



Oviedo Montessori School

The Montessori Method and Technology

Oviedo Montessori School, Oviedo, Florida
Ms. Karen Nelson, Directress

What is the Montessori Method?

There is currently a movement underway in the U.S. to increase scientific and mathematical education. Across the country there are new standards for technology-driven subjects, with educators being charged to be creative and engaging rather than just teaching from a textbook.

Montessori teachers have a huge jumpstart on their conventional counterparts. Since student engagement is at the forefront of the Montessori classroom, they are already actively engaging students in hands-on learning.

Beginning in the Montessori preschool environment, students learn the fundamental

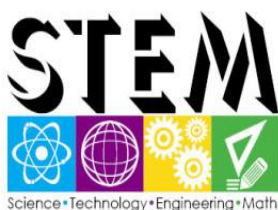
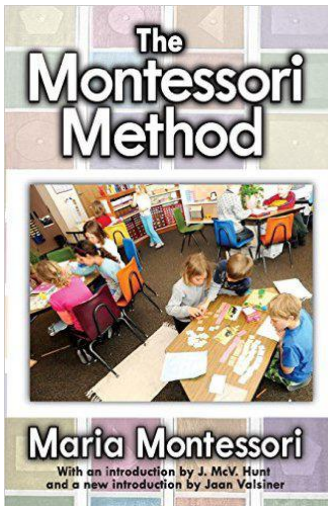


rules of math and science through discovery of natural laws through manipulation of didactic materials and problem-solving with peers. The work engages the senses and insures the internalization of concepts, not just memorization of disjointed facts and figures. Through the Montessori Method, the curriculum reinforces that everything is interrelated: students see how math and science work harmoniously in nature.

The Montessori Method is a truly individualized education reflecting a great respect for the uniqueness of each child, and is based on these five key principles:

- Developing a positive attitude toward school
- Helping each child develop self-confidence
- Assisting each child in building a habit of concentration
- Utilizing the most effective skills and tools to educate
- Developing habits of initiative and persistence

As a result of the Montessori approach to education, Montessori students are prepared for life, not just for



What Role Can Technology Play in Montessori?

Montessori adheres to the goal of integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education into its curriculum. Educators should be helping students integrate knowledge across multiple disciplines, encouraging them to think in a more connected and holistic way. While the Montessori Method by design avoids the

use of computers in early childhood lessons, it does want to provide children chances to investigate an idea in a variety of settings, for what educators call cross-contextual learning. Therefore being able to integrate the best technological tools that will allow students to be active, engaged, and take initiative in their own learn-



ing, will help them to support their overall long-term academic success.



Every Montessori School is designed with 5 individual classrooms in mind, recreating the world the children live in. Each child will be self-directed into achieving greater advances in those areas where he/she are most successful.

Montessori Classroom Area: Practical Life



PRACTICAL LIFE exercises are designed to teach children life skills. Lessons include spooning, using tweezers, puzzles, cutting, pouring, twisting, and lessons to become more independent such as snaps, buttons, lacing, tying, and zip-

pers, washing dishes, setting the table, grace and courtesy.

In the process, children strengthen their hands, improve fine motor skills, and prepare for handwriting.

The use of technological tools

That would allow children to maximize their life skills lessons without binding them to a computer would allow them to better examine natural forces, pushing and pulling, estimating, persistence, finger and wrist fine motor movement.

Montessori Classroom Area: Sensorial



SENSORIAL- The materials in this area are tactile, and they meet the need for children to explore with their hands.

They learn to compare, contrast and to distinguish different sense impressions and to put them in some sort

of order. This sorting and classification of impressions is a new beginning for the development of the intellect by using the senses.

The mind needs to be trained to discriminate and appreciate.

Any lessons that could be

augmented through replication and enhancement of the sensorial skills would help the child in the areas of scientific prediction, observe, hypothesize, classify, compare and contrast, self-regulation, improved executive function. musical aptitude.

Montessori Classroom Area: Math



MATH- Math is introduced by allowing the child to discover patterns and rules for himself through handling the lessons.

By progressing gradually from the manipulation of concrete objects (spindles and beads) to the symbolic

representation of number on paper, the Montessori Method lays the foundation for a more comprehensive and perceptive awareness of the relevance of numbers and the true enjoyment of Mathematics.

We do know that repetition

is the key to math mastering. Any non-computer tool that makes concrete the abstract for objects, new concepts and ideas, equality, experiment, quantity, measurements, predictions, and analyzing of information would be a boon to the child's math experience.

