



Eduardo Mata ES

A Montessori School of Choice

Information Session

January 28, 2015



Housekeeping Notes & Agenda

- Silence Cell Phones
 - Take phone calls outside
- Children
- 6:00 – 6:45 General Meeting
- 6:45 – 7:15 Classroom Preview
 - Time Permitting

Vision Statement: To provide an academic foundation which allows our students to be successful on their educational journey.

Mission Statement: To empower self-motivated students as they strive for excellence and success in their education.



The Montessori Classroom

- **Curriculum is individualized.**
- **Child-centered Learning**
 - Child discovers own concepts from self-teaching materials
 - Child spots their own errors from feedback of material
- **Freedom of Choice of Work**
 - Students are encouraged to learn by choosing activities which they have been presented and can repeat as many times as they wish in order to perfect their skills and competence.
 - Use of work plan or a contract and the child will need to complete an array of educational activities



The Montessori Classroom

- **Multiple Ages in the Class**
 - Primary (Ages 3-6)
 - Lower Elem (Grades 1st-3rd)
 - Upper Elem (Grades 4th-6th)
- **Self-paced Learning**
- **Uninterrupted Work Period**
 - Students work on subjects by choice.
 - Students are allocated time to work and complete lessons



The Montessori Classroom

- **Emphasis on cognitive and social development.**
- **Teacher acts as a guide and coach, and generally works with small groups in different areas of the room.**
- **Environment and method encourage self-discipline**
- **Child can work where he or she chooses, move about and talk at will (yet not to disturb others)**
- **Grouping encourages children to teach and collaborate**



From Concrete to Abstract with an Emphasis on the Use of Materials

- The use of manipulative materials are designed to facilitate the retention of concepts through experimentation, observation, and discovery.
- Multi-sensory materials for physical exploration







Public Schools in Texas

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

Testing

- Common Assessments (Every 6 Weeks)
 - Academic checkpoints
- ACP (Each Semester)
- K-2 (*Reading, Math, Writing*)

The TEKS: An Opportunity for Montessori to SHINE

WHAT

WHEN

HOW

Achieving Meaningful Understanding

Research-based developers of the TEKS



Realized many aspects of what Dr. Montessori discovered so many years ago





- A *spiral* approach to topics
- Experiences with beautiful, scientifically designed concrete materials,
- Leads to **deep understanding** of concepts.

<p>The red and blue squares have sides with lengths a and b.</p>	<p>The areas of the squares is length times the width.</p>
	$A = a^2 + ab + ab + b^2$ $A = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$
<p>This makes the areas of the black rectangles a times b (ab).</p>	<p>The total area is the sum of all the small areas.</p>

$$a^3 + b^3 = (a+b)(a^2 - ab + b^2)$$

$$x^3 + 8 = (x+2)(x^2 - x \cdot 2 + 2^2)$$

$$= (x+2)(x^2 - 2x + 4)$$



Is Montessori Right for my Child?

PK3 and PK4

Foundational Years

- Independence

- How to care for myself
- Zippers, buckles, hand washing, pouring
- Lead to self-confidence and resilience
- "I can do it by myself!"



- Order and Concentration

- Table washing:
 - Beginning, middle and end
 - Following multiple steps in sequence
 - Continuing an activity through completion



- Social harmony

- Speaking and acting respectfully
- Helping others and asking for help
- Resolving conflict



Educating the Whole Child

Academic Skills

- Phonological awareness
- Letter sounds
- Vocabulary
- Preliminary writing
- Environmental counting
- Sorting and classifying
- Exploring the world through their senses

Life Skills

- Independence
- Resilience
- Social harmony
- A love of learning

Suggested Resources for Prospective Montessori Parents

Literature


- *The Science Behind the Genius* by Angeline Lillard discusses current research and how it relates to Montessori practices.
- *Math Works* by Michael Duffy goes deeply into the Montessori math curriculum.
- *Montessori Talks to Parents* by NAMTA for a well-rounded view of the Montessori classroom.

