



Montessori

The Montessori program is an option that provides an environment consistent with Dr. Maria Montessori's philosophy in which children learn through spontaneous and prescribed activities based on developmental needs as they become self-directed. Millard Public Schools has preschool through grade 5 at two elementary buildings and grades 6-8 at one middle school.

Program Philosophy

Dr. Maria Montessori believed that the role of education is to create a learning laboratory where the individual is allowed to continue the developmental process, a process begun at conception. This process assists the individual to grow up with a healthy spirit, a strong character and a clear intellect, realizing the interdependence with all of life. The elements of the educational process include the following:

- Methodology is based on movement, activity and habits of work and order.
- The child is guided, moving from simple to complex and concrete to abstract concepts for perceptual and conceptual proficiency.
- The child learns through spontaneous and prescribed activities based on developmental needs and individual learning styles.
- The child learns to become inner-directed or self-directed rather than "other-directed".
- There is intrinsic concern for rhythm, balance, and order, which make the life process possible and provides continuity in nature and the universe.

Program Overview

- Each Montessori classroom is multi-aged. Preprimary is ages 3-6 or preschool and kindergarten.
- The classroom environment is designed to facilitate maximum independent learning and exploration by the child.
- The curriculum is interdisciplinary and interactive.
- Concepts are taught using materials that encourage exploration, independence and analytical thinking.
- Lessons are given individually as children are ready for the skill or concept.
- Drama and art are integrated into the prepared environment.

Preprimary: Ages 3-6

The prepared environment consists of five areas:

- **Practical Life:** which includes care of the person, care of the environment, food preparation, and social graces, consists of exercises designed to assist the child to lengthen the span of concentration, pay attention to details, develop good working habits, perfect coordination and encourage independence.
- **Sensorial:** prepares the child for accurate perception of different details in the qualities of things including size, shape, color, taste, form, touch, and smell; to categorize and relate new information to what the child already

- **Sensory:** prepares the child for accurate perception of different details in the qualities of things including size, shape, color, taste, form, touch, and smell; to categorize and relate new information to what the child already knows.
- **Mathematics:** Manipulative materials help the child internalize concepts of number and sequence, symbol, memorization of facts and operations.
- **Language:** The materials for written language equate written symbol and sound that assist the child in composing words, sentences, and whole stories. Books representing the best in children's literature from very simple texts to chapter books are available to meet the needs of each child. Literature may be explored individually or in a group, other materials are used to assist in the development of handwriting or understanding the parts of speech. Spanish instruction is also a part of the language program.
- **Cultural Studies:** Cultural Studies include biology, physical science, history, geography, and space studies and fine arts.

Montessori sites and contact persons:

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