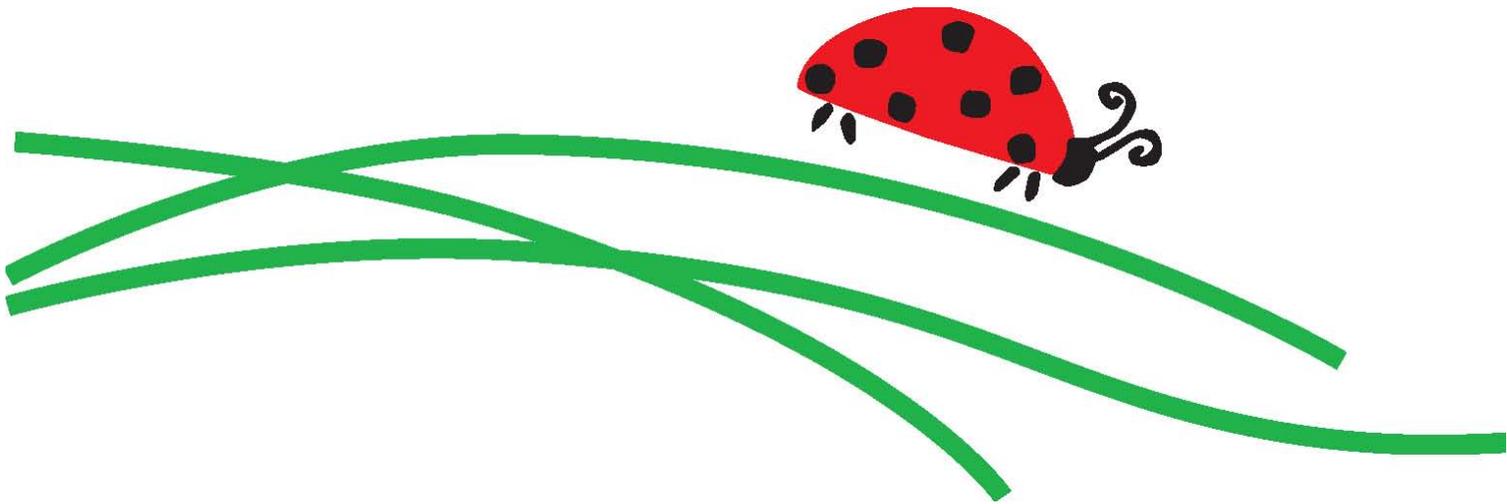
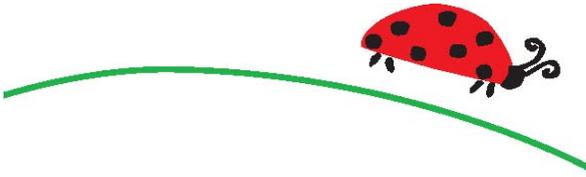


Village Montessori School at Bluemont



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P.O. Box 183
Bluemont, Virginia 20135
www.villagemontessori.org
540-554-2284
admin@villagemontessori.org



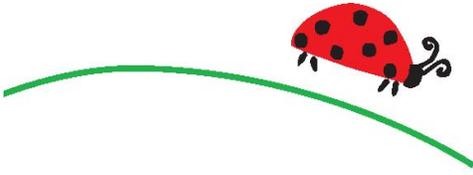
Thank you for your interest in Village Montessori School. VMS is accredited by the International Montessori Council and licensed through the state of Virginia. We look forward to meeting you to discuss the benefits of your child being enrolled at Village Montessori School.

Our school, like thousands of others around the world, is an extraordinary and unique educational experience. It is designed according to the Montessori Method, scientifically developed by Maria Montessori, the first woman physician in Italy.

Montessori revolutionized the education systems of her day and the Method has grown and developed for over 100 years. She recognized that the child experiences sensitive periods throughout his life, and she designed an innovative approach to education that follows the child throughout each developmental stage. With each sensitive period, vital building blocks are acquired for the next stage of development. The proper exposure during these sensitive periods will dramatically affect the rest of a child's academic, creative, social, physical and spiritual life.

