

# KALISPELL MONTESSORI SCHOOLS



Woodland Montessori School  
*Early Childhood, children ages 2 ½ - 6*

Kalispell Montessori Elementary  
*Elementary, children ages 6-12*

Flathead Valley Montessori Academy  
*Upper Elementary, Middle School & High School,  
ages 9-18*

*A community dedicated to fostering the natural spirit of inquiry and thrill of discovery within each child...*

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in our schools. Like you, we place an excellent education for your child at the top of our list. Our belief is that education is a never-ending process; our philosophy embodies nurturing a lifelong love of learning. We focus on your child. Together we build priorities for your children with you.

We are best known for our ability to provide an atmosphere where a partnership between home and school is emphasized and each student's uniqueness is cherished. The Montessori environment promotes the development of social skills, emotional growth, physical coordination and cognitive development. High academic standards are achieved in an atmosphere that fosters independent thinking, personal responsibility, freedom of choice, self-esteem, love and respect.

We want all of this for your child, just as you do. Please call to schedule a visit so that you can watch our students preparing for a successful future!

Sincerely,  
The Administrators of  
Woodland Montessori School  
Kalispell Montessori Elementary  
Flathead Valley Montessori Academy

Sally Blackwell

Nichelle Inles

Jean Russell

David Hill

Jeff Howell

## Goals

- To support an ongoing partnership between home and school within which independence, responsibility and self-esteem are fostered.
- To support a dedicated, certified staff in teaching the whole child in multi-age, family-like groupings, and a prepared classroom environment.
- To nurture responsible citizens who are respectful of each other and their environment, and who have the ability and desire to fulfill lifetime educational and social goals as members of their various communities and to maintain the highest academic standards through a structured, individualized curriculum.
- To ensure that community buildings and playgrounds are maintained in a manner that is orderly, safe, of good quality, enhances learning, and reflects our Montessori philosophy.

## Missions

Woodland Montessori School and Kalispell Montessori Elementary foster the natural spirit of inquiry and thrill of discovery within each child by upholding the Montessori philosophy that learning is best achieved within a social atmosphere that supports each individual's unique academic, physical, and emotional development.

FVMA's mission is to deliver an exceptional educational experience by providing an optimal environment with Montessori academics while honoring adolescence as a period of great transformation and extraordinary growth.



# Montessori Philosophy

Montessori is a philosophy of education developed by Dr. Maria Montessori at the turn of the twentieth century. Dr. Montessori said of her philosophy,

*“Our aim is not merely to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his inmost core.”*

Montessori philosophy differs from traditional school systems in three primary ways. The first is through the use of multi-aged classrooms. The young child looks to the older child for guidance both socially and in the academic arena. This in turn gives the older child a high level of self-esteem and a sense of responsibility and leadership.

A second philosophical principle involves the child’s development of abstract understanding from sequenced concrete experiences. The child gains a thorough understanding of introduced concepts.

The final principle focuses on having an individualized program for each child. In the Montessori classroom, children are honored for who they are and for where they are in their personal development. Each child’s strengths are recognized and built upon.



## Our Schools

Our schools offer children:

- Individualized instruction
- Safe, secure environments
- Moral and ethical values – fostering respect for self and others through community involvement
- Fine Arts instruction – art, music, foreign language and theater
- Integrated studies



### WOODLAND MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Early Childhood program – children ages 3-6, includes kindergarten year. 3 classrooms plus 1 classroom at the Somers Campus (FVMA).

Early Learner program – children ages 2 ½-4. 1 classroom.

Woodland Montessori is also the home of Montana Montessori Teacher Education Institute, a MACTE accredited certification program for Early Childhood and Elementary I teachers.

### KALISPELL MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY

Elementary I program – children ages 6-9. 3 classrooms.

Elementary II program – children ages 9-12. 3 classrooms.



### FLATHEAD VALLEY MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Elementary II program – children ages 9-12.

Middle School – adolescents ages 12-15.

High School – teens ages 15-18.

