



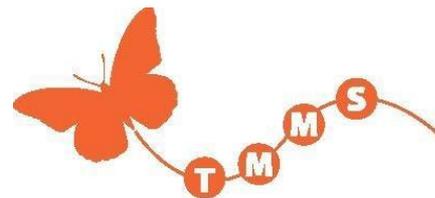
# TMEMMS Middle School

Information about our 6th - 8th grade group and The  
Montessori Elementary & Middle School

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# Who we are



**The Montessori Middle School**

## History of our Middle School

Founded in 2011, The Montessori Middle School (TMMS) enrolls 6th, 7th & 8th Year students as a free, public charter school designed to motivate learners in our Fine Arts based school. Our students participate in **rigorous academics** while being encouraged to embrace curiosity, creativity, and hard work.

Providing structure and a strong foundation from the start, the curriculum allows for increasing independence as students move through the three years, preparing them for the high school environment and beyond. **Small classes** permit teachers to find their students' strengths and insist on their best efforts.

Our commitment to the success of every student is absolute. At the same time, we believe that success comes in many forms. Through our extensive **fine arts** program, curriculum based 'Land Lab' trips throughout the year, ample leadership opportunities, strong focus on character development, peace education and **community service**; TMMS students are encouraged to discover and to demonstrate how to be a productive community member within the classroom, school, community and world.

# We are a free, public school, enhanced with the Montessori social aspects of respect, community and leadership



## TMMS General Overview:

- Our teachers are NM State certified teachers, many with master degrees or higher.
- We are rich in technology with Promethean Boards in every classroom and Chromebooks for every student.
- Students are taught the same curriculum they would receive in a traditional public school, enhanced by teaching social aspects of the Montessori method (community service, respect, leadership, etc).
- We teach anti-bullying curriculum and have high behavior expectations to create a safe environment for all of our students.
- Our Middle School is small so students have a strong sense of community during these formative years.
- Students are challenged through numerous outdoor adventures, including several overnight camping trips.
- Our professional staff is dedicated to providing a warm, loving, supportive, and academically enriched environment that fosters the development and growth of happy well-adjusted pre-teens and teens.

# Just some of the many wonderful aspects of The Montessori Middle School!

## Highlights of TMMS

Are you looking for a safe, supportive, close-knit environment for your 6th, 7th or 8th grade student? Here are just some of the many wonderful aspects of The Montessori Middle School program!

- **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.*
- **Low student/teacher ratio** *With approximately 110 students in our mid-school program, our students benefit from a low student/teacher ratio.*
- **'Land Lab' trips throughout the year** *TMMS students enjoy many curriculum based day and overnight trips throughout the year!*
- **International opportunities & virtual learning** *Throughout the year, TMMS students create a virtual classroom international exchange with Polish students. Our 8th grade students participate in a Polish-American exchange program where they will travel internationally for 1-2 weeks with our staff!*
- **Strong focus on character building** *Students have the opportunity to strengthen their character through our fine arts, electives, community service, peer teaching, and peace education.*
- **Assistance in transitioning to high school & beyond** *8th grade students participate in a week long internship and are given opportunities to identify career interests to help with transitioning to high school and their future.*

# Middle School Students

Students in this level are in grades 6th - 8th and are 11 - 14 years old. We currently have two 6th grade classes, two 7th grade classes and two 8th grade classes with a total of approximately 110 students at our middle school, TMMS.