Our process of admission is designed to familiarize you with the Montessori Method and help you evaluate the needs of your children. Please call us when you are ready to set up an appointment to visit our school.

Michael and Toby Gress
540-554-2284



Montessori Quotes

“The child is the forgotten citizen, and yet, if statesmen and educationists once came to realize the terrific force that is in childhood for good or for evil, I feel they would give it priority above everything else.”

Maria Montessori

“My experience of forty years with children of all races, of different religions, belonging to the most divergent social strata—from Royal families to the worst slums—has shown me that the child obeys in his development natural laws which are alike for all.”

Maria Montessori

Education is life ... and from the moment of birth, a child is receiving an education.”

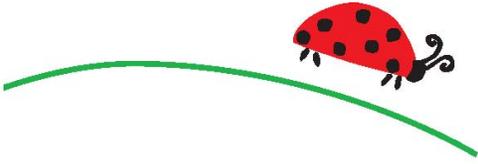
Dr. Helen K. Billings, *Are Schools Destroying Our Children?*

Children and adults are very different. “The child is in a state of continuous and intense transformation, of both body and mind,...”

E.M. Standing, *The Montessori Revolution in Education*

“The Montessori Method is not a closed system, discovered once and for all, hence to be applied unchangingly.”

E.M. Standing, *The Montessori Revolution in Education*“



Mission Statement

Village Montessori School at Bluemont A Blueprint of our Fundamental Values and Beliefs

Our Vision

Our vision, as informed by the work of Maria Montessori, is to create a living model of a culture of peace for the students, families, teachers and community of Village Montessori School at Bluemont.

Our Mission

The mission of Village Montessori School at Bluemont (VMS) is

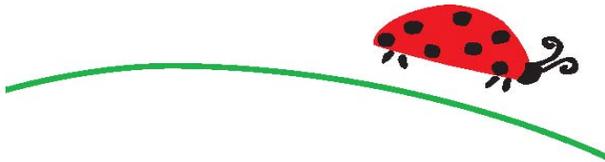
- ❖ To provide our students the necessary tools, in a prepared environment, indoors and out, to foster the joy of learning.
- ❖ To assist our students in their discovery of themselves and their purpose and aid them in overcoming obstacles that prevent them from becoming the adult they are meant to be.

Our program rests on four pillars

- ❖ The cultivation within our students of a passion for excellence in everything they do, both in and out of school.
- ❖ The development of a strongly held set of universal values which include self-respect, respect for others, honesty, integrity, responsibility, empathy, compassion, kindness, peacefulness, a sense of concern for others, warmth, and a love of community.
- ❖ The development of a global perspective and sense of international understanding.
- ❖ And the development of a lifelong commitment to give back through service to others in need.

Village Montessori School at Bluemont is a co-educational “Children’s House” committed to the Montessori philosophy and principles of education. The school offers an individualized learning environment that responds to a child’s unique abilities, learning styles, and interest through a dedicated and excellent staff and a specially prepared and fully equipped Montessori classroom, indoors and out. We will strive to meet the diverse backgrounds of the children in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation. We have remained open to expansion and are now able to accommodate children from 18 months through 12 years of age.

VMS has been established in Loudoun County at a time when we must educate our children with a sense of responsibility to family, school friends, community, country and our global neighbors.



Identity

VMS is owned and operated by Michael and Toby Gress, certified Montessori teachers and graduates of the University of South Florida. The Gresses hold degrees in Early Childhood Education, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

The Gresses' Montessori training took place in Tampa, Fla. directly under Dr. Helen K. Billings, the founder of the Montessori Institute of America. She instilled in all of her protégés a deep conviction that the Montessori Method, properly approached and applied, would greatly benefit the whole life of the children under their care. This love for the child and the man or woman they would become has grown over the years.

