



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What programs does The Portland Montessori School offer?**

We offer full-day educational programming Monday - Friday to children 15 months through 12 years of age. The school day begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. We have two classrooms within our Toddler Community, five Primary classrooms, and one Elementary classroom. We offer after-school care for all age levels until 5:00 p.m. and offer break camps (Camp Vida) for children enrolled in Primary or Elementary.

### **How is The Portland Montessori School different from daycare?**

It is important to clarify that Montessori is a method of education, not a daycare. The Montessori approach includes mixed-age classrooms, which allows students to learn from their peers, and provides the opportunity for the student to develop as compassionate leaders. Children ages 2 ½ to 6 in the Primary Classroom are given the freedom to learn academic lessons independently with the guidance of a Classroom Guide (teacher) who focuses on each child's learning style and readiness to learn a new skill, and presents the materials in a way that is best suited for each child. You will learn more about the Montessori approach, and how The Portland Montessori School implements Montessori methods on your visit to our school.

### **Why is it important for my child to complete the last year of the Primary program (the Kindergarten year)?**

The Kindergarten year is included as the final year of our Primary program. Ideally, children begin our Primary program as a 2 ½ - 3-year-old and spend the next 3 to 4 years in the same classroom community. Montessori functions on a longer arc than conventional educational models. Children receive the most out of our program if they attend the Primary for multiple years and complete their final year. Children who leave our school before they have completed their final year miss out on the opportunity to consolidate and crystalize their academic and social skills. This also has a ripple effect on the classroom as a whole. The younger students miss out on having your experienced child model the role of leader in the classroom, something which they have benefitted from as a younger student. If you are not planning on completing the Kindergarten year with us, please speak to our Director of Admissions before applying.

### **What do the children do in after-school care and Camp Vida Programs?**

Camp Vida and after-school care provide a continuation of the Montessori philosophy of mutual respect, independence and cooperation that the children are accustomed to in the classroom. Children are given the opportunity to explore a wide assortment of materials and develop their own creative style and expression through arts, nature, and self-led play. The programs offer child-led time for reading, socializing, creating, and spending time together. Children are free to choose the activities that interest them.

### **What is the ratio of adults to children at The Portland Montessori School?**

The State of Oregon's Department of Early Learning and Care (DELCC) mandates the following staff-to-student ratios:

Toddler - 1:4

Primary - 1:10

Elementary - 1:15

The Portland Montessori School maintains these ratios or better



# The Portland Montessori School

205 NE 50<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
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503.688.2993  
[www.portlandmontessori.org](http://www.portlandmontessori.org)

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## **How does tuition work?**

Our Toddler Community operates year-round and bills families the same each month. If a child enters the program mid-month, the month will be prorated accordingly.

Primary and Elementary tuition is set on an annual basis and amortized across 12 monthly payments. This helps keep monthly payments lower and holds your spot during the summer months. If a family enrolls and begins in September, they will have the annual tuition spread across 10 months. Any enrollments occurring after September will have their annual tuition prorated accordingly.

## **Does the school offer tuition assistance?**

TPMS works with Preschool Promise, Preschool for All, and Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) to help qualifying families with the financial expenses associated with attending the school. Additionally, TPMS offers agency tuition assistance as able. Families must apply for TPMS tuition assistance. Please reach out to [admissions@portlandmontessori.org](mailto:admissions@portlandmontessori.org) for more information about these programs.

## **Is the application fee refundable?**

The application fee is non-refundable. We want families to carefully consider their decision to apply here. This fee helps cover the administrative work to prepare and assist incoming families for the best possible transition into the school.



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## **What are the enrollment requirements?**

For the toddler program, children must be 15 months old and walking independently. For the primary program, children must be at least 30 months old, and fully toilet trained to apply for enrollment. We are not licensed for diapering/pull-ups at the primary level.

## **Do you ever enroll children at 4 or 5 years of age into the Primary program?**

Montessori operates on a three year cycle. Children receive the most benefits from being in the program on a longer timeline. We can accept 4 and 5 year olds on a case-by-case basis, especially when children are coming from other Montessori programs. If you would like to learn more about how Montessori can work for your child, check in with the Director of Admissions.

## **I have turned in an application with the application fee, when will I hear about placement?**

A period of priority re-enrollment is given to current families during the month of February. After this period of re-enrollment, we begin reviewing applications for new students. We begin matching new students to available classroom spaces in March. Due to the limited availability of Guides during the summer months, applications may take longer to process during this time.

## **When will my child have an opportunity to visit the school and see the classroom?**

After our Director of Admissions reviews the information you have provided and makes a recommendation for your child to a classroom, the Guide will contact you to schedule an introductory meeting with your family.

## **Is The Portland Montessori School accredited?**

The Portland Montessori School is affiliated with AMI – Association Montessori Internationale. All Classroom Guides and many of our Assistants are AMI trained and certified to teach in Montessori schools internationally.

## **Are there materials available for parents to learn more about Montessori?**

Please visit our school website often for the latest programmatic information, [portlandmontessori.org](http://portlandmontessori.org). The internet has a number of great resources. Good places to start would be: [Montessori Northwest](#), [Association Montessori Internationale](#), and [Montessori Guide](#).