

CHIPPEWA VALLEY MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL FACT SHEET

THE MONTESSORI DIFFERENCE

- Multi-age classrooms—children are empowered to teach and guide each other, learn collaboratively, and work to their particular abilities and interest levels
- Focus on the development of the whole child—physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively
- Freedom within limits—freedom of choice, freedom to repeat, and freedom of movement
- Individualized curriculum—meeting the child where they're at

For more information on Montessori teaching philosophies, stop in and visit the school's library for resources available to families.

QUICK FACTS

- CVMCS is part of the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) and receives all of the same support and services offered to all other ECASD schools: bussing, breakfast and lunch program, art/physical education/music classes, special education services, etc.
- It is a FREE public charter school.
- All state testing and assessment requirements from the ECASD apply.
- Admissions are based on a blind lottery which takes place in February. Interested families can fill out the lottery application starting in September for the next school year.
- All students living in Eau Claire and surrounding communities can apply for the lottery, but Eau Claire residents receive priority. A separate open-enrollment lottery is hosted in June for all non-Eau Claire residents.
- Siblings of admitted students receive preference in both the in-district and open-enrollment lotteries.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Governance Board is the group that is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School and works closely with the administration to ensure policies are followed and school goals are being met.

PARENT GROUP

The Parent Group plans and carries out fundraising events, helps with school activities, provides volunteers when necessary, and assists the students and school as needed.

Both school groups work closely together and require participation from school families and community members to provide valuable resources and support to the school.

SCHOOL DETAILS

- There are 300 students spanning 4K through 5th grade.
- Our school is made up of 14 teachers and a total of 45 staff.
- Currently there are about 200 families that make up our school community.

MONTESSORI TERMS

CHILDREN'S HOUSE

A place for children from 4-6 years of age to live and grow. Everything necessary for optimal human development is included in a safe and secure environment.

GRACE AND COURTESY

Montessori does not only teach children to read and write; our curricula are built to help children be kind, responsible, and caring citizens.

MIXED AGES

One of the hallmarks of the Montessori method is that children of mixed ages work together in the same class. Age groupings are based on developmental planes. At our school, children from 4-6 years of age are together in the Children's House; 6-9 year olds share the lower elementary (referred to as "E1") and the upper elementary is made up of 9-12 year olds (referred to as "E2"). Because the work is individual, children progress at their own pace; there is cooperation rather than competition between the ages.

PRESENTATION

The adult in a Montessori environment does not teach in the traditional sense. Rather they show the child how to use the various objects and then leaves them free to explore and experiment. This act of showing is called a presentation. To be effective, it must be done slowly and exactly, step by step, and with a minimum of words.

WORK

Purposeful activity. Maria Montessori observed that children learn through purposeful activities of their own choosing. Montessori schools call all of the children's activities "work."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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