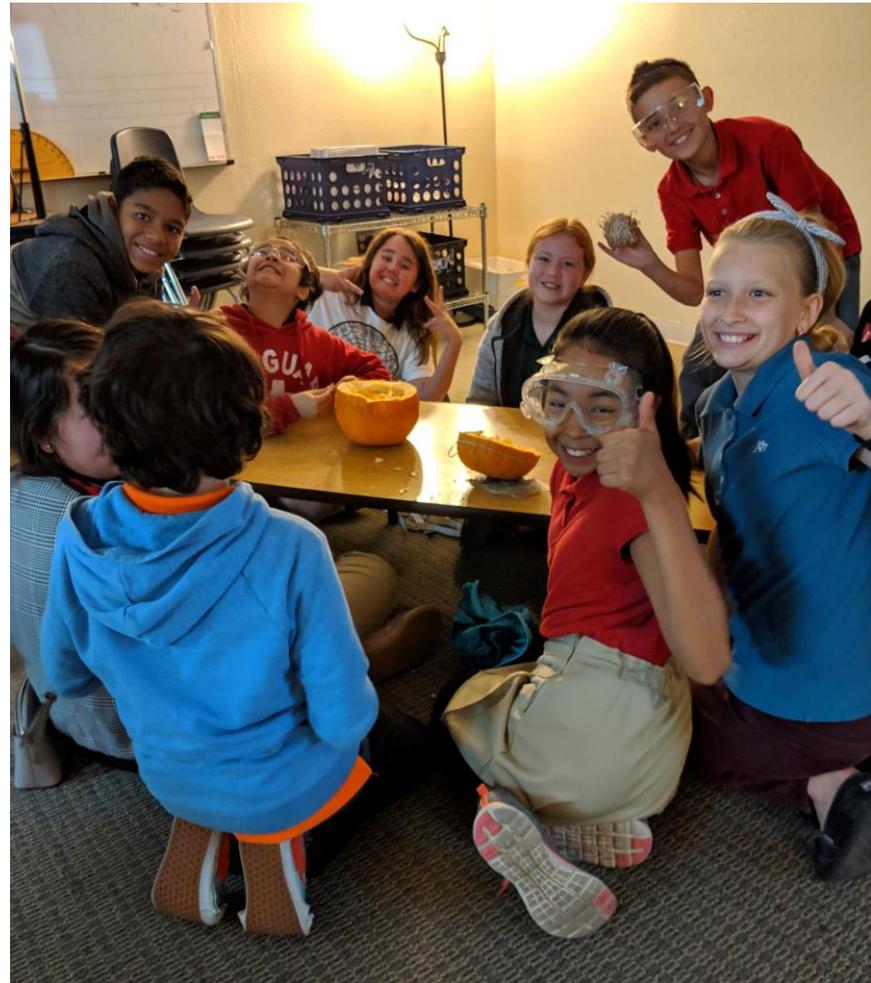


## Specific Indicators for Success-

1. The child must be no younger than eleven years old.
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 sixth grade and above.
5. The child has a willingness to be part of a large community.
6. The child is willing to take on leadership positions and be a responsible member of the community.

# TMMS Curriculum

The year is divided into units of study, which alternate annually, each of these focusing on a different theme. Science, Language Arts and History classes focus on these themes, using guided questions to encourage student involvement and to create an integrated curriculum. The driving questions behind the adolescent plane of development is- How does this help me understand the world and my place in it? In addition to the main subject areas, other classes include: Geography, Personal Reflection, Independent Study, Fine Arts (Studio Art, Orchestra, or Dance), Physical Education as well as Electives.



# Basic Facts about TMMS

We have compiled some basic facts about The Montessori Middle School. It is imperative that parents be involved in the middle school community. Please read the important facts to make sure you understand who we are and that our school is a good fit for your family. TMMS teachers and staff adhere to the Common Core Standards, standardized testing, and NMPED requirements; we also follow along with Montessori expectations in the classroom as well. The following is a list of Montessori expectations that we enforce on a daily basis:

- Students participate in **all** classroom activities
  - Students participate in **all** field trips (we start with an overnight field trip the first days of school!)
  - Students are continued to be supported at home
  - Students perform community service while in the school and while out in the community on Land Lab field trips.
  - Students are to arrive at school in uniform, everyday (Uniform includes: Navy or tan khakis and solid color polo shirts)
  - Students arrive with healthy lunches and filled water bottles
  - Students bring their Chromebooks to school daily
  - Students do not participate in dating of any sort
  - Students do not use their cell phones during class
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# A typical day at

## TMMS:

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

Our average Teacher/Student ratio in our middle school classrooms is approximately: 1/23.

