

Overview

MSD Programs At-A-Glance*

(All programs are only offered five days per week.)

- Toddler (Pre-K, ages 2-3): 8:30am-11:30am, \$6,880; 8:30am-3:00pm, \$12,230
- Primary (Pre-K, ages 3-5): 8:30am-11:30am, \$6,500
- All Day Primary (Pre-K, ages 3-5) & Extended Primary (K, ages 5-6): 8:30am-3:00pm, \$11,470
- Lower Elementary (Grades 1-3, ages 6-9): 8:30am-3:00pm, \$12,180
- Upper Elementary (Grades 4-6, ages 9-12): 8:30am-3:00pm, \$12,180
- After School (Ages 3-6 and 6-12): 3:00pm-6:00pm, \$5,025. Drop in After School is also available.

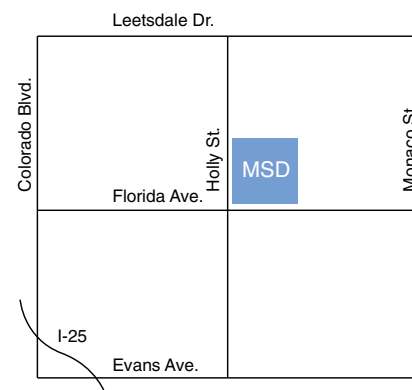
*Program pricing is for the 2009-2010 academic year and is subject to change. Additional fees apply. Financial assistance is available.

MSD Quick Facts

- Our MSD community currently includes 300 students.
- Teacher to student ratios are wonderfully low, allowing for maximum interaction and individual attention. The average teacher to student ratio at MSD is 1:10 for the Primary, Extended Primary, and Elementary programs and 1:7 for the Toddler program.
- MSD is the first school in Colorado to be fully accredited by the American Montessori Society, an esteemed recognition continuously awarded since 1992.
- MSD is the only Montessori school to be accredited by the Association of Colorado Independent Schools.
- Our students excel academically and routinely score at or above the 95th percentile on the rigorous standardized test that we administer.
- Our graduates matriculate to the finest independent and public schools when they leave MSD.
- Our school is strongly committed to service learning on global, national, and local levels.

Visiting Our Campus

We encourage you to visit our campus and observe our classes to learn more. Campus tours and class observations, for adults only, are held frequently by appointment. Please call the school office at 303-756-9441 to reserve your space for an upcoming tour.



The Montessori School of Denver (MSD) is a nationally recognized and accredited, independent Montessori school. During each of the 45 years since the school was founded, MSD has offered students an exceptional educational experience, based on the belief that children learn best in an environment where their individual phases of development are understood and respected. The highly qualified and trained MSD teachers nurture and guide students as they learn to make independent decisions and become effective problem-solvers. MSD students consistently develop a strong, positive sense of self and a curiosity and passion for learning.

Our Mission

We are a dynamic educational environment empowering students to use diverse knowledge and experiences to reach their full potential and do good in the world.

MSD Educational Philosophy

At MSD, we take pride in being a dynamic learning community. We have evolved as a school through accreditations, inquiry, keeping current with educational trends, and by asking ourselves and others if we are meeting the needs of today's students. We believe completely in the education of the whole child – his or her physical, emotional, intellectual, ethical, and moral needs. We help students learn how to learn; we emphasize the application of knowledge, not just the acquisition; and we help students know their best learning style. We want to equip students with the tools necessary to contribute and participate meaningfully in the world – tools such as strong communications skills, a focus on learning through local, national, and global community service, and active celebration of our diverse world.



What is the Montessori Approach?

MSD is based on the pioneering philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori, who devoted her life to creating schools that develop the full potential of each individual child. Cornerstones of the Montessori philosophy include:

- Individual learning – The recognition that each child learns at a different pace and in different ways is integral to our philosophy. Teachers allow time for individual growth, and base guidance on a deep respect for, and understanding of, the individual child's development, interests, and learning style.
- Multi-age groupings of children within a classroom – Each Primary and Elementary class at MSD has a three-year age span. Carefully prepared classroom environments provide the necessary opportunities for older children to be role models for the younger students, both reinforcing their own learning and building self-esteem.
- Emphasis on concrete learning – Children experience concepts in concrete, hands-on ways, and they develop the ability to think about them abstractly as they grow up. For example, younger children have opportunities to dress in native costumes and taste native foods as part of their study of global cultures. Older children re-enact historical events, build scale models and prototypes of architectural structures and tools, and take relevant day and overnight field trips to enhance their learning.
- A love of learning and sense of discovery – MSD students are deeply interested in learning and understanding the work they do. Children are encouraged to teach, collaborate, and help each other.