Montessori Classroom Area: Culture



CULTURE- This area includes science, geography, history, music, art and ecology, and gardening to enrich the child's understanding of all aspects of the

world where he/she lives.

And because our students and teachers come from a wide variety of cultures themselves, their awareness of diversity is cross-cultural.

Technological augmentation of the existing cultural lessons would enable focused observing, expanded understanding of new information, and immediate environmental manipulation

Montessori Classroom Area: Language

LANGUAGE- There are four main aspects: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

The child builds his vocabulary and perfects his use of complex grammatical structures while he is in the sensitive period for language learning.

The Montessori system for teaching reading is based on teaching the child the sounds made by each letter

of the alphabet, using the sandpaper letters to teach one letter at a time. Later on we teach one sound for groups of two or more letters called phonograms. In language we begin teaching writing.

Everything you write for the child must be large, clear and beautiful. When you are writing their name, it must begin with a capital letter, followed by lower case.

As with all Montessori lessons, those involving language depend more on the child “doing” rather than being “taught at”. An educational tool that replicates and augments the “doing” experience would be of significant value to the educational process.

This would include symbols to sounds, persistence, flexibility, duality, sign language, and problem solving.



Successes from the Montessori Method

Is it a coincidence that many of the mavericks on the leading edge of innovation and creativity in our culture are Montessori graduates?

To the millions of Montessori students, families and supporters around the world, the answer is obvious.

Montessori offers an education for life – and with that come the skills needed to succeed in our ever changing global society.

People who have used their Montessori upbringing to significantly change the world include:

Jeff Bezos, Amazon

Larry Page & Sergey Brin, Google

Katherine Graham, The Washington Post

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, First Lady

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Nobel Prize

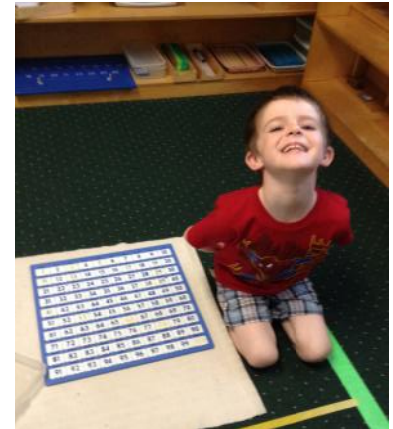
George Clooney, Actor

Yo Yo Ma, Musician

Peter Drucker, Author

Julia Child, Chef

Will Wright, Inventor



Successes from a Technological Orientation

Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Co-founders of Google, have said that Montessori education allowed them to think for themselves. They credit Montessori with allowing them to question what was going on around them and to discover the answers for themselves. Former Montessori students, Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com, and Will Wright, inventor of “The Sims” video

game series, also credit Montessori for allowing them to ask questions, discover, and learn on their own terms.

For example the current STEM movement is calling for innovation, collaboration, and hands-on learning and problem solving. To the Montessori community, this is nothing new. This is what they have been doing for over 100 years.



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“Liberty in a prepared environment”



Oviedo Montessori School was established in 1998. It is a child size environment with a safe, secure atmosphere. We accept only 45 children per semester. There is an acre of playground for gardening, running and climbing. Classes are multi-aged for children 2 years through First Grade. By following the True Montessori Method we enable each child to work at their own pace to find their own levels of achievement.

The Oviedo Montessori School
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How can I learn more?

The Montessori Method reflects great respect for the uniqueness of each child. The child is invited to take an “active” and not “passive” role in his/her development. This equates to a truly individualized education.

guidance and opportunities to develop independence and self-reliance.

“Montessori taught me the joy of discovery...It showed you can become interested in pretty complex theories, like algebra and physics, by playing with blocks. It's all about learning on your terms, rather than a teacher explaining stuff to you.”



Montessori trained teachers carefully observe each child and then introduce them to materials and lessons based on their interest and readiness. Each child learns at his/her own pace in an independent fashion.

By embracing all subject matter, including and especially S.T.E.M. oriented lessons, Montessori educated children are more likely to find success in the high technology world of today. It is no wonder that the founders of so many leading technology and entrepreneurial firms, including Google, Amazon, SimCity, and others all treasured their Montessori education.

Will Wright, designer of the groundbreaking games of SimCity which were based on elements of his experiences in his Montessori School.

Winner
Best Private School
5 Years in a Row
Seminole Voice

Dr. Maria Montessori, who was the first ever female doctor in Italy, established the first Montessori School there in 1907 to provide children the necessary tools,

Please contact Miss Karen, Directress of the Oviedo Montessori School, to learn more.

