



Dear Families,

Thank you for your interest in our school! Philly Montessori is an AMS **accredited Montessori school**, designed for children aged 18 months 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 we serve. We are very proud of our Authentic Montessori school that offers the only Spanish-bilingual Montessori program in Philadelphia, in an intimate and intentionally designed environment, led by experienced, dedicated, and certified Montessori teachers.

Our school is intentionally designed as a **Teacher-led school**. This means that teachers serve as school administrators, which allows them to more nimbly and aptly make programmatic decisions that respond to each unique group of students they serve. By cutting out the traditional role of administrators in communication, teachers and parents have daily direct communication, enabling strong and trusting relationships and **meaningful teacher-parent partnerships**, and allowing them to give personalized attention to each family. Throughout the year, parents are welcomed into the classroom, to observe, participate, or even share their own hobbies or passions in the classroom.

All students at Philly Montessori have access to our **fully equipped Montessori classrooms**. Our East Campus will have its own **playground complete with nature-based play equipment and an urban garden, as well as an indoor gym**. A day in the classroom is well-rounded with daily group meetings, storytime, enrichment classes, and gross motor play. Enclosed in this informational packet you will find a description of our **mission statement, our daily schedule, our programs, and our tuition schedule**.

Should you have any remaining questions about our school or our programs, you can email me directly at admin@phillymontessori.com. Thank you again for your interest in our school, and we look forward to connecting with you soon!

Kindly,

Sheila Sayfi, M.A

Founder and Lead Teacher



Philly Montessori at a Glance

Philly Montessori West Campus (PMW) was founded in 2018 when Sheila was searching for a program for her daughter, Emma. As the daughter of two Montessori educators, and a Montessori educator herself, Sheila wanted a quality program for Emma that reflected her values. Unable to find a bilingual Spanish/English Montessori program in an intimate, inviting, and inspiring setting with an inclusive, teacher-led culture, Sheila set about creating Philly Montessori. PMW was Sheila's initial dream realized, and Philly Montessori East (PME), opening in January 2025, is a testament to how our dreams can grow!

Mission

Philly Montessori nurtures each child's individual curiosity, intrinsic motivation, and love of learning. Our authentic Montessori schools are teacher-directed, with a bilingual English/Spanish program and an inclusive curriculum. Our city school takes advantage of the community around us, focusing on community collaboration and connecting to nature in our neighborhood, on the playground, and by bringing nature into the classroom.

Campus

Our school is spread across two campuses in Queen Village. PMW opened in 2018 and has two classrooms, an indoor gym, and an outdoor patio. PME will open in January 2025 and will contain five classrooms, an indoor gym, and an outdoor playground. Both campuses are intentionally designed for our students.

Programs & Facilities

- Our program supports children from toddlerhood through kindergarten enrolling children from 18 months to 6 years old.
- All our lead teachers are certified Montessori educators.
- Each classroom has at least one Spanish-speaking teacher.
- Aftercare is available until 6:00 pm when children are enrolled in the Extended Day program.
- All classrooms have music class with a teacher from Mister John's Music each week.
- Art, Spanish, Dance, Sensory-Motor Storytime, and Soccer Shots are offered as optional enrichment classes throughout the year.
- Our students benefit from the rich culture in South Philly, and we have developed relationships with the Magic Gardens, Charles Santore Library, Mister John's Music, Fitz on 4th, Salt & Vinegar, and other local businesses.
- Eight weeks of optional summer programming are offered for families who need summer care.
- Our campuses are peanut and tree-nut free.

Accreditations & Affiliations

[American Montessori Society](#) Verified School

[Licensed Commercial Childcare Center by the Department of Human Resources](#)

Diversity Statement

Philly Montessori admits students of any race, religion, disability, ethnic, and national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded and made available to students at the school. Philly Montessori does not discriminate based on race, religious affiliation, disability, ethnic and national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Philly Montessori is to bring out each child's **natural curiosity**, **joy for learning**, and **independence** by adhering to these 5 guiding principles:

Authentic Montessori Classroom



Montessori environments nurture each child's natural curiosity, self-motivation, and love of learning. Through hands-on and individualized learning, Montessori classrooms not only lay solid foundations for academic readiness, but also emphasize emotional intelligence, leading to highly perceptive, empathetic, and collaborative learners. Philly Montessori is accredited by the American Montessori Society (AMS).