# Daily/yearly programs' schedule

Program	Academic Year Schedule September-June	Before-School Care	After-School Care	Summer Program
<b>WOODLAND MONTESSORI</b>				
Early Learner	9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (3-5 days per week)	7:00 a.m. to	3:00 p.m. to	No
Early Childhood	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (5 days per week) or Part Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (5 days per week)	9:00 a.m.	5:45 p.m.	Yes
Kindergarten Year	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (5 days per week)			Yes
Somers Campus	Early Childhood & Kindergarten (same options as Woodland Campus)			No
<b>KALISPELL MONTESSORI</b>				
Elementary I & II	8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.	7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	3:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.	No
<b>FVMA</b>				
Elementary II Middle School	8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	No	No	No
High School Extension	flexible individualized schedule			

## Enrollment Procedures

### 1. Tour the Schools

The very best way to understand the Montessori philosophy of education is to come visit the school while we are in session. Please call 755-3824 (Woodland Montessori) • 755-3826 (Kalispell Montessori) • 857-3303 (FVMA) to make an appointment for an individual tour. Tours usually run 30-45 minutes. We ask that your first visit be without your child. We will gladly schedule another visit for you and your child when he or she can have special time with the teacher.

### 2. Initial Paperwork

Complete the Application for Admission form and return it to the school office.

### 3. Visiting Day for Elementary Students

After your paperwork is complete, it will be necessary to schedule your student (elementary only) for a visiting day. Your child will spend up to a regular school day with us at the Kalispell Montessori Center elementary Campus. They will fully participate in the activities of the day.



### 4. Appointment with the Directors

The next step is to make an appointment with the school director to ask any final questions and verify that space is available.

### 5. Final Paperwork

Complete the Enrollment Form and return it to the school office along with any fees due. Immunization records are required prior to the child's first day.



# WOODLAND MONTESSORI SCHOOL

children ages 2 ½ - 6: four classrooms (three early childhood and one early learner) at the Woodland Campus and one classroom at the Somers Campus (FVMA) • the “kindergarten” year is the final year of early childhood

## Early Childhood Program

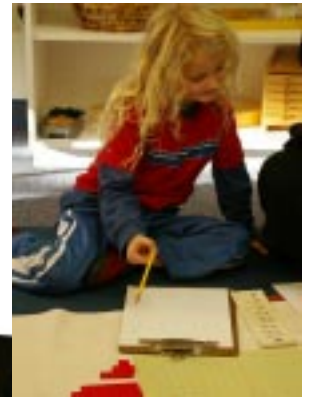
Our Early Childhood program is for children three through six years old. Here, children’s independence, self-esteem and self-discipline are nurtured while they are introduced to the basics of academics. The combination of defined social structure and intellectual atmosphere is propelled by the unique ability of children this age to absorb their environment, language, and culture.

Children in the Early Childhood program learn through the use of many manipulative classroom materials as well as through teacher guidance. The teachers work with a child individually and in small groups on enticing activities, and then allow each child many repetitions with that activity to master its content in depth. Activities include beginning skills in reading, writing, language expression through drawing and writing, mathematics, geography, nature studies, science, practical living skills, social skills, art and music.

Through the use of carefully prepared materials and activities, plus communication with teachers and interaction with peers, children grow in personal independence, concentration, self-motivation, and a genuine love of learning. Materials and activities are readily accessible to students; they enjoy freedom of movement and the ability to choose their own purposeful activity; and they are given the time necessary to complete what they start. They are free to interact socially with their peers in the classroom, in conversation and in their play.

By providing children with an atmosphere that fosters respect, curiosity, and security, the early childhood environment gives children a solid base from which to begin their elementary years.

Primary teachers are Montessori certified as experts in early childhood development.



## Kindergarten

Children who are 5 years of age by September 10th of a given school year are eligible for “kindergarten.” The kindergarten year is the final year of the Early Childhood program. Kindergarten children attend on a 9:00-3:00 schedule.

Mornings are spent in the traditional multi-age Montessori classroom environment where older children naturally assume the roles of leaders and mentors to the younger children, gaining self-esteem and mastery of skills by aiding younger students while the younger children learn from their older peers. Enrichment programs for the kindergarten children addressing specific social, academic, creative and physical education needs are presented in the afternoons.

