



Top 10 Reasons APM is an incredible place to educate your child!

1. We provide an authentic Montessori Education with multi-aged classrooms, Montessori materials and Montessori trained teachers.
2. Your child's education will be self-directed with a teacher assisting as a guide.
3. We value the Cultural Arts. We have Performing Arts education (harps, Samba drumming, Irish dancing, strings and more), Spanish and Visual Arts.
4. We value nature which is steps away in Plamann Park.
5. We have integrated physical activity and environmental education in our curriculum through our partnership with the Apple Creek YMCA.
6. Our lunch at APM is an extension of our practical life curriculum and goals of grace and courtesy. Our upper elementary students assist with preparation and clean-up of hot lunch and all children clean up their own spaces.
7. We use the Virtues Program to teach the whole child. We look at mistakes as teachable moments.
8. We strive to build learning and volunteering community with students, staff and parents each being responsible for the achievement of this goal.
9. We teach practical life skills that children will continue to use the rest of their lives.
10. We truly want students to *"learn to love to learn."*

The Appleton Area School District does not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or physical, cognitive, emotional or learning disability in its education programs or activities.

For more information-please come to an Open House
January 31st or February 10th, 2015 and visit our website:
www.appletonpublicmontessori.com



What is Montessori?

Montessori education is based on the belief that children are individuals with their own strengths, needs, likes and learning styles. To honor this belief, the teacher needs to guide each child through the learning process by using specifically designed materials that fit that child's needs and pace.

Where did the Montessori Method start?

Dr. Maria Montessori was an Italian physician who lived from 1870-1952. Through the scientific observation of children, she concluded that each child innately possesses the knowledge of what she or he needs to do in order to develop fully. Her goal was to develop a prepared educational environment in which children could choose their own work based on their readiness to absorb and master the academic concepts that they were driven to learn.

What are the differences between this and a traditional classroom?

Classrooms in a Montessori look, feel and sound different from their counterparts in other schools. Here are some of the differences:

- **Theory**
Montessori classroom teachers observe each child and then ask, "What does this specific child understand? What is the next concept this child needs to learn? In which ways does this child learn? Are they observers? Talkers? Someone who needs to physically experience things? Do colors make things more clear? How about singing a song about the concept, will that help this particular child learn? What things interest this child so that I can use his/her natural interests and abilities to teach this concept that they need to know?"
- **Classroom Members**
Montessori rooms are multiage classrooms grouped into 3 year spans: Grades 4K & 5k (ages 4-6), Grades 1-3 (ages 6-9) and Grades 4-6 (ages 9-12). This arrangement allows each child to learn at his or her own pace regardless of chronological age, and allows students to learn from each other. The older children guide the younger children through the same processes they learned in years past, and child share special skills and knowledge with each other.
- **Classroom Structure**
To achieve this goal of individualized learning a Montessori classroom is filled with thousands of kinesthetic materials that teach a wide range of levels and concepts moving from concrete to abstract. Shelves line the wall at the child's level and are set up so that at a moment's notice a teacher can reach for a material and teach a student(s) the concept they need to know. Students can also reach for the same material and use it in the way that they were taught so that they can practice a concept that they are working on mastering.
- **Classroom Functioning**
In a Montessori classroom you will rarely find the teacher upfront instructing. Instead you will see children, some in groups, some by themselves, working on different concepts, and the teacher sitting with a small group of children, usually on the floor around a mat.