



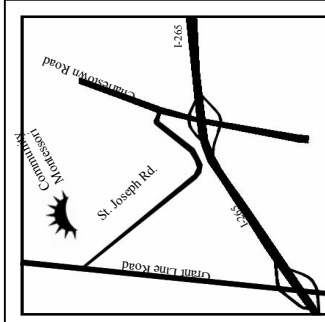
community **Montessori**

EDUCATION FROM WITHIN

Respecting children. Engaging families.
Encouraging thoughts. Embracing the community.

We also offer many other programs that supports our same philosophy

- Before and after school care.
- After school enrichment programs offer art, music, chess, sign language, yoga and fitness programs.
- Summer programs.



Conveniently located at 4102 Saint Joseph Rd., between Grant Line and Charlestown Rd.

Tours are offered for prospective families each Wednesday at 9 a.m., beginning in October.

Community tours are available the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. for anyone who is interested in learning more about Community Montessori.



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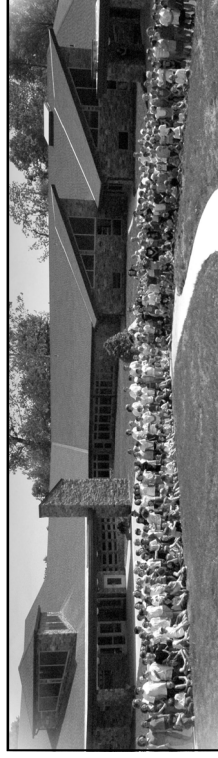
Changing the Educational Landscape in Southern Indiana Since 1998

A TUITION-FREE Charter Public School and Early Education Program for 3 to 5 years old.

4102 Saint Joseph Road, New Albany, IN 47150
Phone (812) 948-1000 or visit www.shiningminds.com

History

- In November 1997 we gained 501 (c)3 status and a Board of Directors.
- Community Montessori opened in the fall of 1998 as an additional school choice for Southern Indiana.
- We received sponsorship from Ball State University in August 2002 and became a Charter Public School, a tuition free independent school for any child in the State of Indiana.
- Since its inception, Community Montessori has grown from 59 learners (students) to over 500 enrolled in the 2008-2009 school year.
- In 2006, we moved into Phase I of the "Dream School".
- In 2008 we completed Phase II. Our 60,000 square-foot learning center includes a Science Lab, Fine Art Studios, a Multi-Purpose Activity Center, Family Fitness Center, Media Center and more.



Teachers and Staff

- Our studios are supported by two teachers to create consistent and dynamic learning environments.
- We believe learning happens as a collaborative effort between children and caring adults through discovery and dialogue.
- Our staff believes that listening, without judging, is crucial to the trust partnership with each learner.
- Our staff believes that learning is not about what is taught by the adult, but how a learner takes new information, connects it to existing information, and changes a perception or expands an idea or concept.
- Each staff member participates in individual goal setting every year as part of his/her professional development.
- Teachers support children/teens in solving difficulties among themselves. Clear guidelines, based on three major responsibilities, are communicated in each studio: Respect for Self, Respect for Others, and Respect for Environment.



Curriculum

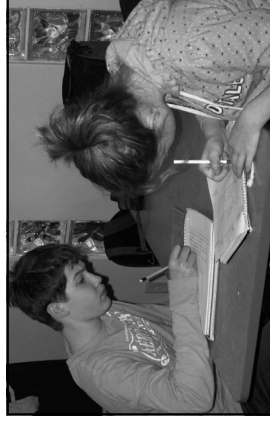
- Our academic curriculum is based on the Montessori program scope and sequence and the Indiana state standards.
- We work with each learner based on their development and progression, then form individual plans of growth to support his/her learning style.
- We focus on process over product and understanding over memorization.
- Without the use of letter grades, authentic assessment is conducted through observation, tracking of skills, and age-appropriate computerized assessment.
- Our multi-age learning environments create opportunities for natural teaching and learning through peer interaction.
- Music and Fine Arts are incorporated through enrichment programs offered during and after school and everyday within the studios (classrooms).



- Seminars on many subjects are offered as an additional learning experience.

What is a Charter School?

- A Charter School is an innovative public school that provides an educational program independent of other public schools and districts.
- Any school-age child/teen living in the state of Indiana can attend Community Montessori at no cost.
- The Charter Program was established to serve the different learning styles and needs of public school students and offer families appropriate and innovative choices for their children's education.
- As a Charter School, we are responsible for setting accountability goals beyond what is required for other public schools.
- Forty states have passed Charter legislation. In Indiana there are currently forty nine Charter Schools throughout the state with an additional five approved for the 2009-2010 school year.



Our Beliefs

- We believe in a holistic education which goes beyond teaching, helping learners expand their minds with a focus on cooperation, peace, and respect.
- We believe that giving learners a safe, consistent, and enriched learning environment will nurture their need to be independent learners.
- We believe children and teens should be given time to practice and repeat new skills in a non-competitive, self-correcting atmosphere.
- We believe in assisting learners in developing self-respect and self-monitoring behavior instead of only making good choices when an adult is watching.
- We believe our connection with families is of the utmost importance because a parent is the first and most important “teacher” of any child.



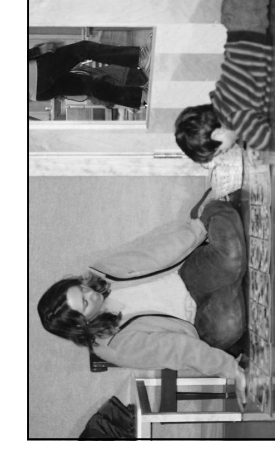
- We believe in making environmentally friendly choices and place a high priority on recycling and using green products.

Philosophy

- Community Montessori's philosophy is built on a foundation of total respect for the whole learner.
- A mixture of direct instruction, spontaneous lessons, connection to real life learning, discovery, and authentic engagement leads to problem solving, increased knowledge, and life-long learning skills.
- Instruction is based on the theories and philosophy developed by Maria Montessori and Community Montessori's Belief Statement.

Family Involvement

- We believe that family involvement is the best foundation for school and personal success.
- Our Parent Involvement Partnership facilitates opportunities year-round for families to be involved in school activities.
- A minimum of ten hours of Family Involvement are



- expected of our families as part of their commitment to their child's education.