

## ABOUT MONTESSORI

Montessori (pronounced MON-tuh-SORE-ee) education was founded in 1907 by Dr. Maria Montessori, the first woman in Italy to become a physician. She based her educational methods on scientific observation of children's learning processes. Guided by her discovery that children teach themselves, Dr. Montessori designed a "prepared environment" in which children could freely choose from a number of developmentally appropriate activities. Now, nearly a century after Maria Montessori's first *Casa dei Bambini* ("Children's House") in Rome, Montessori education is found all over the world, spanning ages from birth to adolescence.

## CLASSROOM STRUCTURE

Montessori classrooms are self-contained and multi-age leveled. Children stay with the same teacher for three years (two years in Children's House). The older children in each level are able to help the younger ones while reinforcing their own learning and developing leadership skills.

### Wauwatosa Montessori School

Classroom	Grades	Classroom Structure Notes
Children's House	4K-5K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 sections of approx. 20 students</li></ul>
Lower Elementary	1st-3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 sections of approx. 25-30 students</li></ul>
Upper Elementary	4th-6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 sections of approx. 25-30 students</li></ul>
AP (Adolescent Program)	7th-8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 section of approx. 20-30 students</li></ul>

## THE CURRICULUM

Dr. Montessori believed that education should fit the child's stage of development. Young children from three to six have particular sensitivities to specific areas of learning at definite times. Children from six to twelve have particular characteristics, which lead them to learn about different areas. The Montessori curriculum follows a definite plan that takes into account these sensitivities and characteristics.

Each Montessori classroom includes specially designed materials and equipment that enable children to work independently. Children learn responsibility by the real life practice of properly using and returning the materials to the shelves ready for the next person. Dr. Montessori believed adults could best help the child do this by creating a "prepared environment" that offers both structure and freedom. The structure comes from the order of the classroom and knowing how and why to use different materials. The freedom comes from the children's ability to choose their own tasks, work at their own pace and move ahead as the desire to know more and something different becomes important.

**Wauwatosa Montessori School**

Classroom	Grades	Curriculum Notes
Children's House	4K-5K	<p>For young children, ages three to six, the main areas of work include: practical life, sensorial, language and math as well as work in the areas of geography, biology, art and music. Examples of practical life exercises are zipping, tying, pouring, sweeping, flower arranging and table scrubbing. These exercises are designed not only to teach the child to care for themselves, but also to help them learn how to sequence an activity, to keep order in their work, and to put it away ready for the next child to use. The sensorial exercises help children to refine their senses and to give names to their experiences, such as tallest, bitter, sphere and maroon. The sensorial materials include the bells, which help the children learn musical tones. In the language area, children learn to hear individual sounds in words, along with seeing and feeling these sounds by using letters cut from sandpaper and mounted on boards. They learn these sounds and can be put together to form words. The foundation of the math is the "golden bead material".</p>
Lower Elementary	1st-3rd	<p>Children, from ages six to twelve, undergo a very definite change. They become more social and peer oriented. They want to find out how and why. These children now are given many lessons in the form of stories. These stories are based on fact but told with a sense of wonder, to fire the imaginations of the children. Some stories set the whole stage, such as the one about the formation of the universe. Others tell about natural laws such as how wind is created. After listening to these stories, the children are guided to do their own research and find out more about the subject. They often work in groups stimulating each other by sharing information.</p>
Upper Elementary	4th-6th	<p>Language work continues, but now the children explore grammar and sentence structure. Spelling rules are given in the light of the history of the English language. The math work branches out so that the children are using concrete materials to explore fractions, algebra, squaring, geometry and more. The teacher gives lessons to keep the children interested in learning, observes the children so their needs can be met and guides the children in their choices. The teacher and each child work together to make sure all the Wauwatosa School District grade level requirements are met. In this way, elementary children learn to be responsible decision makers.</p>
AP (Adolescent Program)	7th-8th	<p>Unlike the other Montessori age levels, there is at present no international consensus defining Montessori secondary education..</p> <p>Middle school ushers in a new level of independence, which must be provided for in the Montessori environment by increasing activity from the point of view of work level, choices, and planning. In the middle school, the Great Lessons, timelines, and charts are replaced with overviews of general sequences of learning for which the student becomes responsible in the context of an integrated whole. Within this overview, the student has open time to collaborate on both self-initiated and instructor-initiated projects.</p>

## THE STAFF

Our Montessori classrooms teachers hold American Montessori Society (AMS) or American Montessori International (AMI) certification. Our teachers are also certified through the State of Wisconsin and are designated as highly qualified teachers through the Wisconsin Department of Instruction. Our classroom teachers are supported by classroom teaching assistants during the morning work cycles. They provide an added layer of support and assistance in helping create a personalized learning environment around the needs of our children.

