

Middletown Montessori School

Toddlers, Pre-School, Kindergarten



Guiding Principals

- *Promote and nurture the development of the whole child*
- *Meet the needs of the individual child through the use of developmentally appropriate practices for early childhood education*
- *Protect the integrity of the Montessori Curriculum*
- *Base decisions on educationally sound principles (verified through MCI, AMI, AMS, NAEYC, etc)*
- *Educate parents about the developing young child and how Montessori enhances a child's natural development*
- *Promote a respectful nature within each child for the differences and similarities of others*

Montessori Education

The Montessori Method of education was established by Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952). Dr. Montessori recognized that children are born with an “absorbent mind”, absorbing knowledge from their environment. The Montessori environment encourages the child to explore. The child is motivated from within and learns through the successful repetition of the self-correcting materials. Curiosity of the child is stimulated while promoting positive self-esteem and development. Mutual respect of the child, teacher and family are essential cornerstones of the Montessori program.

*“The source of growth lies within.”
Maria Montessori*

Admission

- 1. Parents must visit the Middletown Montessori School*
- 2. Complete an Application*
- 3. Students accepted in this order:*
 - a. Siblings of current students*
 - b. Siblings of alumni students*
 - c. Parent observation with consideration to gender and age to balance the classroom*
- 4. Primary rooms accept only toilet trained children*
- 5. Toddler rooms do not require children to be toilet trained*
- 6. Pre-school rooms accept only toilet trained children*

**Primary rooms strive to balance an equal number of three, four and five year olds, as well as gender.*

**Toddler rooms are a homogeneous grouping of younger children*

Communication

Web address: www.middletonmontessorischool.com

--access calendar, newsletter

--MMS parents page—password needed

Directresses and staff may be reached by email:

barbara@middletonmontessorischool.com

sharon@middletonmontessorischool.com

phyllis@middletonmontessorischool.com

karen@middletonmontessorischool.com

rosemarie@middletonmontessorischool.com

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marina@middletonmontessorischool.com

joananne@middletonmontessorischool.com

aga@middletonmontessorischool.com

kathy@middletonmontessorischool.com

dianna@middletonmontessorischool.com

Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled in January. Concerns can always be addressed throughout the year. Please contact your teacher.

Parent-To-Parent

Parent-To-Parent is an informal group of parents whose children attend the Middletown Montessori School. They meet with the Directresses to discuss any parental concerns throughout the school year. Parent-To-Parent supports the school socially and financially, and encourages a positive atmosphere within the school community. The collaborative effort with school Directresses enables parents to investigate fund raising activities, brainstorm ideas for field trips, and help with the lunch and pretzel program. All parents are welcome. Check monthly calendars for dates and times.

School Policies

Arrivals/Dismissals

School begins at 9:00am for all students. Please be prompt in arriving. Lateness causes discomfort for the tardy child and disrupts other students who have already settled into the classroom routine.

Please drive up to the portico no earlier than 8:50 am. Teachers will be waiting to take your child from your car and escort your child to his / her respective classroom. Do not park or exit your car. Teachers will leave the door promptly at 9:00am. If you are late, you must park and escort your child to the classroom.

Please do not use arrival/dismissal time to ask questions concerning your child. If you have a concern, please inform the teacher and she will be glad to make an appointment at a later time. If you need to drop off at an earlier time, accommodations can be made at an additional cost. Please call and speak to the staff. Under no circumstances may children be dropped off early without prior arrangements.

School dismisses at 11:30am, 1:00pm (half day with lunch) or 2:45pm. Please come into the school for pick up. Please plan your day so that you are here promptly at pickup time. Very young children do not understand when mom or dad fails to arrive on time. An occasional lateness, along with a phone call is acceptable, but constant lateness will be met with a \$5.00 late penalty for each day incurred. Also, our staff cannot leave until all children have been dismissed to their parents and often this causes conflicts with their own children.

To enter the school building, you must use a security code. Please obtain this code from the staff or office.

Emergencies

Emergency forms should be completed before the first day of school. Changes in address or phone should be reported immediately. In case of accidental injury, parents will be contacted. If parents cannot be reached, the next emergency number listed on your child's form will be used.

Weather Emergencies & Emergency Closings

Please check your e-mail for any emergency closing. For weather related closings, we will post the information on WPVI/ABC news as a back up. In the event of poor road conditions, please check the email first and then, tune into ABC local news.

Occasionally, due to the untimely death of a member of the Middletown Baptist Church, school is cancelled on the day of funeral services. In our lease with the church, they may request the use of existing room where our classes are held for their services. Every opportunity to accommodate our normal school day is taken into consideration. Should this happen, we will post notices at school, email you and send information home with your child, so please keep a close eye on your email!

Health and Safety

We require that children have standard immunizations. Immunization forms must be signed by your pediatrician. Kindergarten children require a dental exam and updated immunization record.

