



Bluffview Montessori School

Vision Statement

We empower children to unfold their full potential as whole and unique persons in a global community.

Mission

We pursue this vision through a distinctive Montessori approach embodying individualized instruction, mixed age groups, an international curriculum, a prepared environment, and Montessori teaching materials.

Bluffview Core Values

- *Peace- Bluffview is designated as an international peace site and we work purposefully to maintain a safe and welcoming environment.*
- *PBIS Teaching children how to conduct themselves is a vital part of education at Bluffview. Through our virtues initiative, we actively teach a different virtue each month, modeling, teaching and creating exercises to practice them.*
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Montessori Philosophy

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

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- 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.
- Mentoring: Mixed age classroom 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 teachers 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

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

Bluffview’s Instructional Staff

- 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

- 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.

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.