



# Bluffview Montessori

## **Vision Statement**

Empowered learners unfolding their full potential as whole and unique persons in a global community.

## **Mission**

Bluffview Montessori School empowers self-directed learning through a materials-based Montessori curriculum that encourages independence and natural curiosity. Bluffview cultivates learners' deep respect for self, community, and a peaceful environment, while nourishing the intrinsic desire for academic, civic, and personal fulfillment.

## **Bluffview Core Values**

- *Respect: Acting with regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of all people must be at the heart of all we do, and woven into the fabric of the Bluffview Community culture. Respect for self, others, the school community, and the greater community are essential components of "The Bluffview Way."*
- *Celebrating the Individual: We honor and embrace the unfolding of each unique individual as they blossom petal by petal, within the context of our relationships to one another and out of respect for our interdependence. We celebrate the individual not by offering rewards or elevating the few, but by offering all individuals the respect and freedom to walk their own paths to independence, and to achieve personal fulfillment.*
- *Peace: Dr. Montessori stated that "establishing a lasting peace is the work of education." Bluffview Montessori is designated as an International Peace Site, and places a high value on the active practice of maintaining peaceful minds and bodies within peaceful classroom environments.*
- *Safety: A safe environment is an absolute necessity. The physical building is kept to safety codes and inspections are appropriately scheduled. Exterior doors are locked, and the main entrance has a security door, and is the only point that visitors are allowed to enter. Many staff are trained in First Aid/CPR/AED/Anaphylaxis and CPI for student safety. Students are treated with respect and dignity. This aids in their individual pursuits and positions them to embrace effort, to take calculated risks without fear of humiliation; allowing them to learn from failure, and to persevere and built their resilience skills.*



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- *Diversity: The acceptance and celebration of all the elements, traits, and characteristics that make individuals unique from one another. Our goal is a culture within which all individuals regard diversity in all its forms as a call for celebration.*
- *Inclusion: The achievement of an environment and culture in which all individuals are welcome, treated fairly and respectfully, have equal access to opportunities and resources, and can contribute fully to the Vision and Mission of Bluffview Montessori.*
- *Partnership: Bluffview views all stakeholders as partners in a global perspective of the school community. Key stakeholders are students, parents and families, staff, neighbors & community members, Educational Institutions and Universities, partnering non-profits, and contracted vendors.*
- *Global Citizenship: A global citizen is someone who recognizes that the world is an increasingly complex web of connections and interdependencies in which personal choices and actions may have repercussions for people and communities locally, nationally, and internationally. Bluffview's approach to education, including viewing all learners as "whole and unique persons," encourages empowered independence of thought and action with the goal of students developing the confidence and competencies to achieve their intrinsic desires for academic, civic, and personal fulfillment.*
- *Culture of Excellence: Bluffview pursues excellence in education through rigorous, relevant academic content and engaging instruction that is resourceful and innovative.*

## **Montessori Philosophy Core Values**

*Implementing and maintaining a high level of fidelity with regard to the Montessori Philosophy is the core of the foundational underpinnings of Bluffview Montessori. Bluffview's pedagogy and culture are built upon the practicing of authentic Montessori principles within the context being a Public Charter School.*

- **Respect:** The expectation that all individuals associated with Bluffview will act in a manner that demonstrates respect for one's self, others, the school environments, and the greater community. These values are taught and modeled through Grace and Courtesy lessons.
- **Independence:** Empowering individuals to become confident, independent learners, willing and able to pursue their own interests and ideas. The quintessential Montessori quote



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“Help me do it myself” reflects the individual's quest to be independent and self-reliant, a burden to no one, as their abilities allow.

- Prepared environment: Certified Montessori teachers prepare classrooms in a purposeful and intentional manner, providing students with didactic materials rooted in the Montessori philosophy. The environment is prepared to assist the students in their quest to become independent learners.
- Freedom: The carefully prepared environment provides students with the freedom of choice, movement and repetition during an uninterrupted work time of at least two and half hours. This freedom within limits is key to the pursuit of independence.
- Mentoring: Mixed age classrooms allow older students to teach and mentor their younger peers. This also allows the younger students to observe the behavior modeled by their older counterparts.
- Observation: The cornerstone of the Montessori Method is observation. Montessori teachers use observations to “follow the child” in order to understand their individual interests and development. These observations inform the teacher's practice and preparation.

## **Culture**

### **Students**

- Bring their natural sense of wonder, curiosity, inquisitiveness, questioning and playfulness to the learning process.
- Come to school rested, fed and ready to learn.
- Are respectful of themselves, all others and their environment.
- Take an active role in the learning process, developing their gifts and unfolding their potential.
- Share with their parent(s) or guardian(s) their adventures in learning and growing.

### **Parents/Guardians and families**

- Cherish their children and actively support them in their growth and educational development.
- Assure their children are properly cared for, rested and fed.
- Learn about the Montessori educational approach and support their children embracing it.
- Join their child and their child's teacher in forming a strong learning team. 🏠 Actively participate in the learning team and school events.

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- Support their children as they grow in self-confidence and become life-long learners.

## **Bluffview's Instructional Staff**

- Demonstrate/model a high level of professionalism and ethical behavior at all times.
- Prepare a learning environment that supports the growth of the whole child-intellectual, social, emotional, physical and spiritual.
- Assist each child growing in self-esteem, self-confidence and social competence.
- Facilitate each child becoming proficient in his/her ability to reason and communicate, to question, gather and comprehend new information, and to work cooperatively in decision-making teams.
- Partner with each student's parent(s) or guardian(s) for the benefit of the student.
- Work cooperatively with administrators and support staff to ensure the Montessori philosophy and approach permeates the whole school.

## **Classroom Teachers**

- Trained and certified in the Montessori philosophy and methods.
- Make every classroom a Montessori classroom.
- Address student learning needs in a Montessori way.

## **Teaching Assistants and Paraprofessionals**

- Are familiar with the Montessori educational approach and methods.
- Work cooperatively with teachers in creating a learning environment and guiding students in the learning process.

## **Specialists Teachers**

- Are familiar with the Montessori educational approach and methods.
- Where possible, implement the Montessori educational approach and methods in teaching their specialty.

## **Support Team Members**

- Are familiar with the Montessori educational approach and methods.
- Carry out their assigned responsibilities or volunteer activities in the spirit of the Montessori philosophy and Bluffview's core values.
- Help students and parents feel welcomed and a part of the Bluffview learning community.



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## **Administrators**

- Are familiar with the Montessori educational approach and methods.
- Welcome students, teachers and parents into the Bluffview community and consistently educate them about Montessori philosophy and methods.
- Work collaboratively with teachers, parents, the board and the charter school authorizer to ensure the success of Bluffview.
- Infuse the Montessori spirit into all activities of the school into a unified whole.
- Share Bluffview's story in the larger community and cultivate positive working relationships.

## **Board Members**

- Are familiar with the Montessori educational approach and methods.
- Understand and uphold the charter school contract with the authorizer.
- Readily accept the ultimate responsibility for guiding the school in fulfilling its mission and realizing its vision.
- Work closely with the administrators, teachers and parents in determining policies that keep the school true to its mission.
- Work creatively and energetically to meet the current and future financial needs of Bluffview.
- Actively promote the school in the larger community and recruit future students and parents to join the Bluffview family.

## **Educational Partners**

## **Vendors**