

UPPER VALLEY MONTESSORI SOCIETY, INC.

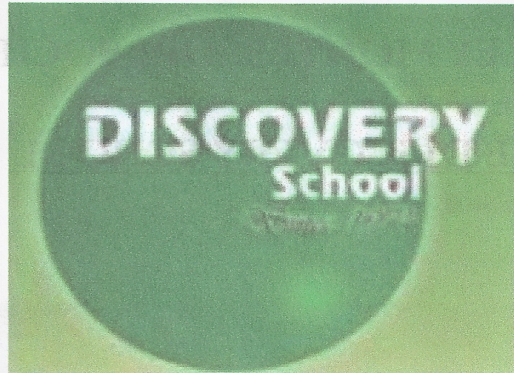
THE DISCOVERY SCHOOL



INFORMATION PACKET

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

Maria Montessori



Dear Prospective Families,

We are so pleased that you have expressed an interest in the Discovery School.

At the Discovery School, we are committed to providing a Montessori education that encompasses a unique educational model for the community by providing a child oriented learning environment that allows the child to develop a love of learning while *realizing and accomplishing self-paced individual interests, the ultimate objective being the development of a responsible, self-confident member of society, respectful of themselves and others, who will develop a positive approach to life and contribute to their community.*

The Discovery School has been in existence since 1974 with accreditation from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (S.A.C.S.), licensing from the State of Texas and membership in the American Montessori Society.

Our campus is made up of toddler, primary and elementary classrooms with a ratio of 2 staff to an average of 25 students. The grade levels include the toddler program which is comprised of 18 months to 3 year olds, the primary program which is comprised of 3 year olds to 6 year olds, and the elementary program which is comprised of 6 year olds to 12 year olds.

Our teaching staff is Montessori certified, degreed from various institutions of higher learning, and together makes up a total of over 100 years of teaching experience.

Our school community is lively and divers as it is multi-cultural representing a majority of our world. We are newcomers and long-time families; some with one child while others have many, and all of us welcome you.

We encourage you to come soon for a visit and a tour of our beautiful campus, wonderful teachers and outstanding families. Please call to make an appointment for our guided tour and to answer any questions you may have about our school.

HISTORY

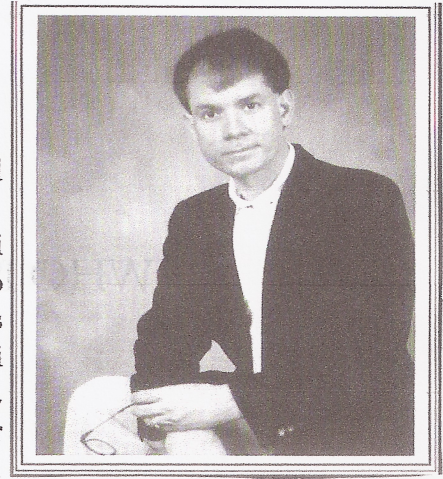
WHO IS DISCOVERY SCHOOL?



The Discovery School • 1711 W. Alberta Rd. • Edinburg, Texas 78539
956-381-1117 • www.thediscoveryschool.net

HISTORY

The school began as an idea in the mind of Michael Emilio Cattaruzza. Michael attended a seminar in Connecticut where he met a nun who ran a Montessori school. After this chance encounter, Michael began to work for her and as a result of this went on to get his Montessori certification through American Montessori Internationale. In 1973, Michael returned to McAllen, Texas where he met with a group of parents and together they founded the Upper Valley Montessori Society, Inc. The following year, the Discovery School opened its doors with a total of 20 students and Michael as their teacher.



Unfortunately, Michael passed way in 1995 but his spirit lives on in the memory and heart of Discovery School.

PROUD TO BE DISCOVERY

Discovery School is a campus that exemplifies tolerance, growth, advancement and a strong belief in the child.

Our school attracts a diverse student body representing many ethnic backgrounds, countries, religions and cultures. And all these diversities are enthusiastically celebrated. The curriculum is international in its heritage and focus, and is used to promote global understanding and peace.

Our current campus was built in 1994 with the Montessori philosophy in mind. The hallway and the classrooms run in a curve around the school's library. All the classrooms have their own little "backyard" where the children experience the outside classroom. Our second building was built in 2007 and houses a gym, a stage and additional classrooms for our ever expanding programs.