Currently, the Gresses are under the mentorship of Joan Parasine, Founder and Head of School at Montessori School of McLean, an AMS Accredited school and one of the oldest Montessori schools in the Washington area.

VMS is an affiliate of MEPI (Montessori Education Programs International), AMS (American Montessori Society, NAMTA (North America Montessori Teachers Association), and is a member school of the IMC (International Montessori Council). MEPI credits the existence of their organization to the foundational work of Dr. Billings. VMS is also affiliated with the International Montessori Council (IMC) and uses their publication, Tomorrow's Child, as part of their Parent Education program.



Montessori Perspective

The child is the father of the man

The first 6 years of a child's life are critical to the formation of the member of society they will become.

There are periods of sensitivity each child passes through during these first six years of life, which are the foundation they will build upon in the spiraling Montessori curriculum of the elementary years.

Periods of sensitivity are the optimal times for a child to observe and organize the sensory input they receive. This input is the material the child will use to shape the person they become.

Environment is stronger than will

The child is shaped through the beauty, order, and content of the environment

The environment must be safe, warm, attractive, & orderly.

The environment must be peaceful and child centered

The furnishings must be sturdy yet light enough for the child to move comfortably.

The environment outside, as well as inside is critical to the development of the child. Places to run, things to climb on, places to dig and watching things grow. Freedom to move is essential.

Class rules must be simple, clear and followed by everyone.

The Directress or Director (Teacher) is

The facilitator between the environment and the child.

Sets the tone for the classroom

A person who loves and nurtures the spirit of the child.

The implementer of the class rules, and the protector of all the children.

A guide, friend, and partner in discovery, observer, and maintainer of the environment.

Each child is unique. Our job is to assist them in the process of discovering their Uniqueness.

Each child has a particular learning style. It is our responsibility to observe carefully to determine what that learning style is and make instruction compatible with that style.

Children have a need for order.

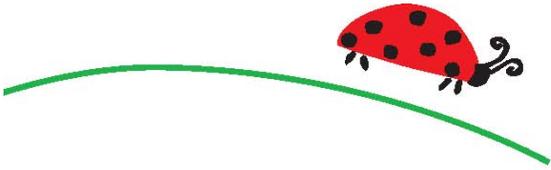
Each child on the face of the earth is worthy of respect.

Placed in the right environment, children will demonstrate a love of learning.

Exposing young children to music, art, design, literature and poetry, geography and diverse cultures can make an understanding and desire for these aspects of human culture as natural as breathing in and out.

Cooperation and collaboration is fostered rather than competition.

A child's play is his meaningful work



Our Commitment to Our School Community

The Montessori Method is not just material presented by a teacher in a unique environment. “The Method” reinforces an attitude in the heart of adults toward the process of childhood, which assists children in becoming themselves.

To be an extension of the family by:

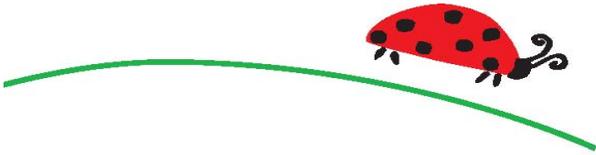
Fostering parent education/understanding of the process their children are going through.

Encouraging respect for our planet: the water, the air, the plants, the birds, and all living creature, especially for mankind.

Facilitating & modeling problem solving skills in our students by giving them opportunities to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Partnering with parents in aiding their children to be independent, to do it themselves, so they may master inter-dependence later.

Supporting parents in exercises of courtesy and graciousness, character qualities that lead to peaceful relationships in all areas of our life.



Criteria For Admission

The following are criteria for admission at VMS. Waivers to these admission requirements may be granted at the sole discretion of the administration without incurring a liability for not waiving other admission requirements.

