



Village Montessori & Preparatory School Tour Information

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***What are the main differences between a Montessori classroom and a traditional classroom?***

Classrooms at Village Montessori contain Montessori materials displayed on child-sized shelves and organized by the 5 key areas of the classroom: Practical Life, Sensorial, Mathematics, Culture and Science, and Language Arts. The 5 key areas, and the work within these areas, build upon one another and no subject is taught in isolation. The whole classroom is accessible to the children at all times and once a child receives a presentation on a particular work, they are welcome to choose the work independently going forward.

In the Montessori classroom children are active participants in their learning. During the daily Montessori work cycle, teachers act as guides and allow children to work at their own pace as they follow their own individual interests. Children in a Montessori classroom are given more freedom to choose activities to participate in and their work cycle time is not interrupted as it often is in a traditional school setting. Teachers in a Montessori setting encourage children to grow in their independence and offer them the time they need to accomplish this.

Other times throughout the day, the children work together with their classmates and teachers while they engage in their daily circle time, enrichment activities, art, music, reading, writing, outside play time, and during meal times.

- ***What is the curriculum?***

Our curriculum is based on the Montessori philosophy for infants, toddlers and the primary age group (3-6 years). We are also science of reading advocates with robust skills development for all ages with a strong emphasis on oral language development and phonological awareness with the goal to help children gain full phonemic awareness as is developmentally appropriate. Last, we celebrate a continent a month and our enrichment classes are informed by that culture or a country within the continent. Children's art, music and veggication (healthy eating education/food tastings) will reflect the richness of the continent. These three main tenants are wrapped up in Christian values, which we teach on a daily basis through modeling and preschool-level devotionals.

- ***Does the school provide lunch and snacks?***

Parents have the choice of participating in our daily lunch option on a subscription basis or packing lunch from home. Every classroom is equipped with a microwave and teachers are able to heat lunch items when requested.

Snacks are donated weekly on a rotating basis by the families in your child's class. When it is your family's turn to bring in snacks, you will provide enough snacks for all of the children in the class to eat for the week. For example, if your child has 12 children in their classroom, you would bring snacks just once every 12 weeks for all 12 children. (Full day classes eat a morning and afternoon snack.) A detailed list of snack ideas can be found on our website under the Parent Resources tab. We ask that snack items be free of any artificial ingredients and contain no more than 8 grams of added sugar per serving. Your child's teacher will notify you of any classroom allergies.

- **What can children do during nap time if they are no longer napping?**

We encourage parents to assist their child in packing a bag containing quiet activities to engage in during rest time. This could include small books or manipulative activities. We do not encourage electronics or activities that make noise.

- **How do you decide when it is time for a child to transition to the next classroom?**

In addition to the child's age, we also consider the child's emotional, social, and academic readiness before transitioning a child to a new classroom. Teachers use on-going observations and developmental checklists to assess growth and areas for improvement.

- **How do you communicate with families?**

We utilize the ProCare app for communication and all billing. Parents check students in and out daily in the app and receive notifications throughout the day about their child's schedule and activities. Our admin team also uses ProCare to communicate with parents and these notifications come via both email and text. ProCare is very user friendly and our teachers check it often. This is how you will send any important messages or concerns to your child's teacher.

- **Is there a trial day before a child is officially enrolled?**

Prior to enrollment, we ask that children visit a classroom for 1-2 hours. This will give us insight into how we can best serve your child. Occasionally children looking into enrolling in a full day classroom will need to begin with just staying for half of the day until they are more comfortable with the separation and longer day.

- **How do you ensure that children are ready for kindergarten?**

We have a dedicated literacy teacher who supports both our students and our teachers. Once children turn 4 we complete a literacy assessment and also begin sending home an ABC folder with specific alphabetic or sight word work for students to use to reinforce concepts at home. Teachers use on-going observations and developmental checklists to assess growth and areas for improvement. Students will also receive report cards in the fall and again in the spring.

- **What precautions are you taking to keep everyone healthy and safe?**

Parents are required to answer a few questions regarding their child's health in our ProCare app prior to checking their child in. We monitor children closely for any signs or symptoms of illness. Manipulatives and surfaces are sanitized as needed throughout the day. We have a professional cleaning service that comes in nightly to thoroughly clean each classroom and common area.

- **Are there video cameras in the classrooms?**

We do not have video cameras in the classrooms, but welcome parents to drop in and visit their child whenever they would like. We do have cameras surrounding the perimeter of the school. We get notifications when doors are opened and have visibility of who is entering or exiting. All doors to enter our building remain locked throughout the day. Enrolled families are provided with a code to enter the doors past the main office during drop off and pick up.