

TMEMS 4-6 Level

Information about our Kindergarten group and
The Montessori Elementary & Middle School

Who we are



History of our school

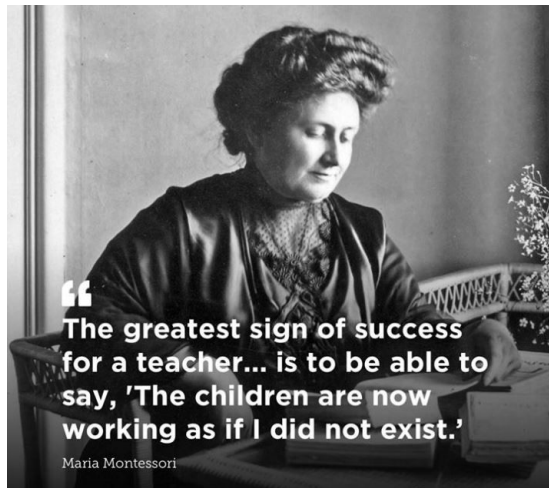
Established in 2005, The Montessori Elementary & Middle School (TMEMS) is a charter school through the Public Education Commission (PEC) in the State of New Mexico. TMEMS currently serves students from kindergarten through eighth grade from Albuquerque and the surrounding areas. Our classes incorporate the Montessori philosophy and curriculum, with weekly Suzuki music lessons and Visual Art classes. All students, beginning in 2nd grade, and their parents participate in the Suzuki Strings program, taking lessons in violin, cello or violas.

Our Mission

We believe that learning is best achieved within a positive social atmosphere that supports each individual's unique development. TMEMS offers an accelerated program by providing a strong Montessori academic curriculum combined with a unique fine arts program including Suzuki Method and Visual Arts. The mission of TMEMS is to encourage students grades K-8 to become responsible citizens who have the ability and desire to fulfill lifelong educational and social goals.

We are a free, public school, teaching with the Montessori Method

General Overview:



- Our teachers are NM State certified teachers that also have additional training in the Montessori Method of teaching.
- We use genuine Montessori materials in our classrooms.
- Students are taught the same curriculum they would receive in a traditional public school, enhanced by teaching the curriculum through the Montessori method (mixed age classrooms, large, open classroom environments, etc).
- TMEMS teachers and staff adhere to the Common Core Standards, standardized testing, and NMPED requirements.
- Our 4-6 Level classrooms have a full time Lead Teacher, along with a full time Educational Assistant.
- Our professional staff is dedicated to providing a warm, loving, academically enriched environment that fosters the development and growth of happy well-adjusted children.

Here are just some of the many wonderful aspects of TMEMS!

TMEMS highlights:

- **We are a FREE public charter school!** *Our students receive a world-class education as a New Mexico state chartered public school.*
- **Student centered learning** *We meet the needs of our students through our age appropriate, supportive, and close-knit community.*
- **Strong parent involvement** *Our staff is in close contact with parents to ensure that we work as a team for the best interest of each student.*
- **Strong focus on character building** *Students have the opportunity to strengthen their character through our fine arts, community service, peer-teaching, and peace education.*
- **Fine Arts for everyone!** *Not only do students receive a free Montessori education, we also have a strong Fine Arts program at all levels.*

The Montessori curriculum fosters and supports the child's growth in the following ways:

Social: Grace and courtesy lessons help with the development of compassion, respect and helpfulness. Children become cooperative members of the classroom community.

Emotional: Children gain a sense of competence and experience self-respect as they master new skills. They make choices and practice appropriate and effective communication.

Physical: Specially designed materials and lessons help children develop fine and large motor control, and coordination.

Intellectual: Lessons and materials promote independence, concentration, and academic development. Children work with lessons that include Language, Mathematics, Geography, Science and Art.

4-6 Level Students

In our Early Childhood program at TMEMS, students are age 4-6 when they begin the school year. We have three classes with Kindergarten students (two at our Montano Campus and one at our Carmel Campus).



Specific Indicators for Success for NM Public School Kindergarten Students

1. The child must be no younger than five years old **on or before September 1** of the school year to enter the public Kindergarten program. *(This is a state statute for NM Public Schools and no exceptions are granted.)*
2. The child must be capable of attending to a given task for a specific time period. (Time varies with task).
3. The child must demonstrate self-motivation and self control.
4. The child's maturity and emotional development are appropriate for kindergarten or above.

