

Montessori Country Day School

53 Vermont Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608
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2024-2025 School Year Registration

Toddler Program: For children ages 12 months through 2 years 9 months, by September 1, 2024

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. Teachers create a peaceful, supportive, and safe environment for our youngest children where their natural passion for wonder, curiosity, exploration, independence, and discovery comes alive.

Primary Program: For children ages 2 years 10 months and older, by September 1, 2024

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 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.

Our primary classrooms are licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and their curriculum aligns with or exceeds state learning standards. In order to meet the educational hours required to qualify as a kindergarten year, students must be 5 years old by October 31st of the enrolled school year and must be enrolled in five half-days or any full day schedule for the entire school year. Each school district has its own age requirements and enrollment policies for 1st grade. Enrollment in our program for kindergarten 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. Teachers guide children through a rigorous curriculum individually tailored to their own interests, needs, and abilities. Teachers monitor progress against established benchmarks and expectations for student learning, including academic preparedness, independence, confidence, autonomy, intrinsic motivation, social responsibility, and global citizenship.

In the elementary program, students move from an experiential understanding of concepts to an increasingly abstract understanding of concepts. Student autonomy continues to be an integral component in the elementary classroom and there is an increase in structure and formal expectations for students as they work through their elementary years. The elementary program is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and its curriculum aligns with or exceeds state learning standards.

Registration Fee and Payment Policies

A registration fee is required for placement eligibility and must be submitted 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 2024 and then September 2024 through May 2025. The first payment is due June 1st, 2024 and is required to confirm placement for your child. If you choose to withdraw after making that first payment, you must do so in writing by August 1st, 2024. 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 can 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 prepayment of tuition.

Additional Care Hours

Additional daycare hours are available from 7:30 AM to 8:45 AM, and 3:45 PM 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 payments. These rates can be found on the registration form. 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. Students utilizing drop-in daycare will be charged for the entire 1.25 hour daycare session at a rate of \$18.75 per daycare session. Students utilizing drop-in care for both before and after care will be charged for both full sessions (a total of 2.5 hours per day) at a rate of \$37.50 per day. A \$25.00 per family late pick-up fee will be charged for any children picked up from daycare after 5:00 pm. Drop-in care must be scheduled through the office no less than one week in advance. A \$25.00 per family fee will be charged in addition to the daycare session fee for unannounced drop-in care.

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 integrate specials activities into the classroom environment, it may not be possible for students to attend a specials class 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 must do so in writing and 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 prorated 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 29th for current families or before February 12th for new registrants. Incomplete and/or unpaid registration forms will not be processed. *If you have any additional questions about the program or registering your child, please contact the school at 610-777-3080 or info@mcdsberks.org.*