



“Play is the work of Childhood” ~ Maria Montessori

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in Philly Montessori! We are so grateful for your desire to learn more about our school, and we look forward to connecting with you in the coming months as we build our founding school community for the 2018-19 school year. We hope that the information provided here, as well as on our website, www.phillymontessori.com, will answer many of the questions you may have about who we are, what makes our school unique, and how you can join our community.

Philly Montessori is an **accredited Montessori micro-school**, designed for children aged 2.5 to 6 years old. Inspired by the very first Montessori school, *Il Casa Dei Bambini (The Children’s House)*, our **beautiful** and **inviting** schoolhouse provides a secure and inspiring **home-away-from-home** for the children and families that we serve.

Our school is purposefully designed as a **micro-school** in order to provide a **highly personalized** educational setting for each child. By scaling down the size of our student body, we are able to maximize our classroom space and school resources in a way that directly benefits each child. A child in a Philly Montessori classroom will have complete access to our expansive, yet intimate, campus- freely moving between a **fully equipped Montessori classroom, an in-door gross motor gym, an art studio, and an urban garden**. A day in our classroom will also be rounded out with daily group meetings, story time, enrichment classes, and gross motor play. Finally, our school will be led and administered by your child’s classroom teachers, enabling **meaningful teacher-parent partnerships**, daily communication, and personalized attention to each family in our classroom community. Enclosed in this informational packet you will find a description of our **mission statement, our daily schedule, our programs, our tuition schedule, and our school calendar**, as well as two informational articles on the Montessori approach to learning. We hope you will find these items to be interesting and informative. Should you have any remaining questions at all about our school or our programs, you can always email us directly at info@phillymontessori.com, or call us at (215) 563-7345.

Thank you again for your interest and we look forward to connecting with you soon!

Kindly,

Sheila Akhavein, M.A

Founder and Lead Teacher

www.phillymontessori.com

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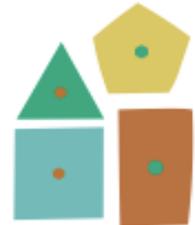


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Mission Statement

The mission of Philly Montessori is to support each child’s **natural curiosity**, **love of learning**, and **independence** by adhering to these 4 founding principles:

1- **Authentic Montessori Classroom** : Our **child-centered** Montessori classroom is accredited by the **American Montessori Society (AMS)**, includes an intentionally designed prepared environment, and is led by specially trained AMS certified teachers.



2- **Micro-school**: A micro-school setting allows Philly Montessori teachers to provide **highly personalized learning opportunities** for each child in our program. By scaling down the size of our student body, children will have complete access to our expansive yet intimate campus- allowing for **seamless transitions**, and free movement between an in-door Montessori classroom, an urban garden, an art studio, and an in-door gross motor gym. As a teacher led and administered school, teachers are empowered to **build meaningful connections** with each of the families that we serve.

3- **Connection to Nature**: As a school, Philly Montessori aims to tread lightly on the planet, and models **care for the environment** whenever possible. The children are involved in our **organic garden**, compost, and efforts towards being a low or zero waste classroom. Our snack menu changes with the seasons reflecting local, organic ingredients year-round.



4- **Community Collaboration**: We believe that community-based businesses are essential to our city. Being a locally owned and operated program, we strive to build a natural bridge between our classroom and community. We see ourselves as a **natural gathering place**- a contributing member of the “*village*” that it takes to raise a child. Once a month on “**parent helpers**” days we invite parents *into* our classroom to join us in our daily activities, or to share an interest or talent with us. We bring Philly into our school, introducing our children to local artists, musicians, chefs, and skilled professionals who can share their talents with us.

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DAILY SCHEDULE

We know that children are happiest when they follow predictable routines everyday. This is a sample of the daily routine followed by our classroom community:

Morning Program (8am-12pm)	Extended Morning Program (8am-1pm)	Full Day Program (8am-3pm)	Extended Full Day Program (8am-6pm)
8:00-8:30 Arrival	12:00- 12:45 Gross Motor Play	1:00 Quiet rest as needed	3:00 *Enrichment Classes/open play and work
8:00-11:00 Work Cycle*	12:45- 1:00 Group Yoga, meditative, and mindfulness exercises	1:00 Kindergarten work and continued work cycle	4:00 Group snack and story time
11:00-11:30 Group lessons, songs, and story time	1:00 Extended Morning dismissal	2:30 Group lessons, songs, and classroom clean up	4:30 Gross motor play, group activities, excursions
11:30- 12:00 Community Lunch		3:00 Dismissal for Full Day Program	5:30 Open work and play
12:00 Morning Program Dismissal			6:00 Dismissal for Extended Full Day Program

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Programs:

Morning Program (8am-12pm)

The morning program is an integral part of our school as it is the time of day that all members of our class community are together at once. Arrival for the morning program begins at 8am, and all children should be at school by 8:30am. During the arrival period children will have time to ease into their day by greeting their friends and teachers, hanging up their belongings in their own personal cubby, changing into their indoor shoes, and then beginning on the work cycle.

*The “work cycle” is a term we use in Montessori that refers to the time of the day where children freely engage with their environment and all that it has to provide.

At Philly Montessori, we implement a three hour uninterrupted work cycle, because we understand that young children simply do not enjoy multiple transitions, or being interrupted from their work and play. As a one-classroom school, during this work cycle children will have complete access to our beautiful campus including: a fully equipped Montessori classroom, an outdoor garden, an art studio, and indoor play gym.