4-6 Level Curriculum

Designed around the interests of the young elementary child, the 4-6 level program offers a consistent, dependable routine with large blocks of uninterrupted work time. The classroom schedule encourages the child's spontaneous activity and fosters development of the creative process, integrated personality and a strong sense of self. The curriculum includes materials and encourages activities that promote practical life activities, sensory-motor experiences, literacy, language arts, numeracy, creative arts, science and geography. Each activity or exercise in the our curriculum is structured to provide purpose, procedure, closure and opportunity for success.



A typical day in the 4-6 level:

Our students have a curriculum-rich day with whole group, small group and individual lessons with our Lead Teachers and EAs. Physical Education, Music and Visual Art are incorporated throughout the week. Although this is a typical schedule, it can vary depending on teacher, events, etc.






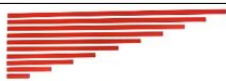


Our average Teacher (Lead & EA)/**Student ratio** in our 4-6 classrooms is approximately: **1/13**.

Time	A typical day in the 4-6 level:
6:45 - 8:30 am	Before Care (optional/subject to change)
8:30 - 9:00	Morning drop off/class begins
8:30 - 10:45	Morning work cycle
10:45 - 11:10	Restore classroom/Circle time
11:10 - 11:40	Recess
11:45 - noon	Circle time
12:00 - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 - 1:00	Restore/quiet book time
1:00 - 1:45	Read-aloud/nap
1:45 - 2:15	Book Club and group writing
2:15 - 3:00	Afternoon work period
3:00 - 3:30	Restore/closing circle
3:30 - 4:00	Dismissal
4:00 - 6:00 pm	After Care (optional/subject to change)

A typical 'Montessori Work Plan' in our 4-6 classrooms:

At first, Montessori may look unstructured to some people, but it is actually quite structured at every level.

At the early childhood level, external structure is limited to clear-cut ground rules and correct procedures that provide guidelines and structure for three- and four-year-olds. By age five, most schools introduce some sort of formal system to help students keep track of what they have accomplished and what they still need to complete.

Areas of the classroom	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 language					
 handwriting					
 math					
 cultural					
 practical life					
 sensorial					
 puzzles					
 free choice					

Additional Day to Day info

Lunch- We do not have a lunchroom or a lunch program. Students should come to school every day with a healthy, packed lunch and full water bottle. We do not have a class snack calendar so we ask that you also pack a healthy snack every day for your child.

Allergies- Each classroom has “allergy tables”. Anyone may sit at these tables as long as they do not have any items that students with allergies are allergic to. We do not ban types of foods in our classrooms due to allergies.

Transportation- It is the responsibility of TMEFS families to provide their own transportation to and from school every day. We do not have a bus service.

Field trips- We have two school buses for field trips for our older students. Off-campus field trips begin in first grade at TMEFS. In our 4-6 level, we have ‘in-school field trips’ where we invite parents and community organizations to come into our classrooms and bring the world to our children in the safety of our campus.

Computers- In our 4-6 level, students use laptop computers for the purpose of testing only. Students participate in quarterly and other testing, in line with NMPED requirements of Kindergarten public school students.

Volunteering- Each person that volunteers in the classroom must get a background check prior to their service. We require each volunteer to have a FBI background check through our school. To learn more, please visit our website at: <https://tmesnm.com/school-life/background-check>. There will also be out-of-school volunteer opportunities such as: recycling, bringing in flowers, washing cloth mats, etc.

Campus selection- We have two campuses for our Kindergarten students. Students at both campuses receive the same high quality education. The only difference is the physical campus location. Once students reach 1st grade, all of our students, 1st - 8th grade, are located at our Montano Campus.

Education is the
best weapon
for peace.

- Maria Montessori



Peace Education

TMEMS Statement on Peace Education:


Dr. Maria Montessori is a seminal figure in peace education and at TMEMS, we strive to continue her legacy by educating for peace. Our Peace Education curriculum is designed to create confident students, who will become peaceful members of their communities. Peace Education at TMEMS not only teaches peer mediation, conflict resolution skills and diversity, but also guides children toward developing the respect, empathy, collaborative spirit, self-awareness, kindness, curiosity, and sense of justice that is required to live in harmony with others. Maria Montessori said, "Education is the best weapon for peace" and at TMEMS, we will use that statement to educate students on the values of global citizenship, personal responsibility, and respect for diversity.

