



Walnut Farm Montessori School



Dear Prospective Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Walnut Farm Montessori School. Established in 1991, Walnut Farm is an authentic Montessori school, the first and only Montessori school in the state accredited by the American Montessori Society, upholding the highest standards in Montessori education. We are happy that you are considering a Montessori education for your child. This packet includes information about our programs, a tuition schedule and enrollment details. Our school calendar can be viewed online at www.walnutfarmmontessori.com

We invite you to attend a tour of our campus and facilities and to learn more about the difference an authentic Montessori education will make in your child's life. While the school tour is reserved for parents only, we provide a separate opportunity to acquaint your child with our school.

Our enrollment consists of two toddler classrooms (ages 18 mos. – 3 years), three primary classrooms (ages 3-6 years), and a lower elementary classroom (ages 6-9 years). The 3 year age groupings coincide with the child's natural stages of development. Dr. Montessori's method is based on her principle that a child's education should grow from and embrace these stages of development. The Montessori approach to education fosters a deep and lasting love of learning. Children are guided to respond to their natural curiosity with enthusiasm and joy...challenging the boundaries of their own imagination... developing an inner strength and awareness...building a solid foundation for both academic and personal success which will last a lifetime.

If you are interested in enrollment at Walnut Farm, please call our school office at 479-271- 9424. We will be happy to set up a tour for you and begin the application process.

Sincerely,

Ellen Beach
Head of School



Programs



Our Programs

Walnut Farm offers Montessori classrooms for children ages 18 months to 9 years. Toddler and Primary students may choose half day or full day options. All children in our full day toddler and full day primary programs are served a nutritional lunch and are offered a rest time. Arrival for all programs is from 7:40 – 8:00 a.m. each day.

Toddler classroom ages 18 months – 3 years (5-day program)

Half day program – 8:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Full day program – 8:00 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Primary classroom ages 3 – 6 years (5 day program)

Half day program – 8:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Full day program – 8:00 a.m. – Stagger dismissal from at 2:55 – 3:00 p.m.

Elementary classroom ages 6 – 9 years (5-day program)

Lower elementary – 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Support Programs

Our early morning care and after school care are offered five days a week to students who enroll in these programs with an annual/monthly tuition.

Early Morning Care – 7:15 – 7:35 a.m.

Afterschool Care – 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Early Morning Drop In-Care: is available provided there is space. There will be a \$10.00 fee charge per day for this service. No child will be allowed to attend the drop-in care unless payment has been made prior to attendance. Early care begins at 7:15 a.m. and at 7:35 students transition to their classrooms.

Afterschool Drop-In Care: Drop in-care (3:00-6:00 p.m.) is available provided there is space. The \$30.00 fee is charged regardless if Child stays 30 minutes or 2 hours. Arrangements and payments must be made prior to the date contracted through the administrative office. No child will be allowed to attend the drop-in care unless payment has been made prior to attendance.

Enrollment Requirements

Montessori Primary Program – Children will be accepted into the primary program based on readiness. Your child **must** be toilet trained in order to be admitted. Prospective students will be asked to visit the primary classroom during a morning work cycle prior to enrollment.

Elementary Program – Previously enrolled Montessori children will enter the elementary program dependent on their developmental readiness. Children from outside the Montessori environment are eligible to go through the elementary application process after approval from the Head of School. The school carefully weighs a variety of factors when making admission decisions to the elementary program. Previous school records and recommendations are required. Prior grade achievement test scores, conduct reports and attendance records will be taken into consideration. Prospective students will be asked to visit the elementary classroom during a morning work cycle prior to enrollment.



Curriculum Structure



The Toddler Program (18 month – 3 years)

The Walnut Farm Toddler Community is a safe, orderly, peaceful environment. A Montessori toddler community is more than just a classroom. Our environment is a home away from home for children ages 18 months-3 years old. As an authentic Montessori environment, children learn to grow as individuals as well as participate in cooperative groups with other children. The toddler curriculum is developmentally appropriate and fosters cognitive and sensory development, speech and language development, and fine and gross motor skills. This program is available in 5 half day or 5 full day options.

The Primary Program (3 – 6 years)

The Montessori Primary program is an opportunity to nurture children's individual development within the context of a group setting. They will emerge with a set of skills - social, emotional and academic - while, more importantly, knowing how to function within a group.

Children have extraordinary powers of mind; they possess a once-in-a-lifetime ability to simply absorb information and concepts from their surroundings, like a sponge. The Primary classroom, for children between the ages of three to six, is designed to meet the needs of the children in this crucial phase of their life. Their experience in the classroom affects both the amount of knowledge and skill they will have at their command, and, more importantly, their attitudes toward their self, their world, and learning.

The environment for the children ages 3-6 years has been designated to give the children the "keys to the world." The children learn to care for themselves and their environment in the activities of practical life. Their senses are refined by the work in the sensorial area. Language materials introduce them to the sounds of the alphabet and word building, so they "burst" into reading on their own. Math materials introduce the decimal system to children by familiarizing them with counting, concrete materials for units, tens, hundreds and thousands and the four basic arithmetic operations. Geography and peoples of the world are introduced through puzzle maps, flag work, picture cards and cultural items.

The Elementary Program (6 – 9 years)

Montessori saw the second plane (ages 6 through 9) as the time to open up the world to the child, and she was determined to do so in a way that did not reproduce the intellectual fragmentation of traditional curricula - the practical consequence of which she believed to be the obscuring of interdependencies and interconnectedness, leading to an inability to truly understand the political and cultural reality of the modern world. Instead, Cosmic Education presents the world as a beloved place, a place where the children through inspired academic work also come to appreciate the ongoing story of humanity because they can begin to orient themselves in it.



Curriculum Structure



Building on her insight into the importance of imagination in the elementary years, Montessori proposed to "present the universe to the child" in the form of an epic story. All elements of the curriculum would then be related to this story of the universe. In practice, this narrative is told as a set of five stories, the Great Stories of Cosmic Education.

Rather than following the traditional "structure of knowledge" by presenting facts as belonging to biology, zoology, botany, history, geography, physics, chemistry, religion, etc., the Great Stories present a holistic vision of knowledge, drawing on material from the various disciplines as needed. Characteristically, Montessori takes the children from the whole to the parts and back to the whole again. In this way, each academic area emerges naturally from the whole narrative and continually refers back to it.

Above all, Cosmic Education does not present the universe as random and objectified -- as something that has "just happened." Instead, the Great Stories tell of how each particle, each substance, each species, each event has a purpose and a contribution to make to the development of all others. Montessori also wants the child to understand the debt of gratitude that human beings owe to all other parts of the universe; for without them and their special contributions to the interconnected whole, we could not live.

The Outdoor Program

The outdoor classroom provides a space for learning about nature and the practical life work of gardening, raking, weed pulling, and other outdoor tasks. With the direction of a guide, the outdoor classroom is rich in science lessons such as bird watching and naming, insect and leaf investigations as well as rock classification. This outdoor prepared environment is available to our primary and elementary students. Each primary classroom has a back door which allows the children to flow in and out, making this a free choice throughout the morning work cycle. The elementary children have designated days and various responsibilities in the outdoor environment. In addition to their student roles, the elementary children participate in weekly community service projects and serve as leaders of the school community. The outdoor classroom is an academic extension of our classroom environments.

*Walnut Farm Montessori School has a non-discriminatory policy with respect to student admission and staff employment. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.



Tuition and Admission Process



Yearly Registration fees due with contract:

Enrollment Fee: \$350.00 (New students only)

Toddler and primary materials fees: \$275.00

Elementary materials/enrichment fees: \$450.00

Tuition Insurance (4.9% of tuition) if applicable is due with completion of contract.

Tuition Information:

1. Tuition is charged on a 10-month school calendar year (August – May). Contracts signed after the start of school in August will have tuition pro-rated for the remainder of the school year.
2. You may select to pay tuition in full or make monthly payments.
3. Monthly payments are made beginning August 15th to May 15th via auto debit. A \$10.00 processing fee is included in the featured monthly auto debit amount. For enrollment beginning after August 15th, the full tuition amount is pro-rated by the number of days left in the school term.
4. Tuition Insurance is mandatory if annual tuition is not paid in full. Tuition Insurance Premium is 4.9% of your tuition and due with contract.
5. Enrollment is secured by annual contract. No reductions are made for illness or absences.
6. Each subsequent sibling will receive a \$200.00 discount.
7. The rates given below are subject to change without notice.

Program	*Tuition paid in full	**Monthly Payment Plan (10 payments)
Elementary 8:00 to 3:00	\$8580.00	\$868.00 (\$8680.00) Tuition Insurance: \$425.00
Primary Half day 8:00 to 11:15	\$6610.00	\$671.00 (\$6710.00) Tuition insurance: \$329.00
Primary Full day 8:00 to 3:00	\$8210.00	\$831.00 (\$8310.00) Tuition Insurance: \$408.00
Toddler - 5 Half day 8:00 to 11:15	\$6610.00	\$671.00 (\$6710.00) Tuition insurance: \$329.00
Toddler - 5 Full day 8:00 to 3:00	\$8210.00	\$831.00 (\$8310.00) Tuition insurance: \$408.00
Early Care	\$900.00	\$90.00
Aftercare	\$2700.00	\$270.00

Admission Procedures

- Schedule a tour through our website (Tours are for adults only)
- Complete the wait list application/questionnaire (which you will receive at the tour) and submit to the administration office with a copy of your child's immunization records
- Student classroom visit (primary and elementary students)
- Complete of enrollment packet

For questions, please contact our school administrator, Karel Hayre at karel@walnutfarm.org or 479-271-9424.