## Early Learner Program

The Early Learner Program introduces two and three year old children to a Montessori environment. This room centers learning around sensory experiences, language, coordination and muscle development, small manipulatives and sequencing. It includes large practical life and sensorial areas as well as beginning phonics, mathematics and cultural materials.

Teachers help the young child adapt to a community environment by providing a warm and secure place to learn, communicate, and grow emotionally and socially.



# KALISPELL MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY

children ages 6-12: three Elementary I classrooms and three Elementary II classrooms

## Elementary I

The Elementary I Program, for students ages 6 through 9, continues to facilitate the development of the child taking them several steps further. Students move beyond sensorial and practical life experiences into more challenging academics. The program is built on the same principles of multi-age grouping, concrete lessons, and individual pacing as the Early Childhood environment.

Teachers provide an atmosphere that allows students to explore, while learning to read with proficiency and developing a solid understanding of basic math functions. Students learn with a personalized work plan based on individual assessments. Large and small group lessons are also a part of each day.

The students participate in many exciting and educational field trips to places like the Glacier Institute's Big Creek Field Station, Glacier Park, Owen-Sowerwine Nature Preserve, and The Hockaday Center for the Arts.

## Elementary II

Students ages 9 through 12 "learn to fly" in the Elementary II Program. During these years the students integrate the entire Montessori curriculum into project-driven tasks. Students continue to work with advanced concepts in Language Arts and Mathematics, integrated



with the Science and Cultural Curriculum (History, Geography, Language, Physical Science, and Biology). Elementary II students can begin studies such as individualized Latin, can participate in beginning Band.

Every spring, the students produce a Shakespearean Festival. They gain knowledge of project development by designing the sets, sewing costumes, memorizing their lines, and working in production crews – everything necessary to put on a magnificent performance!

Students become increasingly self-directed and aware of their full potential and capabilities. Graduates leave Kalispell Montessori Elementary with excellent academic, social, and life skills, along with a level of self-confidence that carries them through high school, college, and beyond. They are truly prepared for life's journey.



# FLATHEAD VALLEY MONTESSORI ACADEMY

ages 9-18: Middle School & High School

## Middle School Program (Ages 12 – 15)

The Montessori Middle School program offered at the Flathead Valley Montessori Academy (FVMA) continues the tradition of teaching to the “whole child” while recognizing the dramatic transformation of adolescence. Meaningful work is the cornerstone of the environment at FVMA. When adolescents know that the work they do is important not only for themselves but also their community, they become invested in performing at their highest level. Because the students at FVMA make many decisions about building their own school community, they learn to live and communicate with one another in a cooperative environment. Students are challenged on a daily basis to expand their beliefs and explore many areas in academics, as well as emotional and social growth. It is important to consider that children at this age develop their personal vision of how they fit into our ever-changing world. It is critical that they recognize their importance and realize that they truly have the power to shape the future.



At FVMA our students arrive in the morning and prepare for their day by setting up the learning environment, organizing their personal work, and conducting a community meeting, which addresses the day’s agenda, and the various plans surrounding the



school operations. There is a large block of uninterrupted learning time, which allows students to work closely with teachers and peers and bring tasks to completion. On any given day, a visitor to FVMA may see students working in the garden or landscaping, tracking animal life in the natural wetlands near the campus, conducting research, preparing essays, practicing presentations, building scientific models, working on a business enterprise or discussing recent internship experiences. The traditional 3R’s of reading, writing, and arithmetic have a significant place at FVMA, but equally so is the opportunity for self-expression, creativity, economic independence, community service, and lessons tied to projects which offer two kinds of work, manual and intellectual.

## High School Program (Ages 16 – 18)

For those students who have demonstrated a high level of independence and self-motivation in the Middle School, FVMA now offers a Montessori High School extension program. FVMA has partnered with the Flathead Valley Community College and its Running Start program to offer students the opportunity to earn college credits while being monitored and mentored by the teaching staff at FVMA. This allows our students to take advantage of the diverse learning opportunities at the college yet still have a close community of peers and the supervision of the staff at FVMA. After 3 years of being enrolled in this program, most students will have earned close to 60 college credits by the time they graduate from FVMA.



*“Within the child lies the  
fate of the future”*

*~ Maria Montessori*

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Academy**  
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