As an accredited program, Philly Montessori has specially trained Montessori-certified teachers, self-correcting materials, an uninterrupted work cycle, mixed-age classrooms, and a carefully designed environment.

Teacher-led School



As a teacher-led school, teachers serve as school administrators, which allows them to more nimbly and aptly make programmatic decisions that respond to each unique group of students they serve. By cutting out the traditional role of administrators, teachers and parents have daily direct communication, leading to strong and trusting relationships. Throughout the year, parents are welcomed into the classroom, to observe, participate, or even share their own hobbies or passions with our school community.

Bilingual Spanish-English



Philly Montessori classrooms are bilingual classrooms; wherein, we use the one caregiver, one language approach. Following this approach, we have at least one Spanish-speaking teacher and one English-speaking teacher in the classroom. The one-caregiver, one-language approach allows both Spanish and English-speaking children to adjust to the classroom environment and learn the new language at their own pace. This approach further allows Spanish-speaking children to ease into an English-speaking environment without hindering any aspects of their learning. We believe that learning a second language at a young age is not only more easily done, but enhances a child's brain development and problem-solving skills.

Connection to Nature



A sense of caring and responsibility for the world around us begins at the very youngest age, as children notice even the most subtle details of their environment. Philly Montessori aims to be a low-waste school, and models care for the environment wherever possible — including engaging in our gardening and composting efforts. Philly Montessori teachers foster each child's natural sense of wonder by bringing nature into the classroom for children to work with, observe, and research. We believe that when a child has a positive connection to the natural world, they will grow up caring for and protecting the Earth.

Philly Montessori children spend time outside daily. By taking time to explore our environment, we hope to cultivate a deep-rooted love for the world around us.

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. Throughout the year, we invite parents and caregivers into our classroom to join us in our daily activities or to share their culture, talents, or interests with the children. We bring Philly into our school, introducing our children to local artists, musicians, chefs, and skilled professionals who can share their knowledge and expertise. As the children get older, we also take the students into the community. The older they are, the more our students engage with the community, especially in their Kindergarten year.



PROGRAMS & SCHEDULE

TODDLER

The toddler classroom is designed for children aged 18 months to 3 years old. Maria Montessori referred to the period from birth to the age of 6 as “The Absorbent Mind”, drawing attention to the young child’s ability to learn large amounts of information at rapid rates. During this period, children behave like little scientists. They learn through experimenting with and manipulating the objects in their environment.

Philly Montessori’s Toddler classroom is thoughtfully designed with the Montessori principles of beauty, simplicity, and movement in mind. The furniture and shelves are designed to promote each child’s independence, and the classroom materials change throughout the year as the children change. The materials are designed to support the children’s developing areas of growth and build on their new interests, discoveries, and strengths. In this way, our classroom is not a static space, but rather a dynamic organism that meets the needs of each individual child within it. The classroom is broken up into 5 major curricular areas: sensory, cognitive, language, social, and cultural studies. As is the Philly Montessori way, art, sensory play, and music are integrated into all of these major learning areas. Following the Montessori spiral of learning, absorbing new information is never limited. Instead, children are encouraged to explore and to learn through interacting with their teachers, peers, and the environment.

Building toward toileting independence is an integral piece of the toddler curriculum, as such, small child-sized toilets, regular visits to the bathroom, and lessons on how to care for oneself are all incorporated into the Toddler routine.



TODDLER DAILY SCHEDULE*

We know that children are happiest when they follow predictable routines every day. This is a sample of the daily routine followed by our toddler classrooms:

Morning	Full Day	Extended Day
<p>8 - 10:00 am</p> <p>Morning work cycle and group snack</p>	<p>12:15 - 1:00</p> <p>Lunch clean up, toileting, transition to quiet rest time</p>	<p>3:00 - 4:00</p> <p>Afternoon work cycle</p>
<p>10 am</p> <p>Gross motor play</p>	<p>1:00 - 3:00</p> <p>Rest time, transition to full day dismissal or afternoon work cycle</p>	<p>4:00 - 6:00</p> <p>Group snack, story time, open work and play, and enrichment activities</p>
<p>11:15</p> <p>Lunch</p> <hr/> <p>12:15</p> <p>Morning program dismissal</p>	<p>3:00</p> <p>Full day dismissal</p>	<p>6:00*</p> <p>Extended day dismissal</p> <p>*Extended day families may pick up any time between 3 - 6 pm</p>

*Please note minor adjustments to this schedule may be made as needed based on the teachers' observations and the needs of the children.



