

**“Washington Montessori
allows teachers to
help each child discover
unique talents and
unlimited potential.”**

Megail Mebane, Parent

■ **Where Children Learn By Doing** ■



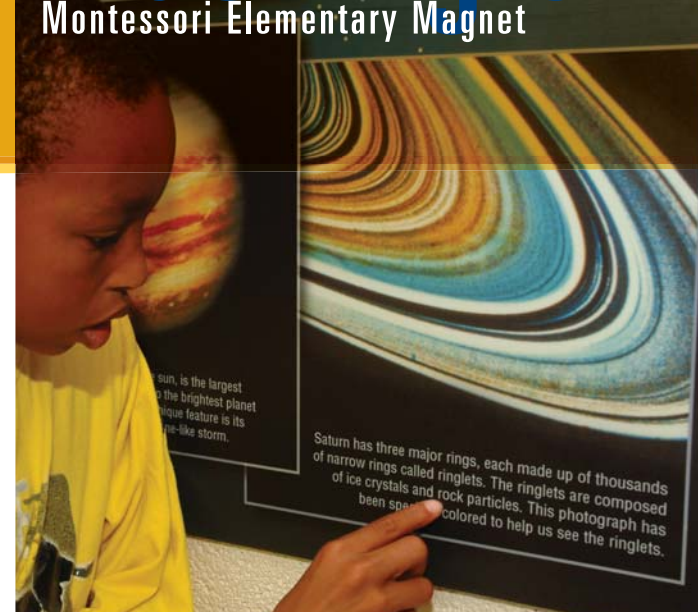
Washington Montessori Magnet
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www.gcsnc.com/magnet

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Washington

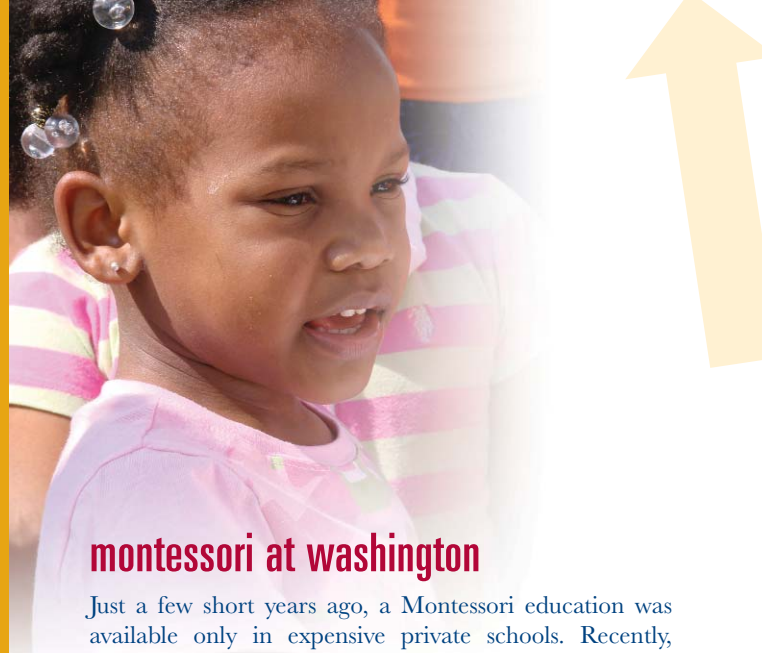
Montessori Elementary Magnet



STRIVING. ACHIEVING. EXCELLING.

What Is Montessori

Montessori is a personalized approach to learning, which recognizes that each child learns with a unique style and pace, and that children learn best in a prepared environment, which supports and respects their individual development. It is also based on the premise that the intellectual, physical and social needs of children are inseparable and equally important. The century-old Montessori method is based on how children learn naturally, and many believe it is a learning opportunity every child should have. Montessori students develop positive attitudes about learning, a positive image of themselves as learners and a strong sense of independence and responsibility. The Montessori experience produces self-motivated, independent learners with characteristics that benefit them throughout their school years and into adulthood.



montessori at washington

Just a few short years ago, a Montessori education was available only in expensive private schools. Recently, public Montessori schools have opened as magnet school options in several large school systems in the nation. Guilford County Schools (GCS) is proud to be one of the systems providing public Montessori schools. Students at Washington study the same state curriculum and prepare for the same state and local tests and assessments as students in other GCS elementary schools. Preparation for these tests will occur in all grade levels, using both Montessori and traditional methods of study.

it's all about the individual

Teachers may introduce a new concept to the whole class or a small group, but thereafter, instruction is totally individualized, based on the interests, needs and developmental level of each child. Teachers observe students working at individual tasks to assess their progress, learning styles and interests. As students master each task, the teacher gently guides them to a new challenge, allowing them to move ahead at their own pace.

hands-on learning

Hands-on experiences replace traditional learning in Montessori classrooms, where the environment captures and builds on children's natural curiosity. Students are actively engaged throughout the day, using specially designed materials that provide concrete, multi-sensory

learning experiences. They learn everything from the alphabet to math and geography by physically handling tangible objects and materials, which is how children learn naturally and best. The Montessori classroom changes and grows with the developmental needs of each child.

small, multi-age classrooms

From pre-K through fifth grade, small classes allow teachers to observe and direct students individually. Multi-age classrooms (pre-K through third grade) foster a sense of community, promote mutual respect and allow learning to be reinforced between older and younger students. Children absorb learning by observing other children and are not interrupted when they are doing so. In the home-like setting, filled with developmentally appropriate materials, students learn to return materials to proper places, clean-up after themselves and resolve their own conflicts. Learning grace and courtesy is an integral part of the Montessori curriculum.

highly trained staff

Regular classroom teachers who want to teach in a Montessori school must spend one weekend each month and an extended period of time being trained in special Montessori settings to become certified. In addition, paraprofessionals receive yearly training in the Montessori philosophies. The time spent in training is clear evidence of the staff's commitment to Montessori and their enthusiasm about this method of teaching and learning. In addition, all Washington teachers hold state licenses for elementary education and several staff members hold master's degrees.

see for yourself!

Parents interested in submitting an application and wanting to know more about Montessori can call (336) 370-8290. Montessori parents are encouraged and expected to take an active role in their child's education. Tours can be set up for early spring by calling the school.