## THE PARENTS

Parents, as the primary educators of their children, are an essential part of the Montessori program. Grade reports, Transparent Classroom record keeping system, Friday folders, and parent conferences are examples of the many academic communications between home and school. PTSA sponsored events such as game nights, science/research night, ice cream socials, Halloween costume parade/dances, and much more help to establish a friendly school community. Parents are also encouraged to participate through material making, reading with students, and chaperoning school trips. Our PTSA is a vital organization which also supports the building of community by sponsoring social events for the purpose of bringing our parents and families together.

## FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

- **What are the school hours?**
  - K5-8th grade
    - M/T/R/F: 8:20am-3:20pm
    - Wednesday: 8:20am-2:20pm
  - K4 Only:
    - M-F: 8:20am-11:25am
  
- **Where are you located?**
  - Wauwatosa Montessori School
  - 12121 W. North Ave.
  - Wauwatosa, WI 53226
  - [Click for map](#)
  
- **How do I contact the Wauwatosa Montessori School?**
  - Office: (414) 773-3300
  
- **When is the Lottery application window for the 2018-2019 school year?**
  - Lottery Application Window: February 5, 2018 thru February 23, 2018
  - Lottery Drawing: Monday, March 5, 2018
  - Lottery Results Mailed: Friday, March 9, 2018
  - Lottery applications can be dropped off at the Montessori School office or at the Wauwatosa School District Student Services office. Order of applications being turned in does not affect your chances in the lottery. Families are not allowed to attend the lottery due to some families not wanting that information out to the public.

- **When is my child eligible to apply to attend at Wauwatosa Montessori School?**
  - Any child age 4 on September 1<sup>st</sup> or after and lives in the Wauwatosa School District or are currently a student of the district, is eligible to apply for the Wauwatosa Montessori Elementary School. Grade level enrollment slots are determined by the Wauwatosa School District Administration in early winter of each year and a lottery is used to fill open age/grade level seats. If you are not a Wauwatosa resident or if your child is not currently a student of the district, you will have to apply for Open Enrollment and be accepted before applying to Wauwatosa Montessori School.
  
- **How do I apply for Open Enrollment in the Wauwatosa School District?**
  - For those that are not residents of Wauwatosa, the interdistrict public school **open enrollment** program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside. Any **Wisconsin** resident in 4K to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the **open enrollment** program. The enrollment period for 2018-19 starts February 5, 2018, and ends April 30, 2018. Letters notifying families of acceptance or waitlist placement will be mailed by June 8, 2018. You can apply online or via paper application. The online version can be found on the Department of Public Instruction website. The portal for the 2018-2019 school year will not be open until 12:01 a.m. on February 5, 2018. The paper application can be filled out and turned in at the district office. Students are chosen in a lottery, placed on a wait list in the order that they are drawn. From this list students are approved when space is available.
  
- **What transportation options are available to my child?**
  - Families are responsible for arranging transportation for their child(ren) to and from school. Wauwatosa does not provide bussing for students.
  
- **Is there before/after school care available?**
  - Provider: Right At School Club
  - When: Available every day school is in session, from the time the school day ends until 6 p.m. or before school from 6:30 a.m. until the start of the school day.
  - Details: You have the flexibility to sign your students up for 1-5 days a week, based on your family's needs. Drop-in care is also an option. Right At School will also be available during breaks and non-school days.
  - You can learn more and register at <https://rightatschool.com/wauwatosa-montessori/>

- **Do you provide afternoon care for 4K students since they only attend for half a day?**
  - Our before/after school care provider, Right At School, does offer afternoon JK wraparound service. In partnership with each school, Right At School's local employees will create a seamless transition from JK, into a community that fosters socialization, communication, and self-esteem. Through guided activities in literacy, numeracy, fine arts, and fitness, students will enjoy weekly themes in Discovery Stations, Story Corner, Music and Motion, and Play Right Fitness. There is a cost to send your child to the afternoon wrap around care. For more information, visit <https://rightatschool.com/wauwatosa-montessori/>
  
- **If children are free to choose their own work, how do you ensure that they receive a well-rounded education?**
  - Montessori children are free to choose within limits, and have only as much freedom as they can handle with appropriate responsibility. Students are only allowed to use materials that they've had lessons on. The classroom teacher and assistant ensure that children balance their choices and work on all content areas, and that each child is progressing in all subjects.
  
- **Do students have “specials” at all during the week?**
  - Students do have weekly specials classes in the areas of Art, Physical Education, and General Music. These classes are taught by specialists that are licensed in their specific content area.
  - Students in grades 1st-6th additionally will have Spanish twice a week.
  - Students in 4th grade-8th grade may choose to be in Orchestra or Choir.
  - Students in 5th-8th grade may choose to be in Band.