YouTube Videos

- “Montessori Madness” by Trevor Eissler
- “Introduction to Montessori and the Montessori Foundation” by Tim Seldin

Websites

- <http://amiusa.org/parents-families/> <https://amshq.org/Family-Resources>
- <http://www.montessori.org/parents-information> <http://www.montessori-namta.org>
- <http://www.michaelolaf.net/maria.html> <http://www.montessoriworld.org/>



Transitioning a K-3rd grade child

Important points to consider

Ask yourself these questions:

- **Does my child adjust to new situations easily?**
 - Is my child ...
 - Able to concentrate on independent work?
 - Show a sense of initiative in following his/her interests?
 - Show a love of learning about the world and others?
 - Able to accept guidance from adults and other children?
 - Able collaborate with their teacher to develop academic goals and independently follow through on that plan?

- **Is Montessori right for my family?**



Program Overview

Specials

- Physical Education & Wellness
- Visual Arts
- Music

Enrichment

- Talented & Gifted
- Special Education Inclusion
- Instrumental Music
- Computer

Dual Language Enrichment Program

- Limited Availability

- Native English speakers will be grouped together for English reading instruction
 - Native Spanish speakers will be grouped together for Spanish reading instruction
 - Math (English)
 - Science & Social Studies (Spanish)
 - Coupled with specialized vocabulary enrichment (30-45 minutes daily)
 - Bilingual Learning Centers
 - Practical Life & Sensorial
 - Based on the Language of the Day
- * 2nd graders begin to receive reading instruction in both languages

Phase-In Process for Montessori

2014-2015

- Primary
 - PK3
 - PK4
 - Kinder
- Lower Elementary
 - 1st
 - 2nd

- Enrollment: 256

2015-2016

- Primary
 - PK3
 - PK4
 - Kinder
- Lower Elementary
 - 1st
 - 2nd
 - 3rd

- Enrollment: 410

2016-2017

- Primary
 - PK3
 - PK4
 - Kinder
- Lower Elementary
 - 1st
 - 2nd
 - 3rd
- Upper Elementary
 - 4th
 - 5th
 - 6th (proposed)

- Enrollment: 652

Montessori Teaching Team (2015-2016)

- 7 Primary Teachers (2 to 24 ratio)
 - 3 Dual Language
 - 4 General Education
 - 11 Lower Elementary (1 to 22 ratio)
 - 4 Dual Language
 - 7 General Education
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- Teachers have completed or are attending Montessori training
 - Montessori Instructional Coaches are assigned to a small group of teachers

Slots Available for 2015-16 Academic Year

Grade	General Education	Dual Lang Enrichment
PK 3	5	5
PK 4	10	4
Kinder	31	19
1 st	22	0
2 nd	6	0
3 rd	10	19

- These are predicted and are subject to change
- Dual Language classes must have a 50/50 split of Native Spanish & Native English speakers

PK Requirements

- To be eligible for the district Pre-Kindergarten Program, a child must be 3 or 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the upcoming school year. The child is eligible for enrollment in the Pre-K program if he/she meets any of the following criteria:
 - be unable to speak and comprehend the English language; or
 - be educationally disadvantaged (eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program [NSLP]) [Income Eligibility Guidelines \(USDA\)](#); or
 - be homeless; or
 - be the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, whose ordered to active duty by proper authority; or
 - be the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
 - have ever been in the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) (foster care) following an adversary hearing.

Interest Form Process

GROUP 1: OPEN FOR MOUNT AUBURN / MATA ATTENDANCE ZONE

Interest application must be submitted by Feb. 13, 2015 (notification Feb. 20)

GROUP 2: OPEN FOR STUDENTS WITHIN THE WOODROW WILSON FP

Interest application must be submitted by Feb. 27, 2015 (notification Mar. 6)

- Stonewall Jackson
- Lakewood
- Lipscomb
- Robert E. Lee

GROUP 3: OPEN FOR ANY STUDENTS WITHIN DALLAS ISD

Interest application must be submitted by March 16, 2015 (notification Mar. 27)

Notification will be by telephone and email. If space is not available, your child will be placed on a waiting list and will receive a letter by mail.



Determining Slots

- **If over subscribed, a lottery process will be applied.**
 - **This lottery will be conducted by the Office of School of Choice**
- **No selection requirements (no interviews or assessments)**
- **Must attend a parent information session**
- **Students in Group 2 & 3 are transfer students***
 - **Transfer students MUST remain at the school to which they transfer for the entire school year**
 - **Transfer students MUST renew their Transfer Form every school year**
 - **Information on the transfer application process will be provided to parents each year**
 - **A transfer form can be denied for the following academic year, if the student does not abide by the student code of conduct**





Classroom Visits