Peace Education in the 4-6 Level:

Grace and Courtesy lessons are one of the many ways we approach Peace Education in the 4-6 classroom. This is accomplished by modeling lessons on how to care for materials, moving gracefully through the classroom environment and treating others with kindness. In Early Childhood, we are preparing the foundation for future learning and increasing awareness of what it means to be a peaceful person in society.

Are we a good fit for your child?

We want your child to succeed, no matter where they go to school. We recognize that we may not be the best fit for every child or family. There is no *one* school that is right for *all* children. There are children who may thrive in a smaller classroom setting with a more teacher-directed program that offers fewer choices and more consistent external structure. Children who are easily overstimulated, or those who tend to be overly aggressive, may be examples of children who might not adapt as easily to a Montessori program. It is important to know the needs of your child and evaluate if our program may be a good fit for them, and your family.



One test
of the
correctness
of
educational
procedure
is the

*happiness
of the
child.*

- Maria Montessori

What learning style works best for students specific to the 4-6 Level?



- **Independent learning:** Your child works well with limited adult support.
- **Exploratory learner:** Your child is able to respectfully explore a classroom and use the materials with purpose.
- **Concentration:** Your child is able to concentrate with multiple distractions (conversations, movement, etc)
- **Self-motivated:** Your child is able to stay organized, follow a work plan and complete assignments with limited adult support.
- **Respectful:** Your child is able to be respectful to adults, peers and the classroom around them.
- **Multi-Age Grouping:** Your child enjoys learning in a mixed age group of children.



What are the Expectations of a TMEMS student? Typical Montessori students, throughout their years at TMEMS, are:

- 1) ***Respectful:*** The basis of the Montessori classroom is mutual respect to everyone, all the time. We also teach respect of the environment, in and out of the classroom. Respect is a major component of our 'Grace and Courtesy' lessons and is taught in every aspect of our school.
- 2) ***Responsible:*** In Montessori education, children take responsibility for their own learning. Time management is key and is a learning process throughout their educational experience. Our teachers will guide students through this important skill as they take ownership of their education. Montessori children are free to choose within limits, and have only as much freedom as they can handle with appropriate responsibility. It is important that families recognize this expectation and support their child in all aspects of their education.
- 3) ***Self-Disciplined & Self-Motivated:*** Montessori education is based on the idea that children want to learn; it's a natural instinct. Children receive an intrinsic reward (self-motivation, pride) from learning and from a feeling of personal progress. Children who are easily overstimulated may not adapt as easily to our sensory-rich Montessori environments. It is important to understand this aspect of our classrooms and know how your child does in this type of environment.
- 4) ***Independent:*** Class sizes in Montessori tend to be large, so that children can help each other in the multi-age class rather than rely on the teacher. This means, however, that a child who needs a lot of one-on-one adult direction may not get as much attention as they need. In Montessori, children are encouraged to work independently after brief presentations from the teacher. A child who needs more help may not be able to get that focused teacher/child interaction. Some children may find it difficult to focus, concentrate, and work on his/her own while others may find the freedom a way to thrive in their studies.
- 5) ***Organized:*** Organization is key in a Montessori classroom. The classroom environment is a consistent place that students know how to work in. The routines are reliable, the lessons are sequenced and the environment is predictable. Montessori students like routine and order, while having the responsibility to use that freedom to work within that order to advance in their studies.

Are you interested in submitting an application for your child?

Please make sure to read our Admissions information, including the process and FAQ's, on our website at: <https://tmesnm.com/admissions>

One note about Kindergarten applications:

The application is for both of our campuses (Montano and Carmel). The preference you mark on your application is simply a preference, but does not guarantee you that the spot you are pulled for will be for your preferred campus. We do our best to match up families with their preference but cannot promise that the campus you prefer will be the campus your child is placed at. Thank you for understanding. All of our 1st - 8th grade students are at our Montano Campus and we do our best to keep families at the same campus, if possible.

*"Within the child lies
the fate of the future"*



-Maria Montessori

***“Montessori is an education for
independence, preparing not just for
school, but for life.”***



~ Dr. Maria Montessori

**2021-2022 Applications will be released
on Saturday, February 6, 2021.**

For full details about our Admissions
process, visit our website at:

<https://tmesnm.com/admissions>

**Thank you for your
interest in our
school!**

Contact us:

The Montessori Elementary &
Middle School
1730 Montano Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

www.TMESNM.com