About Our Curriculum

MSD offers a challenging and well-rounded curriculum. Specific areas of learning include sensorial activities (Toddler and Primary only), language arts, mathematics, culture, science, peace education, and practical life. MSD enriches these traditional Montessori offerings by including Spanish, art, music, drama, library science, physical education, computer instruction, and service learning. A detailed summary of our curriculum is available at our website, montessoridenver.org.

Curriculum Highlights by Program

- *Toddler (Pre-K, ages 2-3)*: The toddler curriculum and environment are prepared to meet the toddler's growing emotional and cognitive abilities in this formative period for development of personality, trust, thinking, problem solving, and independence. The Montessori teacher offers the tenderness, warmth, and patience so essential at this age. Materials and activities are available to build the child's sensory, fine, and gross motor skills, self-help, grace and courtesy, practical life, language, math and science skills, yet the programming is flexible for impromptu exploration, experimentation, and social interaction.
- *Primary (Pre-K, ages 3-5)*: MSD's Primary classrooms are well-organized to allow children the freedom to select from a wide variety of learning materials designed to match their developmental needs and personal interests. Children are provided with opportunities to develop concentration, coordination, independence, and order skills during large blocks of uninterrupted work time. Students are given a formal introduction to a material, or a lesson, and then each child is able to select his or her own work. All materials are aesthetically pleasing so that children are drawn to use them.

- *Extended Primary (K, ages 5-6)*: This program, comparable to full-day Kindergarten, is created for children who are ready for a longer academic day. These older students are classroom leaders and role models, working side-by-side with their younger classmates in the morning and with their Extended Primary peers in a small group setting in the afternoon. During this important transitional year between preschool and elementary school, children are ready to explore the interconnections of knowledge across curricular areas, to problem solve, and to create new ideas. Children at this age are also emergent readers who need one on one time with a teacher to increase reading fluency.
- *Lower Elementary (Grades 1-3, ages 6-9)*: Concepts continue to be introduced through the manipulation of concrete materials, but children are capable and encouraged to work abstractly as their confidence builds. These older children are ready for new challenges and responsibilities, and are encouraged and supported in taking on projects based on their own inquiries and interests. Children begin to create reports, materials, or lessons in order to share what they have learned. Teachers augment studies with workshops, simulations, guest speakers, and field trips.
- *Upper Elementary (Grades 4-6, ages 9-12)*: This is the culmination of a student's academic and social experiences at MSD, and is a time to prepare the student for the next phase of his or her personal and academic journey. The program is academically rigorous, combining highly integrated lessons that are a combination of hands-on interaction with materials, student and instructor guided research, individual and group lessons, and experimental activities and simulations. In addition to the core curriculum, the Upper Elementary course of study includes four 21st Century skill seminars on leadership, technology and innovation, entrepreneurship, and environmental stewardship. Upper Elementary years are marked by a synthesis of new intellectual and moral capabilities and an emerging sense of identity. There is an emphasis on helping each student to feel confident in his or her ability to organize, interpret, and report increasingly sophisticated levels of knowledge. MSD helps the students and their parents choose and gain acceptance to their middle school of choice.
- *After School (Ages 3-6 and 6-12)*: This program allows children to enjoy a consistent, nurturing, and stimulating environment after their core curriculum day. Children may participate in arts, crafts, games, and special projects and enjoy playground time. Older children receive help with their homework and enjoy social time with peers.
- *After School Enrichment Classes (Ages 3-12)*: Children have the option of participating in unique, high-quality classes that may include musical instruments, sports, crafts, performing arts, and other enjoyable courses. A wide variety of classes are offered each semester by independent instructors at an additional cost.

MSD Staff

MSD's exceptional teaching staff has come from the nation's leading Montessori teacher training programs. Our school is a Montessori teaching site, meaning some of our classrooms employ teaching assistants who are completing their Montessori training. The specific qualifications of our teachers can be found at our website, montessoridenver.org.

Parent Involvement

Parents are valued partners at MSD. Our school offers an organized program for parents to understand the Montessori philosophy and participate in classroom and school activities that enhance the school experience for children, parents, faculty, and staff. MSD's parent volunteers coordinate and support various educational, social, hospitality, and fund-raising activities.