



**Welcome to Sterling Montessori  
Academy & Charter School**

# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Sterling Montessori is to create a diverse educational community, grounded in the Montessori philosophy and teaching practices, that fosters curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking in its students. We strive to empower each student to become life-long learners who respect themselves, others and their environment.



# STERLING MONTESSORI IS...



## ACADEMY

- PreK Students (3 and 4 year-olds)
- Privately Funded (Tuition)
- Individualized Enrollment
- Montessori Curriculum
- Multi-aged classes
- No public transportation



## CHARTER

- K-8th Grades
- Part of the Public School System
- Funded by Public Monies
- Lottery Acceptance
- Montessori Curriculum
- Multi-aged classes
- No public transportation

But most importantly: a MONTESORI school

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHARTER?



- ❖ School of Choice
- ❖ Meets North Carolina State Standards
- ❖ Standardized Tests (BOG, EOG, EOC)
- ❖ Funded by Public Monies
- ❖ Lottery Acceptance

# MARIA MONTESSORI



## **In a nutshell...**

- Born in 1870 in Italy
- One of the first woman in Italy to receive a medical degree
- Worked in the fields of psychiatry, anthropology and education
- Believed that each child is born with a unique potential to be revealed, rather than as a “blank slate” waiting to be written upon

## **Some of her Main Contributions...**

- Preparing the most natural and life-supporting environments for the child (child-sized, concrete learning materials, beautiful and peaceful)
- Observing the child acting freely in and upon this environment
- Continually adapting the environment in order that the child may fulfill his greatest potential physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually

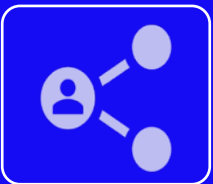
# MONTESSORI CORE BELIEFS



Natural **spirituality**



Children are **wired to learn**



Children learn best when they are **involved** in the process



They thrive on **Structure** and **Order**



Move through **sensitive periods**

# MONTESSORI CORE BELIEFS



Learn through their senses



Need freedom paired with responsibility



Children benefit from guidance, not control



Children learn by watching and listening to other children



Learning follows a developmental path

# WHAT MAKES A MONTESSORI EDUCATION UNIQUE?

Mixed Age  
Groups

Preparation of  
the  
Environment

Philosophy,  
Methodology  
and Materials

The Role of  
the Teacher

Level of  
Student  
Independence



# MIXED AGE GROUPINGS

Montessori classrooms are organized to encompass a **three-year developmental span** with each program designed to address the characteristics of that stage.

*The aim is to encourage active, self-directed learning.*



# PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The whole learning environment in the classroom, including the materials and the social climate is designed to facilitate exploration by the child and the growth of responsible, independent, self-directed, inquisitive learners.

**Goal:** growth of responsible, independent, self-directed, inquisitive learners.

**Montessori classrooms are organized into several curriculum areas, including:**

- Practical Life
- Sensorial
- Language Arts (Reading, Literature, Grammar, Creative Writing, Spelling and Handwriting)
- Mathematics and Geometry
- Cultural Studies (Science, Geography & History)



Each area is made up of a wide variety of materials on open display, ready for use as the students are ready for them.

# A MARRIAGE OF PHILOSOPHY, METHODOLOGY & MATERIALS



Specialized materials are used at Sterling daily to teach abstract concepts in concrete-operational ways, because we know that when information is processed in an active and creative manner, knowledge becomes permanent, and thus strengthens the cerebral part of the brain.

# THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER

- ❖ Montessori teachers **typically work with one or two students**, or a small group of learners at a time.
- ❖ Teachers connect children to work through lessons, advises, or quietly observes the class at work and closely monitors the students' progress.
- ❖ Working with each student for **three years**, the teacher comes to know each student's strengths and weaknesses, interests and personalities extremely well.



# LEVEL OF STUDENT INDEPENDENCE

- ❖ Each class has a **set schedule**. Students can be found working in all areas of the classroom, alone or in small or large groups.
- ❖ Students are given **clear expectations, correct procedures**, and a formal system (in the form of a work plan and/or a syllabus) to **help keep track** of what has been accomplished and what still needs to be completed.



# WHAT YOU SHOULD OBSERVE IN A CLASSROOM:

Work Cycle 2-3 Hours

Child-Centered, Student Driven

Lessons Presented Based on **Ability, Readiness** or **Interest**

All Lead Teachers are **Montessori** Trained

Three-Year Age Span

**Concrete to Abstract** Learning Process

Many of the **Same Materials** used in Different Ways



# OUR PROGRAMS

## Children's House (Pre-K and K students)

- Each of our 8 classrooms has:
  - 25 students
  - 1 Lead Teacher & 1 Assistant

[TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR \(link\)](#)

## Lower Elementary (Grades 1, 2 & 3)

- 28 Students
- 1 Lead Teacher & 1 Assistant

## Upper Elementary (Grades 4, 5 & 6)

- 28-30 Students
- 1 Lead Teacher & 1 Assistant

## Middle School (Grades 7 & 8)

- 2 Pods (60 students per pod)
- 2 Teachers and 1 Associate per Pod

# WE ALSO OFFER



Inclusive environments  
for all students, including  
those with IEP and 504  
plans

Enrichment Classes: Art,  
Music & Physical  
Education (K and up),  
Spanish (starting in 1st  
grade)

A Before and After  
School Program. Hours  
7:30am - 6:00pm (Fee  
Applies)

PFSA (Parent Faculty  
Student Association)