TODDLER PROGRAMS:

Morning Program (8 am-12:15 pm)

The morning program is an integral part of our school as it is the time of day when all members of the classroom are together. Arrival for the morning program begins at 8 am, and all children should be at school by 8:15 am, and no later than 8:30 am. During the arrival period children have time to ease into their day by greeting their friends and teachers, hanging up their belongings in their cubby, changing into their indoor shoes, and then beginning 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.

During the Toddler Morning program your child will enjoy a two-hour uninterrupted work and play period, snack, one hour of gross motor play, and lunch. At Philly Montessori, we implement a two-hour uninterrupted work period, because we understand that young children simply do not enjoy multiple transitions, or being interrupted from their work and play.

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, storytime, gardening, helping another classmate with a difficult task, enjoying stories or songs during circle time, or simply engaging in some conversation with a friend in the cozy corner!

At Philly Montessori, we know children love to MOVE! Our gross motor play happens on the PME campus playground, local parks, or in our beautiful indoor gym.

The morning program is further enriched with weekly music classes led by a teacher from Mister John’s Music. All Philly Montessori students are required to attend school 5 days a week.

Dismissal from the morning program is at 12:15 pm.

Full Day Program (8 am-3:00 pm)

During the Full Day program, Toddler children are invited to take a peaceful nap in their classroom. During nap time teachers read children stories, play restful music, and help children relax and fall asleep. As children begin to wake, they are invited for toileting practice, and then begin to ready their classroom for the next day. Over time, the toddler children learn how to water the plants, wash the dishes, wipe tables, and clear the floor of debris. These practices help give children a sense of responsibility and fulfill their innate desire for beauty and order in their environment.

Dismissal from the Full Day program is at 3:00 pm.

Extended Day (8 am-6 pm)



Our Extended Day program is a fun and enriching program! Children in this program do art and cooking projects, participate in coordinated gross motor activities, and take part in sensory play. They also enjoy time on our playground or in our indoor gym, gardening in our garden, and working and playing with their classmates and teachers in the classroom.

Philly Montessori uniquely offers an **all-day Montessori** experience in that children are always under the care of a [Montessori-certified teacher](#).

Dismissal from the Extended Day program is anytime from 3:00 pm - 6 pm.



TODDLER TUITION

Tuition is based on care provided from January 13, 2025, to June 6, 2025. Parents have read and accept the “Delayed Start Date” clause, which states that should the school have a delayed start date, the school will prorate tuition on a per diem basis.

	*Five payments of:	Two payments of:	One payment of:
Morning (8 am-12:15 pm)	\$1,545	\$3,862	\$7,725
Full Day (8 am-3:00 pm)	\$2,060	\$5,085	\$10,300
Extended Day (8 am-6 pm)	\$2,472	\$6,180	\$12,360

*Five payment plan incurs a 3% service charge fee.

Payments are due on the first of the month, and a \$1,000 tuition deposit secures your child’s space in our program. This deposit is applied to the last month’s tuition payment.

Other program Fees include: \$100 Parent Association dues, \$200 yearly supply fee, \$600 yearly registration fee, and grocery contribution for classroom snacks. On average, the grocery contribution is about \$200/family.

*Founding families, one \$600 registration fee will be applied to both January-June 2025 and the 25-26 school year.

All payments can be made conveniently through a **secured online portal**.



Programs & Schedule

PRIMARY

The Primary classroom is designed for children ages 3 to 6 years old. This mixed-age setting allows for fluid, personalized learning that meets the needs of each individual child in our classroom. Learning in a Philly Montessori Primary classroom is dynamic and hands-on, allowing children to make their own discoveries and follow their own interests within a structured framework.

The classroom and curriculum can be divided into 8 major curricular areas: Art, Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math, Cultural, and Peace. Within each area, children learn through interacting with carefully designed self-didactic materials. To learn more about each curricular area, and the Montessori approach, we encourage you to peruse our website: <http://www.phillymontessori.com/>.

A WELL-ROUNDED EXPERIENCE

The Philly Montessori curriculum is rounded out with daily group meetings, storytimes, and gross motor play. Art and music are embedded throughout the classroom and are further reinforced through weekly classes with Mister John's Music and our own art teachers. Our students have opportunities to participate in after-school enrichment activities such as Spanish, Art, Dance, Sensory-Motor Storytime, Yoga, or Soccer Shots. Enrichment offerings may change throughout the year.