Time	A typical day at TMMS:
6:45 - 8:20 am	Before Care (optional/subject to change)
8:20 - 8:40	Morning drop off/class begins
8:40 - 9:00	Morning Meeting
9:00 - noon	Rotation of two core classes (ie: Science, Math, Language Arts, History- depending on the day)
12:00 pm - 1:00	Lunch & Recess
1:00 - 2:40	Rotation of two core classes (may include electives on Friday)
2:40 - 2:55	Dismissal
2:55 - 6:00 pm	After Care (optional/subject to change)

# 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, plus a snack, and full water bottle. Middle School students typically eat outside with the other middle school classrooms (weather permitting).

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

**Computers-** Students receive a Chromebook to use for the school year. Students may check the Chromebook out to take home (with parent permission) or keep it at school. Students participate in state mandated testing. We do not have an opt-out option of standardized testing.

**Homework-** Daily homework should be expected, ranging from 0-3 hours a day, depending on the day and how efficient the student is with their work in class.

**Fine Arts-** All students in this level participate in our Fine Arts program, including the options of weekly lessons in Strings (violin, viola or cello) and visual art.

**Volunteering-** Each person that volunteers in the classroom or on field trips 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: our internship program, fundraising for trips, etc.



## More Day to Day info

**Electives-** In previous years, some of the elective choices have included: dance, athletic conditioning, drama, advanced art, yoga, orchestra, student council, etc. Options vary year-to-year, semester-to-semester and students get to choose what their elective of choice is.

**After School Activities-** In previous school years, students were invited to join our 'Homework Club' to get tutoring and extra help with their homework. We have also had other optional activities such as Advanced Math and Chess Club.

**Sports-** All students participate in Physical Education every year during the school day, however we do not have any team sports.

**Uniforms-** All students are required to wear a uniform at school and on some of our field trips. Our uniforms consist of khaki style pants or shorts and solid color polo style shirts. On Fridays we sometimes have special opportunities to have a "dress down day", wear your sports jersey day, etc. Students are sometimes given the option to dress down on field trips or during physical activity.

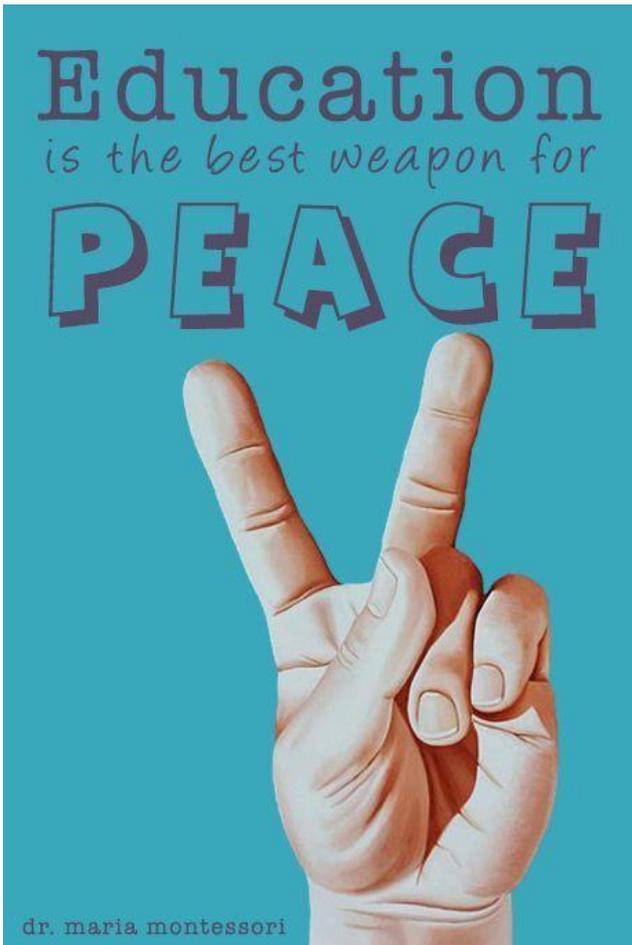
# Peace Education

## **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.*

## **TMMS Peace Education:**

At the Middle School level in particular, we have a strong anti-bullying curriculum and work from the first day of school in creating a cohesive community. During a typical year, we start out the year by establishing connections and reviewing expectations away from the school. Students at each grade level go on an overnight trip in which they engage in community building experiences that may include obstacle courses, planting trees, community service, campfires, games and community meetings. We place a high value on students becoming leaders in their community in various ways and being kind to all their peers. We have high expectations of behavior in our close-knit community where our teachers are quick to bring students in to discuss any issues that arise in the community in a peace-table style discussion. All students' opinions and voices are valued and all students are expected to step into the role of a leader through morning meeting, classroom expectations and peer-teaching.



