori Public School in all of Georgia.