PRIMARY DAILY SCHEDULE*

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

Morning	Full Day	Extended Day
<p>8 - 11:00</p> <p>Morning Work Cycle</p>	<p>12:15 - 1:00</p> <p>Lunch</p>	<p>3:00 - 4:00</p> <p>Group snack, storytime, work cycle, and enrichment activities</p>
<p>11:00</p> <p>Gross Motor Play</p>	<p>1:00 - 2:45</p> <p>Afternoon Work Time/ Kindergarten Class & Naptime</p>	<p>4 - 6:00</p> <p>Open work and play, gross motor time, makers table, and group projects.</p>
<p>12:15</p> <p>Morning Program Dismissal</p>	<p>3:00</p> <p>Full Day Dismissal</p>	<p>6:00*</p> <p>Extended day dismissal</p> <p>*Extended day families may pick up any time between 3-6 pm</p>

* Please note minor adjustments to this schedule may be made as needed based on the teachers' observations and the needs of the children.

Snack is always available for free choice during the morning program.



PRIMARY PROGRAMS

Morning Program (8 am-12:15 pm)

The morning program is an integral part of our school as it is the time of day when all members of the classroom are together. Arrival for the morning program begins at 8 am, and all children should be at school by 8:15 am, and no later than 8:30 am. During the arrival period, children have time to ease into their day by greeting their friends and teachers, hanging up their belongings in their cubby, changing into their indoor shoes, and then beginning the work cycle.

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

In the Philly Montessori Primary classrooms, we implement a three-hour uninterrupted work cycle, snack, and one hour of gross motor play. We implement a three-hour uninterrupted work cycle because we understand that young children do not enjoy multiple transitions, or being interrupted from their work and play.

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, storytime, 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, the children enjoy a full hour of gross motor play at a local playground such as Shot Tower, on our campus playground, or in the indoor gym.

The morning program is further enriched with weekly music classes led by a teacher from Mister John’s Music. All Philly Montessori students are required to attend school 5 days a week.

Dismissal from the morning program is at 12:15 pm.

Full Day Program (8 am-3 pm)

Following the morning work cycle and gross motor play, our class will begin to set up our tables for lunch. This is a collaborative process that has many meaningful layers: wiping tables clean, reciting a poem of thanks, and engaging in conversations, stories, and laughs while eating together. After lunch, each child is responsible for washing their own dishes if needed, and cleaning up their lunch space by wiping the table and sweeping the floor.



After lunch, children who rest move to the nap room, and those who do not have a quiet reading period before engaging in a second work cycle.

The second work cycle is a quieter time of the day with fewer children. At this time children engage in individual activities or have more personalized time with their teachers.

During the second work cycle, our Kindergarten-aged children have Kindergarten class with in-depth studies, advanced lessons, field trips, and group activities.

Dismissal from the Full Day program is at 3:00 pm.

Extended Day (8 am-6 pm)

Our Extended Day program is a fun and enriching program. Children are offered the opportunity to sign up for a variety of extra-curricular activities such as Spanish, Art, Dance, Sensory-Motor Storytime, Yoga, or Soccer Shots, and other offerings that may change throughout the year. They may also play in our outdoor playground, our indoor gym, garden in our garden, or spend time working and playing with their classmates and teachers in the classroom.

Dismissal from the Extended Day program is anytime from 3:00 pm - 6 pm.



PRIMARY TUITION

Tuition is based on care provided from January 13, 2025, to June 6, 2025. Parents have read and accept the “Delayed Start Date” clause, which states that should the school have a delayed start date, the school will prorate tuition on a per diem basis.

	*Five payments of:	Two payments of:	One payments of:
Morning (8 am-12:15 pm)	\$1490	\$3,836	\$7,673
Full Day (8 am-3 pm)	\$2,034	\$5,085	\$10,171
Extended Day (8 am-6 pm)	\$2,369	\$5,922	\$11,845

*Five payment plan incurs a 3% service charge fee.

Payments are due on the first of the month, and a \$1,000 tuition deposit secures your child’s space in our program. This deposit is applied to the last month’s tuition payment.

Other program Fees include: \$100 Parent Association dues, \$200 yearly supply fee, \$600 yearly registration fee, and grocery contribution for classroom snacks. On average, the grocery contribution is about \$200/family.

*Founding families, one \$600 registration fee will be applied to both January-June 2025 and the 25-26 school year.

All payments can be made conveniently through a **secured online portal**.