# Exploratory Learning

During TMMS 'Land Lab' trips, students embark on various curricula based trips throughout New Mexico and beyond. Students are invited to challenge themselves as they climb, explore, hike and become stewards of the land. The following are some examples of the trips our students have enjoyed:



To see more pictures of TMMS adventures, visit our website at:

<https://tmesnm.com/the-mid-school-experience>

- *Bandelier*
- *Tent Rocks*
- *Chaco Canyon*
- *Sandia mountains*
- *Carlsbad Caverns*
- *NM State University & UNM*
- *White Sands*
- *Jemez mountains*
- *Santa Fe*
- *Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness*
- *Valley of Fire*
- *Durango, CO*
- *Seattle, WA & Vancouver*
- *Internationally to: Poland, Canada, England, France, Italy, Germany and more!*

# Field trips & 'Big Trips'

**Field trips-** Students in this level go on frequent field trips, including a beginning of the year overnight trip and multiple day trips that enhance their studies. Throughout the school year, students help plan and participate in several "Land Lab" trips where they are able to develop meaningful relationships with their peers and mentors, build courage, independence and confidence by challenging themselves in new environments, and are given the opportunity to think critically in new experiences.

**Community Service-** Another important component of TMMS is the initiative to make a difference in our community by serving others. Students find meaningful ways to give back to their classroom, school, local community and even internationally. It is a meaningful way to build self-worth. TMMS students build in community service activities as often as possible.

**8th grade international 'Big Trip'-** This is what makes TMMS so unique! TMMS students build up to a 2 week international trip through their travels throughout NM and CO in 6th - 8th grade. This gives our students opportunities that the vast majority of other middle school students throughout the country don't have. Students help plan their "Big Trip" and fundraise for it all year long. In May, our 6th grade students typically go for a 2 or 3 night trip somewhere in NM. In 7th grade, students typically go on a 3 or 4 night trip. And in 8th grade, students go on the 1-2 week trip to an international destination. In previous years, our students have been to Canada, Poland, Italy, England, France, Germany, and others. We have created a relationship with a school in Poland where we do a Polish/American student exchange program that we have created. The Polish students visit NM and CO in September and stay with our TMMS families. In May, our 8th graders go Europe and sometimes stay with the families of those students while taking in all the history and sights. It has become a tradition that many of our alum have deemed as a "life-changing" experience for them!



