



South
Suburban
Montessori
School

Head of School



Dear Friend,

Let me be the first to welcome you to South Suburban Montessori School! We are thrilled that you have decided to discover the unique and special place that is our school.

South Suburban Montessori is a place where:

- Our students can accelerate their learning while working at their own pace.
- Academic achievement and critical thinking skills are the cornerstones of preparing students for life.
- Our teachers are nurturing, caring and create a home-like, safe learning environment.
- We value the teaching of independence as it produces emotionally intelligent students who lead, not follow.
- The values of respect, honesty, fairness and acceptance permeate every classroom.

South Suburban is fully recognized as a toddler through 8th grade community by the Ohio Department of Education and fully accredited by the American Montessori Society, one of only two such schools in Northeast Ohio and 180 nationwide.

We embrace Dr. Maria Montessori's belief that the purpose of education should go far beyond the mere acquisition of knowledge but to guide children in becoming the adults they are destined to become, adults who are problem-solvers, compassionate collaborators and confident, courageous self-learners. Thus, all aspects of your child's development and education are considered; the intellectual, the emotional, the social and the physical.

We encourage and welcome you to learn more about our school. We look forward to meeting you soon!

In love and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Mackie-Barr". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amy Mackie-Barr
Head of School



MISSION

The mission of South Suburban Montessori School (SSMS) is to free each child's potential through Montessori philosophy and principles while guided by our values of compassion, authenticity, respect and excellence.



PHILOSOPHY

The Montessori Method believes children carry within them their own unique personality, pattern of development, strengths and abilities. When given an environment which allows for this natural development to occur, they will learn in personal and powerful ways. The Montessori Method assists each child in developing self-awareness, a positive self-image, independence, self-confidence and a life-long love of learning.

Founded in 1970, South Suburban takes pride in offering the unique teaching philosophies of Dr. Maria Montessori in our Toddler, Preschool, Elementary and Middle School programs.





South Suburban is a premier Montessori community committed to the Montessori philosophy and its practice. Our values inspire our school's rich tradition of nurturing children to reach their greatest potential:

VALUES

Compassion for individuals and humanity.

Authenticity to the Montessori Method, philosophy and curriculum.

Respect for the potential of each child and his or her ability to impact the world.

Excellence in academics, teaching and leadership.

“Toddlers are intensely curious, socially aware and loving toward one another.”

– Cecelia Romito,
Toddler Community Guide



Toddlers:

18 MONTHS – 3 YEARS



Toddlers learn through sensory-motor activities, working with materials that develop their cognitive abilities through direct experience: seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, touching and moving.

- The toddler classroom, where we help children help themselves, provides a stimulating environment that fosters **independence and curiosity**.
- **Grace and courtesy** are emphasized, and simple daily life activities help guide children to **experiment, explore and observe**, while defining each child’s space and environment.
- Conversations are encouraged. At this age there is an **explosion of language**, so allowing children time to talk is a must!

At age 3 toddlers move to the next level, the Children’s House. We help guide this transition by introducing skills they will need in the coming years.



“Each child in our Children’s House classrooms is an important and unique person who possesses a natural desire to learn and thrives on order, concentration, coordination and independence.”

– Angela Galarza,
Children’s House Guide.

Children’s House:

3 YEARS – KINDERGARTEN

Multi-age classrooms, the hallmark of Montessori programs, help develop a sense of community and encourage cooperation and collaboration. Younger children learn from older ones, and older children reinforce their learning by teaching concepts they have mastered.



- Learning materials provide **hands-on experience**, which guides each child to learn abstract concepts.
- The classroom encourages **self-directed learning**, where children can explore, discover, concentrate and focus while learning independently at their own pace to **master their work**.
- Freedom within limits and with responsibility helps develop **self-discipline, intrinsic motivation, natural curiosity** and **interest** in the world.

“Lower Elementary students are curious about the way the world works. They are organized, concerned with justice and morality, and interested in developing relationships with friends.”

– Beth Hinkel,
Lower Elementary Guide



Lower Elementary:

1ST GRADE – 3RD GRADE

By age six, children understand the immediate world around them and develop a curiosity that is the springboard to learning.

- Students establish **solid study and research skills**, and use them to feed their natural curiosity about the world and their place in it.
- As concepts are reinforced, children develop a **greater capacity for abstract thinking**.
- Rather than telling children what to learn, the Montessori curriculum encourages students to **think for themselves** and develop their own tools for learning.
- Students **learn at their own pace** under the guidance of teachers, who respect the distinct abilities of each student.

The Five Great Lessons are an important and unique part of the Montessori curriculum. These lessons are bold, exciting, and designed to awaken a child's imagination and curiosity. Every child should be struck with the wonder of creation, thrilled with new ideas, and awed by the inventiveness and innovation that is part of the human spirit. They are presented every year to Elementary and Middle School students, and are used to paint a broad picture before children move to more specific study.