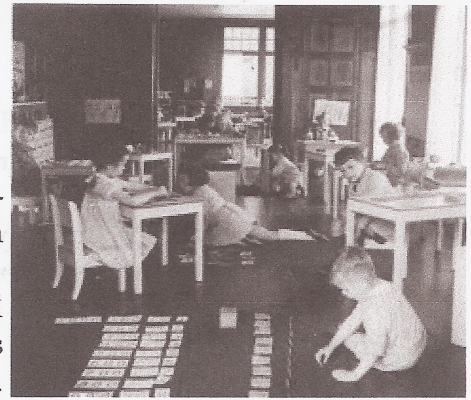
Discovery School has grown from 20 students in the beginning to an enrollment of over 200 students and a staff of 30 plus. We are proud to offer a curriculum that is founded in the Montessori philosophy and in the founders' vision.

Discovery School was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (S.A.C.S.) in 2003, licensed by the State of Texas and is a proud member of the American Montessori Society.

THE CURRICULUM

Discovery School follows the Montessori Method of education as the broad foundation for learning. The curriculum is organized into a cycle of integrated studies. In the Toddler and Primary programs, lessons are introduced simply and concretely and are reintroduced several times over succeeding years at increasing degrees of complexity.

In the Elementary program there are three core curriculum areas that include language arts (reading, literature, grammar, creative writing, spelling and handwriting), mathematics (numeration of whole numbers, fractions and percents, operation of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, geometry and algebra), and the cultural area of history, science (physics, chemistry, the earth sciences, botany, and zoology), art, music, Spanish, and movement. All rooms include a classroom library. Each area is made up of one or more shelf units, cabinets, and display tables with a wide variety of material on open display ready for use as the child selects them.



THE PROGRAMS

The Toddler Program

The Toddler Program is for children ages 18 months to 2.5 years. The youngest members of our community amaze us by how much they absorb from a learning environment. Our curriculum has activities to stimulate their language, social, sensorial, cognitive and motor development.



The Primary Program

The Primary program is for children ages 2.5 years to 6 years. The program curriculum is comprised of concrete learning exercises. The classroom is organized around five subject areas: Practical life, Sensorial, Language, Math and Cultural. Included within these subjects areas are geography, science, art and music.

The Elementary Program

The Elementary program is divided into two parts: Lower elementary and Upper elementary. The Lower elementary program is for children ages 6 years to 9 years. The Upper elementary program is for children ages 9 years to 12 years.

The elementary Montessori curriculum is rich in valuable educational opportunities not usually experienced at this age. Students are exposed to advanced math and science concepts. Through the use of Montessori materials, students are able to grasp concepts in algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Language arts materials allow

students to use their reading skills to explore history, geography, and science—including biology, botany and chemistry.

Activities in science, art, physical education, regular library use, computer lab and frequent cultural and academically oriented field trips enhance the curriculum.

Summer Program

We offer a Summer Program every year, which may include exclusive Montessori instruction or a camp type of environment with arts, crafts, trips, etc., or both. Since the particulars of the summer program vary from year to year, information will be sent out in early March.

TEACHERS

All Discovery School teachers are certified Montessori instructors who have completed the rigorous academic and practical studies. Our Teachers hold Bachelor's degrees from various universities and colleges. And most of our teachers have been with Discovery School for over 20 years and counting.



The Montessori teacher is a guide rather than the center of attention. The teacher works with each child on an individual basis, monitoring his progress carefully and presenting new material when he is ready for them. The teacher is able to spend this individual time with each child because of the nature of the materials. They are sequenced and often self-correcting so the child can learn without constant adult intervention.

PARENTAL SUPPORT

The commitment of parents, friends and the community helps provide the education and developmental advantages enjoyed by Discovery School students. Since the school is not affiliated with any social, governmental, religious or fraternal organization, funds for operations and growth are derived solely from tuitions, fundraising and contributions from interested friends.

In addition to financial support, parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's school experiences. Meetings are held periodically to acquaint them with various principles and practices of the Montessori Method. Conferences with teachers can be requested at any time.

ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS



Accredited since 2004

Membership since 1974



AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY
education that transforms lives