

Montessori

Calgary Board of Education
Program of Choice
Based on Structured, Self-Directed Learning
Since 2000

About the Montessori Method

Maria Montessori (1870-1952) was a visionary in education. After becoming Italy's first female doctor, her interests turned to the education of children and she began her lifelong study of human development. Based on a profound respect for the potential of each individual and the belief that children learn best when they are able to follow their individual interests, Montessori created carefully prepared classrooms that allow freedom of choice and movement with a balance of guidance and structure. Montessori methods, educational materials and teacher training were developed in collaboration with others and remain a vital part of Montessori education.

Montessori methods and materials have been tested around the world and adapt well to a variety of cultural settings. This adaptability, and Montessori's insight into how children learn, result from her understanding of the universal principles of human development. Her early discoveries continue to be confirmed by modern research. These principles are as relevant today as they were over 100 years ago.



“The goal of education is the development of a complete human being, oriented to the environment and adapted to his or her time, place and culture.”

~ Maria Montessori



Calgary Board of Education

Educating Tomorrow's Citizens Today
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The Calgary Board of Education is proud to offer a program of choice based on the well respected philosophy of Maria Montessori.

Key elements of the Montessori program:

- Well equipped classrooms with authentic Montessori materials
- Carefully prepared classrooms balancing student choice with structure
- Learning materials and activities that move from concrete to abstract
- Large blocks of uninterrupted learning time
- Small group lessons and independent work choices that personalize student learning

The focus of the classroom is on the child's learning, building on prior knowledge, moving from simple to complex, and from concrete to abstract. This sequential program builds connections between subject areas and reinforces the integration of knowledge.

"Montessori is an approach to education which balances freedom with responsibility and sets high standards of intellectual and social development for children."

~ Paula Polk Lillard

- A focus on developing self-direction and independent work habits
- Multi-aged students learning together
- Cooperative learning, peer tutoring and mentoring
- Peace education and care of the environment
- Grace, courtesy and social responsibility
- Montessori teaches children for the times they live by infusing technology purposefully into curricular areas
- Teachers hold an Alberta Teaching Certificate and are trained in the Montessori philosophy and methodology