On and Off Campus  
Field Trips

Free and Reduced  
Lunch for those who  
qualify





# THE CHARTER SCHOOL LOTTERY PROCESS



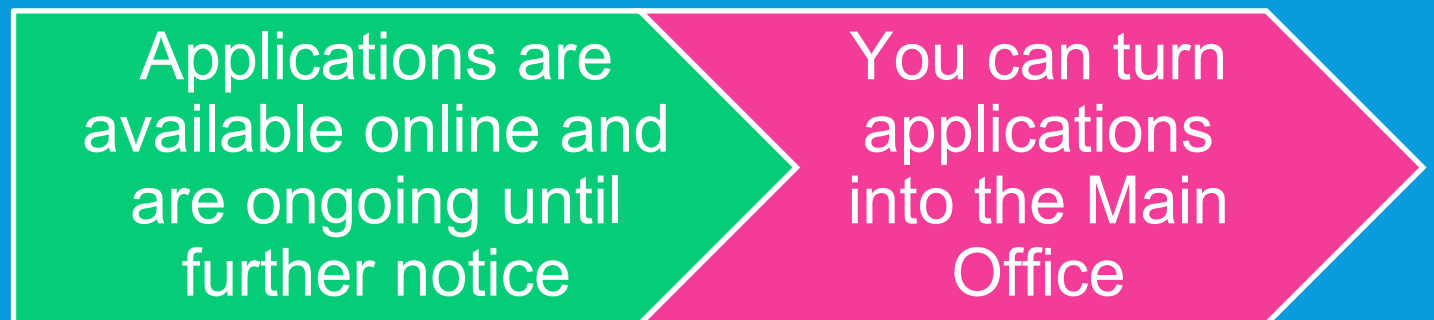
- ❖ **How does it work?**
  - Fill out an online application by Friday, February 4, 2022
- ❖ **When and where does it take place?**
  - Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 12:00pm at Sterling Montessori
  - Families are emailed results by end of day

# THE ACADEMY ADMISSION PROCESS

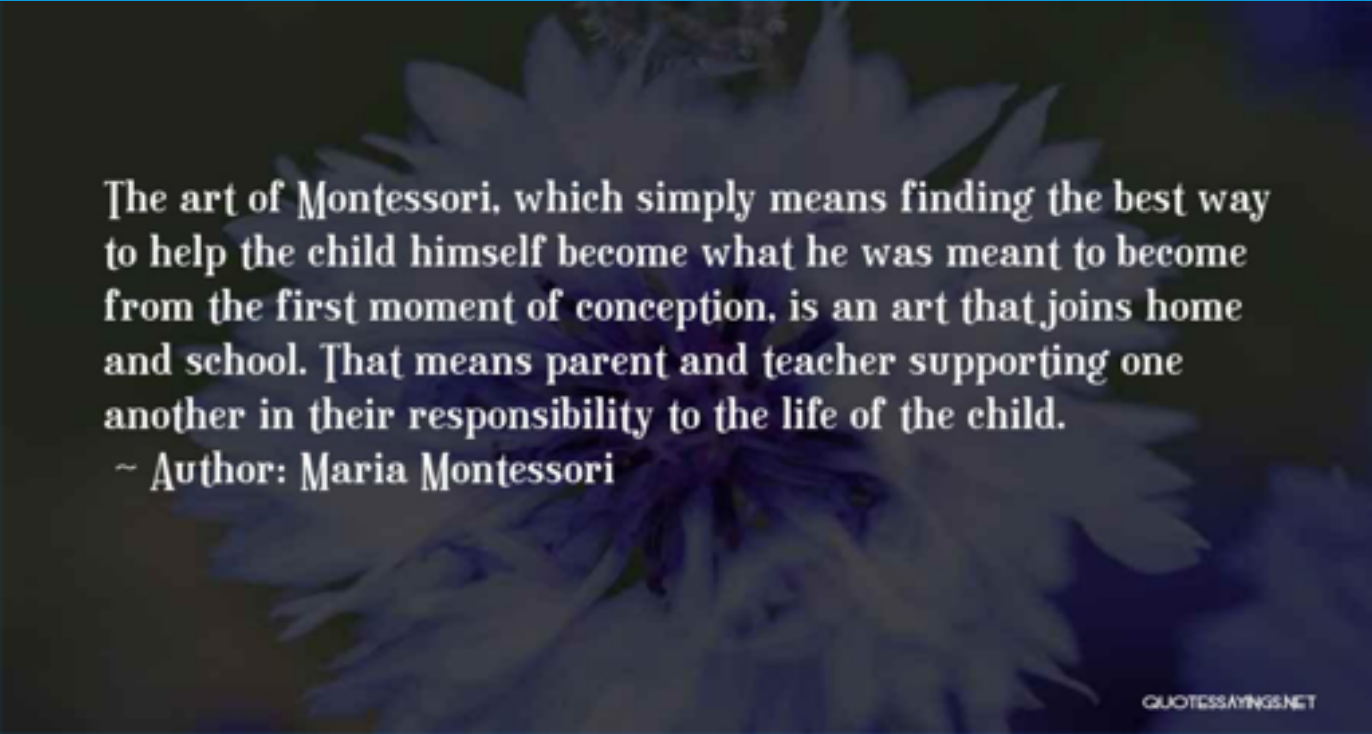
How does it work?



When and where does it take place?



# A SHARED VISION OF PARTNERSHIP HOME AND SCHOOL



The art of Montessori, which simply means finding the best way to help the child himself become what he was meant to become from the first moment of conception, is an art that joins home and school. That means parent and teacher supporting one another in their responsibility to the life of the child.

~ Author: Maria Montessori



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS