

The only Montessori school on the Eastern Shore, MCHF has two mixed-age classrooms (2 to 6 and 6 to 12 years) in an environment prepared to support all of the child's needs for development through sensory exploration and free movement.

MCHF is housed at Franktown United Methodist Church in two new "cottages" specifically designed for Montessori. With a warm and welcoming interior, both are well proportioned to their function as a "House" for children.

In a Christian environment of peace, mutual respect and cooperation, under the guidance of a trained teacher, children work unobstructed by adult interference, at their own individual pace and to their own satisfaction. The materials are attractive, natural, and of their own choosing, once the teacher has introduced them. The outdoor environment includes spaces for vegetable and flower gardens, and a large outdoor play area. The school is housed on beautiful spacious grounds in the quiet, rural hamlet of Franktown.

Family Involvement

Family involvement is an essential component of your child's Montessori experience. In addition to required volunteer service, regular observations, and teacher conferences, MCHF offers parent seminars on Montessori and related topics, and social events.

ADMISSIONS

First-hand observation of the Montessori environment is the best way to apprehend what Montessori is about and how it works. For most parents this is the first step towards enrollment. MCHF also holds an **Open House** in March every year for prospective parents. Each family is asked to fill out an **application** and have a meeting with the Directress prior to enrollment. Applications will be accepted throughout the year, whenever a vacancy exists.

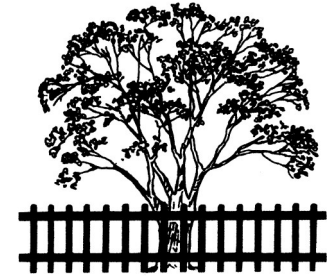
Children as young as 2 1/2 years are eligible for admission provided they are reliably toilet trained and emotionally ready for separation and group experience. Children are admitted until one month past the 4th birthday, or later with previous Montessori experience or by special arrangement. The ideal age for enrollment in Primary is between 3 and 3 1/2 years. The ideal age for children transferring to Montessori Elementary is 6 years, but those interested in the Elementary program should contact the school to see where vacancies exist. As Montessori is a 3-year cycle, the maximum benefit to your child is derived from *three full years' attendance* at the school.

CONTACT US

office@montessorifranktown.org (757)-442-2215.

Montessori Children's House of Franktown admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and other school administered programs. We seek and welcome cultural and racial diversity to our school community as a colorful expression of the family of God.

montessori



CHILDREN'S HOUSE OF FRANKTOWN

...nurturing the whole child

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Why Montessori?

For 100 years Montessori schools around the world have been offering unparalleled opportunities for education and self-development to children from infancy through high school.

Mission: The Montessori Children's House of Franktown seeks to provide a warm, loving, Christian learning environment for preschool children ages 2 ½ through 12 years old. The school, based upon the educational and developmental principles of Maria Montessori, is dedicated to nurturing the whole child (i.e. socially, spiritually, intellectually, physically, and emotionally) in a stimulating, creative and supportive Christian setting so they become confident, self-motivated individuals who have the proficiency to undertake that which inspires them in life.

Dr. Montessori pioneered most of what we take for granted today concerning early childhood: the crucial importance of the first 6 years of life, how a child learns by absorbing knowledge through the senses, the young child's inner need for purposeful activity, the importance of movement and independence to learning, the joy of self-discovery, even child-size furniture and learning environments.

Montessori made the revolutionary discovery that *children learn through their senses and through movement*, absorbing sensory impressions to build their intelligence as they explore their environment.

Participation in a *mixed-age community* provides many role models for learning, and develops respect for the feelings, ideas and different abilities and cultures of others. All children experience the opportunity to learn from, and pass on their knowledge to, each of the others. In this non-competitive atmosphere, mutual help and cooperation arise spontaneously. Free to talk and move around, they develop not only an astounding physical grace and control of movement but a true social community.

Repetition of the exercises develops concentration and inner calm. The *self-correcting materials* allow the children to discover and correct their own errors.

While Montessori children often may read, write and work arithmetic problems before 5 years of age, the emphasis is not on academic achievement but on development of each child's unique potential. Lessons are given individually or in small groups to meet the needs of each child as they arise.

PROGRAMS:

Primary morning program for children ages 2 1/2 to 6 years old from 8:30-1:00. Primary **Extended Day** for children 5 and up, in their third year, or by invitation by the Directress from 1:00 to 3:00.

Lower Elementary program for children ages 6 to 9 and **Upper Elementary** for children ages 9 to 12 from 8:30 to 3:00.

After School Program for Primary and Elementary aged children with a variety of full and part time options between 1:00 and 5:15.

MCHF History

MCH of the Eastern Shore served children for eighteen years in Nassawadox. Some years after MCHES closed a group of interested parents decided to start another Montessori school on the Shore. MCHF began its first year in 2007 under the auspices of FUMC. The Elementary program was founded in 2010. The school is organized as a non-profit corporation, and is governed by a Board of Directors composed of Franktown members and community members.

Certification

The school is under the guidance of the Administrator, Gillian Willis, who carries out the decisions of the Board in daily administration of the business aspects of the school. Gillian, along with all teaching staff hold internationally recognized Montessori Diplomas from the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), in addition to a master's degree in education. MCHF as a school also holds recognition from AMI. AMI was founded by Maria Montessori in 1929 to maintain rigorous standards of quality and insure adherence to Montessori principles in Montessori schools and teacher training programs around the world.

