



Admissions Standards for the Montessori Environment

Saint Joseph Montessori School is a Catholic Montessori children's house serving **2.5 year olds to 6 year olds** in both a morning and full day program. **We ask families to begin their child at or before age 3 and commit to the entirety of our three year program** so as to develop each child and the community of children as a whole in independence, grace and courtesy, and the rich method of learning found in the Montessori materials and method of instruction. The child who leaves us should exhibit an extraordinary readiness for school if given the opportunity to fully commit to the children's house.

We give **preference in admissions to returning four and five year olds, as well as incoming three year olds**. This allows for stability and organic growth, as well as forming a strong cohort of students experiencing the full range of the three year curriculum as it was developed by Dr. Montessori.

We ask our incoming families to tour the environment as well as go through an intake interview with our Head of School. We welcome families of all backgrounds, and we hope to create together a committed culture of learning that is both joyful and serious, peaceful and energetic, thoroughly Catholic and thoroughly Montessori, celebrating each child's God given dignity and unique purpose. Prayer and the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** are part of our regular school week.

The formation of the adult, both the teacher and the parent, is as important as the formation of the child in the process of helping the child achieve her greatest potential. We ask parents to attend a new parent orientation, our community events and the three parent education nights scheduled throughout the year. We also require participation of families in the school's work, and we have a minimum number of volunteer hours each adult must commit to. It is when the whole family is engaged in the work of the school that the children, families and staff can truly thrive.