During the work period your child might be engaged in a number of self-directed, or teacher led activities such as: *preparing a healthy snack to enjoy with a friend, receiving a lesson in a group or individually with a teacher, choosing from any number of hands on learning activities in the classroom, circle time, story time, gardening, creating a painting in the class garden, or simply engaging in some conversation with a friend in the cozy corner.*

Following the work cycle, our class will begin to set up our tables for a community lunch. This is a collaborative process that has many meaningful layers: wiping tables clean, setting place settings, reciting a poem of thanks, and finally engaging in conversations, stories, and laughs while eating a delicious and healthy lunch together. After lunch, each child is responsible for washing his or her own dishes, and cleaning up their lunch space.

The morning program is further enriched with weekly music, movement, and foreign language classes. Attending the morning program for five days a week is required for all Philly Montessori students.

Extended Morning Day Program (8am-1pm)

The extended full day program allows children in the morning program to extend their day a bit longer so that they may enjoy a period of gross motor play with their peers. During the extended Morning program, children will enjoy a period of gross motor play, either in a nearby park, or in

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our indoor gym. After some free playtime, the children will gather together for group yoga, meditative, and mindfulness exercises that will prepare their minds and bodies for a peaceful and productive afternoon.

Full Day Program (8am-3pm)

Following the morning work cycle, lunch, and gross motor play, children in the full day program will either enjoy a quiet rest time, or begin a second work cycle. The second work cycle is a quieter time of the day; wherein, children engage in individual activities or have more personalized time with their teachers.

The second work cycle also allows time for our Kindergarten aged children to extend their morning learning through in depth studies, advanced lessons, field trips, and group activities.

Extended Day (8am-6pm)

Our Extended Day program is a fun and enriching program; wherein, children are offered the opportunity to join a variety of extra-curricular activities such as Soccer, Sensory Art, Cooking, and Yoga. Our extended day children often take field trips to places around our neighborhood such as the library, playground, and local restaurants. They also enjoy time to play in our indoor gym, garden in our garden, and spend time working and playing with their classmates and teachers in the classroom.

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TUITION

Tuition is based on a ten-month academic calendar. Parents have the convenient option to make monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual payments*:

Program	Yearly Tuition
Morning (8am-12pm)**	\$11,000
Extended Morning Program (8am-1pm)	\$12,000
Full Day Program (8am-3pm)	\$15,000
Extended Full Day Program (8am-6pm)	\$17,000

*Annual and semiannual payments will receive a 3%, and 2% discount respectively.

** Morning Program is required for all students.

Upon enrollment, a \$750 deposit fee will reserve your child’s seat in our school.

All payments can conveniently be made through a **secured online portal** or by mailed check to:

PO Box 2228

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Please make all checks payable to Philly Montessori.

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Philly Montessori Calendar of School Closures and Events

2018-2019 School Year

August 27-30	Beginning of School Family Meetings
August 29th	Welcome to School Night <i>6:00pm-7:00</i>
September 3, 2018	Labor Day <i>- School Closed</i>
September 4, 2018	Visiting Day
September 5th-7th, 2018	Student Phase In All Children will be phased in by September 7th
September 10, 2018	Rosh Hashanah <i>- School Closed</i>
September 29, 2018	Fall Family Potluck <i>11:00am Weccacoe Playground</i>
October 9, 2018	Curriculum Night- Montessori 101 <i>7:00-8pm</i>
November 2, 2018	Parent Helpers Day* <i>8am-12:45pm</i>

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November 6, 2018	<p>Election Day - School Closed <i>Full Day Professional Development (Staff Only)</i></p>
November 12, 2018	<p>Veterans' Day Observed - School Closed</p>
November 22 - 23, 2018	<p>Thanksgiving Holiday - School Closed</p>
December 7, 2018	<p>Parent Helpers Day <i>8am-12:45pm</i></p>
December 24, 2018-January 1 2019	<p>Winter Recess - School Closed</p>
January 2, 2019	<p>School Resumes</p>
January 4, 2019	<p>Parent Helpers Day <i>8am-12:45pm</i></p>
January 9, 2019	<p>Curriculum Night- Montessori at Home 6-7pm</p>
January 21, 2019	<p>Dr. Martin Luther King Day - Schools Closed</p>
February 1, 2019	<p>Parent Helpers Day <i>8am-12:45pm</i></p>
February 15, 2019	<p>Special Friend's Day <i>10-11am</i></p>

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February 13 - 15, 2019	Mid-Year Family Meetings
February 18, 2019	Presidents' Day <i>- Schools Closed</i>
March 8, 2019	Parent Helpers Day <i>8am-12:45pm</i>
March 16, 2019	Lunch Around the World Potluck <i>11:00am at Weccacoe Playground</i>
March 29, 2019	Professional Development Half Day <i>12:45 Dismissal for ALL students</i>
April 5, 2019	Parent Helpers Day <i>8am-12:45pm</i>
April 10, 2019	Curriculum Night- Emotionally Responsive Practice & Positive Discipline <i>6-7pm</i>
April 13, 2019	Earth Day Planting <i>10am at School</i>
April 18-26, 2019	Spring Recess <i>School Closed</i>
May 3, 2019	Parent Helpers Day <i>8am-12:45pm</i>
May 8 - 14, 2019	End of Year Family Meetings

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May 18, 2019	Family Picnic <i>10am Starr Garden Park</i>
May 23, 2019	Spring Tea <i>10am at School</i>
May 27, 2019	Memorial Day <i>- School Closed</i>
June 7, 2019	End of Year Celebration - Last day of school, 12:00 dismissal for ALL students Celebration begins at 10am

*Parent Helpers Day is designated on the first Friday of every month beginning in November. On these days, two individual parents from two different families may sign up to join our classroom to observe, interact with, and help out in any way they would like. Philly Montessori Parent Helpers Days allow for parents to become integrated into our daily school routines, and also allow space for parents to share any particular interests or talents with our school community. These days are not required, if you would like to join us one day, but can not come on a Friday, simply let us know and we will make appropriate arrangements!

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