

Montessori Country Day School

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2023-2024 School Year Registration

Toddler Program: For children ages 12 months through 2 years 9 months, by September 1, 2023

The Montessori toddler classroom is designed to meet the needs of the 12-month to 33-month old child. Based on the Montessori philosophy of “learning by doing,” the materials are designed to entice the child’s senses, encouraging the toddler to explore the environment through hands-on experiences. Songs, finger plays, and socialization activities are a vital and fun part of the curriculum.

Our full day program is designed for parents who need full time care. The afternoon program includes supervised lunch period, gross motor activities, recess, naptime, and snack.

Primary Program: For children ages 2 years 10 months and older, by September 1, 2023

The Montessori classroom provides a specially prepared environment designed to encourage the child to work at an individual pace towards an understanding of the world. Activities are self-correcting and entice the child to learn through hands-on experiences. The curriculum includes language, math, practical life, and sensorial activities. Music, art, science, geography, and world cultures are also an integral part of the classroom. Gym and foreign language classes are incorporated on a weekly basis and a formal Art and Library classes are offered bi-weekly (these special activities cannot be guaranteed for students choosing less than a 5-day schedule.) Special programs and field trips are held throughout the year.

In accordance with Pennsylvania regulations, our classrooms are licensed by the Department of Education. Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by October 31st of the enrolled school year. In order to qualify as a kindergarten year, students must register for no less than 2 full-days or 5 half-days for the entire year. Each school district has its own age requirements and acceptance policies for 1st grade. Enrollment in our program does not guarantee 1st grade placement by your school district for the following year; parents must familiarize themselves with their school district policies.

Elementary Program: For children in 1st grade through 6th grade

The goals and curriculum of the elementary program of Montessori Country Day School are based on the philosophy and pedagogical methods of Maria Montessori. At the center of this philosophy is the importance of an individualized education that values the strengths and unique abilities of all students. Children are inherently interested in learning. A Montessori program builds on this curiosity, with the goal of teaching students how to learn on their own, not to teach *to* them. The Montessori philosophy and method shape the way that the classroom and curriculum are structured. Important characteristics of our elementary program include:

- A holistic approach to the curriculum, integrating subjects in a thematic way that leads to an understanding of the world, nature, and the human being.
- An emphasis on strong academic preparation as well as on personal and practical life skills.
- A curriculum that allows for a self-initiated focus in areas of interest and is not strictly age-based.
- The integration of multiple age groups into one classroom.
- A celebration of pluralism in our local communities and throughout the world, through the study of multiple cultural traditions, geography, history, and language. The program encourages open-minded acceptance of all peoples.
- Curriculum that integrates experiential, hands-on learning with a progression to understanding abstract concepts.

The curriculum conforms to state regulations by including all required subjects (every year: English, reading, spelling, writing, math, science, social studies, health, physical education, art, music, and at least once every six years: history of the U.S., history of Pennsylvania, geography, civics, safety education). But more importantly, as noted above, the curriculum is modeled on the Montessori philosophy and method. There is an emphasis on integrating subjects thematically across disciplinary lines; this integration includes subjects such as art, music, and physical education. In accordance with Montessori philosophy, students move from an experiential understanding to an increasingly abstract understanding of subjects. While the philosophy and methods follow those with which the children are familiar from pre-school, there is an increase in structure and formal expectations in the elementary program. Although students continue to be self-directed and

motivated, the curriculum includes more demanding and structured expectations than the pre-school/pre-kindergarten/kindergarten program. Research shows that children coming out of Montessori elementary schools have an extremely strong preparation in academic fundamentals and are well equipped to learn in many different environments.

Our goal is to create and support students who are well trained in academic disciplines. We want our students to love learning, value knowledge, and practice creativity. Our goal is to develop responsible, critical, confident, powerful, and caring members of society. Our hope is to provide an environment that encourages all of these characteristics, supporting our students, as they become goal setting, achieving individuals. Students are taught to think clearly, research topics, express themselves in writing and speech, and put their knowledge to practical application. French, Spanish, music, and art are offered, formally, once a week in both the Primary and Upper Elementary classes. Health and physical education are offered formally each week. Initial conferences are scheduled in October and followed up with written progress reports in February and June. Conferences with your child's teachers can be requested at any time.

Registration Fee and Payment Policies

A registration fee is required to guarantee placement and must be returned with the registration form. The fee is \$50 for each toddler or primary child and \$100 for each elementary child. This fee is NON-REFUNDABLE. All tuition payments are due on the first of the month, June 2023 and then September 2023 through May 2024. The first payment is due June 1st, 2023 and is necessary to ensure placement for your child. If you choose to withdraw after making that first payment, you must do so in writing by August 1st, 2023. After receipt of the written request, the first tuition payment will be reimbursed to you. We use an online software system to post tuition charges. All families are able to access the amount due each month. We accept cash, checks, and ACH as payment. We do not accept credit card or debit card payments. Receipts must be requested from the office. Tuition is paid in monthly installments. We do not accept pre-payment of tuition.

Additional Care Hours

Additional daycare hours are available from 7:30AM to 8:45 AM, and 3:45PM to 5:00 PM. Prescheduled care is daycare that has been scheduled through the office and paid for one month in advance, as part of the regular monthly tuition payment. Drop-in daycare must also be scheduled through the office and paid for at the time of service. Arrangements will be made for drop-in care after staff and child ratios are considered. The drop-in rate for AM Care is \$18.75 per day. The drop-in rate for PM Care is \$18.75 per day. Drop-in Care for both before and after care is \$37.50 per day. All prescheduled rates are available on the registration forms.

Specials and Scheduling (Toddler and Primary programs)

You are encouraged to enroll your student for 5 days per week. We find that children do best with a 5-day schedule. We do understand that for some families, a different schedule is preferred. If you choose to enroll your student for less than 5 days per week, you must choose a standard M/W/F or T/Th schedule. While we endeavor to get every child to each special activity (library, gym, art, and French), it may not be possible when students are enrolled less than 5 days per week.

Sickness, Vacation and Withdrawal Policies

Full tuition is due even if your child is sick or on vacation. This payment is necessary to hold your child's placement in the program. If you choose to withdraw your child from our program anytime during the school year, you will not be obligated to pay the remainder of your child's annual tuition. You will not however, be refunded any portion of tuition already paid to the school.

Rolling Admission

If there is available space, children can be enrolled at any time throughout the school year. Monthly tuition rates may be different from the rates printed in the chart on this form. Tuition is based on a 180-day school year calendar. Tuition will be pro-rated depending on the time of year your child begins in the program and the number of days remaining in the school year.

Registration Procedures

Please complete the attached form. Sign and submit it to the school with a non-refundable \$50 (Toddler & Primary) or \$100 (Elementary) registration fee paid via cash or check. Registration forms will not be accepted prior to January 30th for current families or before February 13th for new registrants. *If you have any additional questions about the program or registering your child, please contact the school at 610-777-3080 or info@mcadsberks.org*