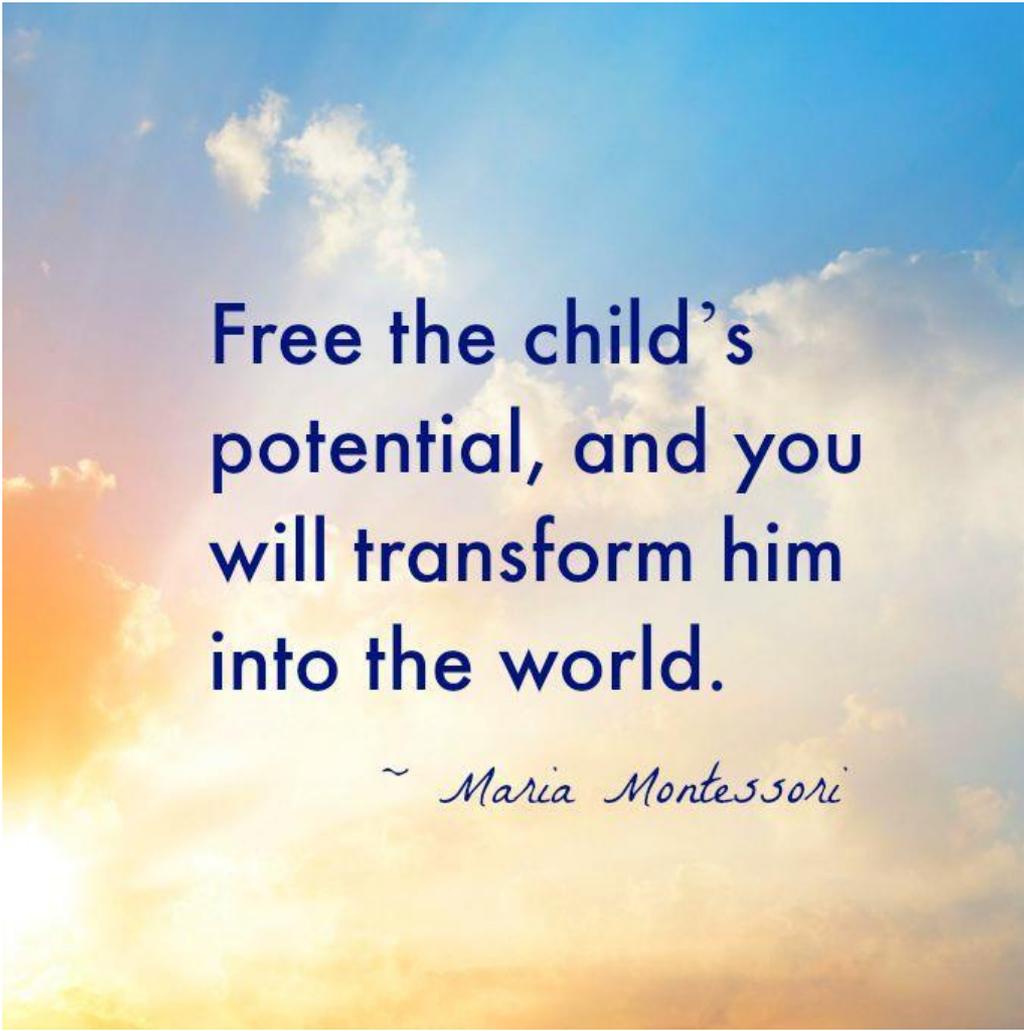
# 8th grade internship program

In 8th grade, our students participate in a special “internship program” that TMMS has created to help our students gain essential experience and knowledge of the skills needed to be successful in job searching and on-the-job. Internships are a beginning step for 8th graders who are preparing to enter the world of the adult. Students learn how to create their first resume, beginning skills of job hunting such as narrowing down their interest in job fields, contacting work sites to explain the internship program, following the steps needed to set up the internship, and working at the job site. During internships, students are able to witness firsthand what is expected in many types of fields, careers, and jobs. Regardless of the level of education required to be in these job positions, students are able to benefit from seeing what types of responsibilities are necessary in order to be successful. Beyond learning about job responsibilities, students also have the opportunity to form relationships with adults whom they may not be as familiar with. These are huge opportunities for growth.



## 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 do better in a larger schools with a more traditional structure. 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.



Free the child's  
potential, and you  
will transform him  
into the world.

~ *Maria Montessori*

# 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>

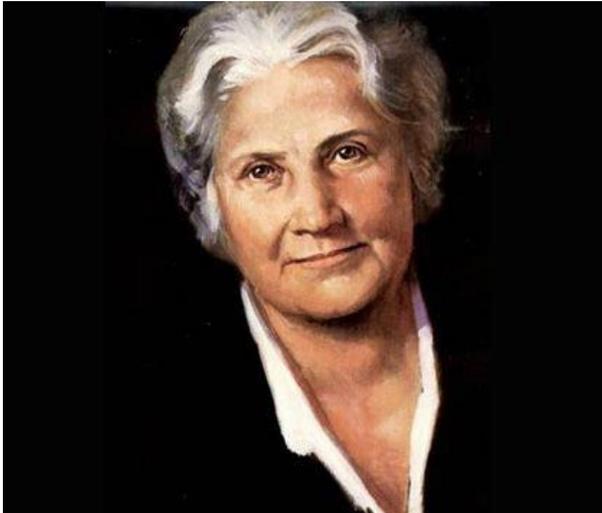
*"Within the child lies  
the fate of the future"*



**-Maria Montessori**

*“Education is a natural process carried out by  
the child and is not acquired by listening to  
words, but by experiences  
in the environment.”*

~ Dr. Maria Montessori



**Applications will be released in January &  
our annual Open House is in February.**

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:*

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