THE FIVE GREAT LESSONS:

- The Birth of the Universe
- Time Line of Life
- The Coming of Humans
- The Story of Language & Communication
- The Story of Numbers



“Nine- to twelve-year-olds in the Upper Elementary classroom are gifted with the power of imagination, abstract thought and reasoning. They are developing a sense of morality as they move toward emotional independence and social acceptance.”

– Kimberly White,
Upper Elementary Guide

Upper Elementary:

4TH GRADE – 6TH GRADE

By the Upper Elementary level, social interaction has become an important part of each student’s school experience. The curriculum recognizes that social cooperation enhances learning and students are encouraged to work together.



- The curriculum allows for **open-ended exploration**, giving each student a meaningful understanding of and appreciation for a subject.
- Math becomes more abstract as students delve into **advanced concepts**.
- In language arts, students engage in **creative and research based writing** and discussions.
- Students **investigate ancient and modern** cultures around the world.
- The use of technology expands as students strengthen their computer skills and **design real life projects**.
- Students **engage in entrepreneurial business opportunities** to raise funds for travel, charitable giving and student-driven projects.





“Adolescents are creative, insightful and ready to help solve world problems. Through an engaging, integrated curriculum we hope to give them the skills to do so!”

– Kellie Padgett,
Middle School Guide

Middle School:

7TH AND 8TH GRADE

The Middle School offers students an environment that helps them maintain their sense of self while they face personal and external changes that accompany normal adolescent development.



- The curriculum is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills applicable to the real world and to **evaluate and examine a broad spectrum of ideas, concepts and theories.**
- **Rigorous academics**, merged with the practices of internal motivation, time management, problem solving, and higher order reasoning, allow students to develop a **strong foundation for self-understanding and self-esteem.**
- Students enjoy abundant opportunities to **interact with their surrounding world.** They participate in varied off campus field trips, cultural experiences and meaningful community service activities.



Complementary
programming
enhances
our Montessori
curriculum.



Music integrates sound, movement, speech and drama. Older students play in the school band, practicing their chosen instrument twice a week.

Art is thoroughly integrated into programs at all levels.

Spanish Language instruction begins at age 3 and continues through Middle School.

Physical Education and Movement are emphasized at all grade levels. In the Toddler Room and Children's House, students begin with tumbling, playing with balls and enjoying nature walks. In Elementary and Middle School activities expand based on a child's interests and may include swimming, skiing, tennis, golf, horseback riding, basketball, volleyball, track/field and soccer.

Outdoor Learning Environment and Nature Walks through our Blossom Hill Complex, which is surrounded by creeks, woods, sports fields and wild flower gardens to explore.

Library Visits are important at all grade levels.

Cooking and Food Appreciation begins in the Toddler Community and continues through Middle School.

Community Service Learning is part of SSMS life at all age levels. Students engage in volunteer, charitable giving and other opportunities to give back to the community, helping them gain a sense that they are part of a bigger world.

Middle School Immersion Weeks conclude each of the Middle School's five academic cycles. Each week offers a different focus and *off-campus* experience with field experts, helping tie together the theme of the cycle.

Adventure Trips and Team Building Activities begin at age 5 and include day and overnight field trips.



We Invite You to Observe a Classroom

The best way to fully appreciate the advantages of a South Suburban Montessori education is to visit and experience first-hand our warm and inviting environment.

**To schedule a visit to our school, please call or email us at:
440-526-1966 or admissions@ssmsmontessori.net**





Ready to Apply?

Applying to South Suburban Montessori School is a simple 3-step process:

1

Visit our school! Speak with faculty, observe a classroom and tour the facilities.

2

Submit an application. Forms are available under the Admissions tab on our website or you can request a mailed application. Previous school records and teacher recommendations are needed for children with prior school experience.

3

Schedule a visit for you and your child who will have an opportunity to work directly with one of our teachers while you talk with the Head of School to answer any additional questions.



Affording a Private Education:

South Suburban Montessori School seeks students whose families are committed to the vision of the school and to using their own resources as much as possible to make a SSMS education their top priority.

We understand some families are unable to fully meet the financial obligations of sending their child to South Suburban Montessori School. We encourage those families to apply under the School's Indexed Tuition Program through our partner FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment Services (FACTS) by visiting <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid>. SSMS will notify families who apply regarding available support within 15 days of receiving a complete FACTS analysis.





**South
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Located just south of Rt. 82 and I-77 in Brecksville's beautiful Blossom Hill Complex

4450 Oakes Rd, Building 6 • Brecksville, OH 44141
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www.smsmontessori.net



AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY
education that transforms lives
Accredited Member School