



**MONTESSORI  
• SCHOOL •**

**OUR MISSION**

The mission of Discovery Garden Montessori School is to provide students in the Springfield area with the opportunity to acquire an education based on the philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori. This philosophy places an emphasis on independent learning, mixed-age classrooms, and mutual teaching. This school will actively recruit and serve all children in hopes to attract a culturally, ethnically and socio-economically diverse group of students. Our goal is to nurture, inspire and support each child's individual development with an enriched and welcoming community. We continually strive to foster strong academics, leadership, self-discipline, responsibility, independence, and a child's innate love of learning. These principals help make our children's introduction to education a purposeful start to a journey of lifelong learning.

**OUR GOAL**

Our goal is to instill a love of learning in every child and to assure a solid grounding in the basics of education that will help them achieve their potential.

**THE LEARNING PROCESS:**

**MONTESSORI MATERIALS & ENVIRONMENT**

The set-up of the classroom is very important in the Montessori system of education. It is attractive and serves as a motivating element to self-teaching. Uniquely designed Montessori materials are attractive, child-sized, and self-correcting. These materials are *manipulative, so your child learns by doing*. They are carefully sequenced to lead a child from simple concepts and concrete experiences to more complex concepts and abstractions.

In this environment children learn to work alone and with others. They learn to follow "ground rules" so that the classroom runs smoothly and that a climate for learning is always maintained.

**IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES THAT LEAD TO SUCCESS**

**Individualized Education** – recognition is given to each child's individual learning ability, interest, style, and pace. Children are not restricted to grade level curriculum.

**Positive Self-Esteem** – accomplishment and confidence grown from within result from encouraging independence and initiative.

**Character Building** – universal principles of existence are emphasized in the daily interactions of a diverse student body. We teach respect for each other and our environment, responsibility for our actions, honesty, fairness, and

trustworthiness, which we believe will provide a basis for an ethical framework for life.

**Structured Environment** – certified Montessori teachers, acting as facilitators, prepare an enriched, stimulating environment in which students have a freedom of choice and ability to work independently.

**Teacher/Student Ratios** – low ratios are critical to providing individualized attention. Our classroom ratios are up to 1:6 for Toddlers, 1:10 for Primary, and 1:16 for Lower Elementary.

**DGMS PROGRAMS**

All programs are multi-age groupings, which facilitate the individualized education and freedom of advancement at each student's pace.

**Toddler Community** – Program for 16 -36 months of age, (mornings only or full day).

**Primary** – Program for 3-6 years of age (mornings only or full day).

**Early Elementary** – Offering 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**Upper Elementary** – Offering 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

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**Early Bird** – Before-school option (7:30-8:30) – *extra fee required*.

**Aftercare** – After-school option available to all students (3:30 – 5:30) – *extra fee required*.

**CURRICULUM**

The internationally recognized Montessori curriculum covers core-learning areas such as Language, Mathematics, Geometry, Botany, Zoology, Physical Geography, Cultural Geography, Practical Life, and Sensorial Education. These areas provide your child with aids for intellectual development.

In addition to the Montessori curriculum, we offer optional afternoon enrichment programs for an additional fee, which generally consist of music, foreign language, dance, and yoga, (*note that these offerings may change somewhat from semester to semester*). Field trips are scheduled for the Lower Elementary classroom, and occasionally guest speakers and outreach programs visit the school to enrich the classroom experience.

**ABOUT US**

DGMS offers a proven Montessori education for children 16 months through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. DGMS is an independent, nonprofit, and non-sectarian school and a full member of the American Montessori Society.