Your child may need to be sent home if he appears to have symptoms of illness during the school day... Contagious diseases affect everyone in the classroom – students and teachers alike.

In such cases, the parent is notified immediately. Please keep your child home if:

- He/she has a fever or has had one in the past 24 hours.*
- He/she has a cold that is less than four days old.*
- He/she has a heavy discharge from eyes, nose or ears.*
- He/she has a constant cough.*
- He/she has an unidentified or untreated rash.*
- He/she is extremely tired, fussy, cranky, or doesn't seem like himself/herself.*

Medicine will not be given to your child without written permission and instructions.

No guns, war toys, or toys of destruction – these items are not welcome in our classrooms.

Nutrition

The children serve themselves a mid-morning snack as part of their class work. Parents are welcome to send favorite snacks to be shared with their child's class. Suggested snacks are apple wedges, orange sections, grapes, raisins, celery/carrot sticks, cheese and crackers, etc. In addition, your child will have opportunities to prepare special foods at school for snacks or meals.

Lunch

Children attending full day sessions should bring their lunch in a container clearly marked with their name. We encourage independence for the children, so please pack items they can handle. If a thermos is included in their lunch, please include a straw. Each child should have two napkins – one for the table and one for their personal use.

Please inform us immediately if your child has any allergies regarding food or beverages.

*Half-day students who wish to stay for lunch may sign up with their Teacher at an additional cost of \$8.00. **The lunch program ends promptly at 1:00pm and students must leave the playground at this time.***

Transportation

Parents receive a school roster, which may be helpful in organizing car pools. A list of children in the car pool, as well as the scheduled drivers, should be turned into the office. No child will be permitted to enter another car without written notice from a parent or guardian.

*Kindergarten students may ride a bus to school. Please check with your school district for age requirements. It is the responsibility of the **parents** to notify the transportation department if your child will not need a bus on a particular day.*

Clothing

Think of your child's comfort and provide simple clothing that is free of complicated fastenings. Overall hooks, back buttons, or any clothing that is difficult for the child to remove by himself/herself denies the child the opportunity for independence and success. Please provide, in a zip-lock bag, a complete change of season appropriate clothing with your child's name clearly marked on each piece of clothing.

***Helmets are mandatory at recess when using any riding toy. Please provide a helmet with your child's name clearly labeled on it.*

Birthday/Parent Visitation

We like to celebrate your child's birthday at school. If your child's birthday is during the summer vacation, we like to celebrate their half-birthday. This enables all the children to participate and have a special celebration of their own. For example, if your child was born on June 13th, you would celebrate his half birthday around December 13th. We ask that you call your teacher and reserve the day you wish to celebrate their birthday.

Please send in a treat for the celebration. Please keep the snack small and nutritious. Check with the staff for proper amount of treats so that each child will receive one. You may send in napkins or juice if your child wishes to do so. Please keep it simple.

At the start of school, we ask that you send in a picture of your child for each year of his life. We create special picture books that are kept in the classroom. Remember to send in a new picture every time your child has a birthday. The pictures will be returned to you when your child graduates. The children really enjoy celebrating with their classmates and we hope that you can join us.

Parent Visitation will be on the day that you celebrate your child's birthday at school. Parents are invited to spend the morning work session on that special day.

Observations

We have an open door policy regarding observations, and we welcome your interest between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. We do request, however, that you remain behind the observation window so as not to disrupt the classroom process.

The School Day

Work time: Children work with a variety of Montessori practical life, sensorial, language, math and culture material. You will often find our students working on *computers*, reading, or using their creativity with our arts and crafts materials. As part of their class work, the children serve themselves a mid-morning snack.

Students work in small groups or individually: Younger students learn from the older ones and the older children take on a mentoring roll. This not only encourages a sense of community, but fosters a sense of motivation within our children.

Circle time: Children will experience circle time daily. Children greet the teacher and each other. Circle time includes discussion of the calendar and weather, introductions of new materials or special topics.

Playground (weather dependent) or free play and lunch

Music: Music Class is offered to the children on a weekly basis.

Field Trips: On a monthly basis, field trips are provided for the children. We have various assemblies visit the school such as puppet shows, story tellers, live animals or sing-a-longs. The children do not leave our school environment during these “field trips”.

Foreign Language: Kindergarten students enjoy the study of Spanish on a weekly basis. Using a variety of singing, games, arts, crafts, and stories, children are introduced to the language and cultures of Mexico, South and Central America.

*“There are many who hold, as I do,
that the most important
period of life is not the age of
university studies but the first
one, the period of birth to the
age of six. That is the time when
man’s intelligence, his greatest
implement, is being formed.”*

Maria Montessori

*Middletown Montessori School
~Non-profit~
~State Licensed~*

Affiliations: Montessori Centre International

The Middletown Montessori School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, sex, handicap, age, or national origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or hiring practices.