For All Enrollment, the parent must:

- Have spoken with the head of school and had a classroom tour
- Submit an application for admission with the non-refundable application fee prior to their child's individual visit
- **Have demonstrated serious intent to have the child attend VMS their kindergarten year**

Stepping Stones Program

The child must:

- Be a minimum of 18 months of age
- In the process of toilet training

Montessori Morning Preschool

The child must:

- Be 2 yrs. 9 months (depending on readiness)
- Be toilet-trained (no pull ups)
- If previously enrolled in school, recommendation from teacher that he/she is ready for preschool
- Have had a child visit

Full Day Montessori Program (3 - 5 yrs.) / Jr. Kindergarten/Kindergarten (5 - 6 yrs.)

The child must:

- Be enrolled in the morning class
- Be recommended by the teacher that he/she is ready for extended day preschool program

Enrichment Program

The child must:

- Be enrolled in the morning class
- Be recommended by the teacher as ready for an extended day preschool program
- Be 3.5 years of age

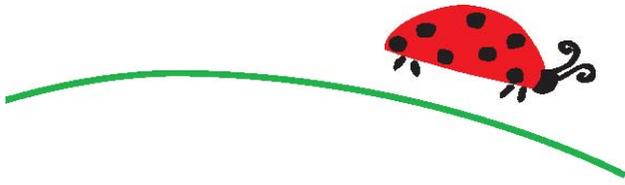
Montessori Elementary Program

The child must:

- Be 6 years of age by September 30 of the current school year
- Have previous Montessori primary experience or participate in an observation and interview process with the Head of School

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

No person shall, on the basis of race, color, religious belief, or national origin be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any Village Montessori Program.



Admissions Process

Five Easy Steps

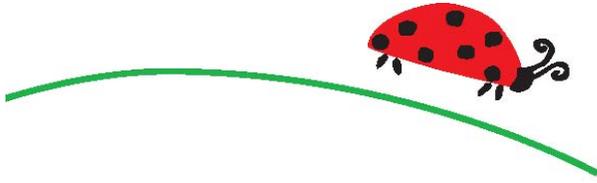
Initial Inquiry and School Visit – Telephone the school for information and make an appointment to visit the school. An Inquiry Packet will be sent to you. More detailed information will be given to you at the time of your visit.

Questions – Call the Head of School if in need of further clarification in making a decision for the placement of your child in Village Montessori School.

Admission Application – Submit the completed application form with the application fee listed on the Fee Schedule. Your application will be acknowledged and a Child Visit will be scheduled.

Child Visit – The office will contact you to schedule a Child Visit. The purpose is to evaluate your child's maturity and readiness to enter preschool, and to familiarize your child with the environment without other children or a parent present. A child visit is necessary for formal enrollment in the school.

Enrollment – A contract will be given to you upon completing a Child Visit. Complete the contract, make a copy for your records, and submit the original to the office with the specified deposit (10% of the Tuition fee).



Program Choices

SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020

Stepping Stones Program

Half Day Mornings (18 mo. - 3 yrs.)

8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. Monday thru Friday

Montessori Primary Program

Half Day Mornings (3 - 6 yrs.)

8:30 A.M. - 11:40 A.M. Monday thru Friday

JR Kindergarten/Kindergarten Extended Day (5 - 6 yrs.)

Full Day (3 - 5 yrs.)

8:30 A.M. - 11:40 A.M. Monday thru Friday and

11:40 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

Enrichment Programs (3 ½ - 6 yrs.)

Monday Cultural Enrichment 11:40 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Friday Outdoor Classroom 11:40 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Montessori Elementary Program

(6 - 12 yrs. of age - having completed Kindergarten)

Full Day Elementary

8:00 A.M. - 2:45 P.M. Monday thru Friday

Extended Care Options

Early Drop Off 7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. Monday thru Friday

Extended Day 2:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday

(Includes Scheduled After Care Club Programs)

After Care Clubs

2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

Mondays - **Wilderness Club** or **Mixed Music Media Club**

Tuesdays - **Movement Club**

Wednesdays - **Spanish Club**

Thursdays - **Game Club**

Fridays - **Art & Drama Club**

3:45 - 4:55 **REST AND RELAXATION**