

# KALISPELL MONTESSORI SCHOOLS



Woodland Montessori School  
Early Childhood, children ages 2 ½ - 6

Kalispell Montessori Elementary  
Elementary, children ages 6-12

*A community dedicated to fostering the natural spirit of inquiry and thrill of discovery within each child...*

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in our schools. Like you, we place an excellent education for your child at the top of our list. Our belief is that education is a never-ending process; our philosophy embodies nurturing a lifelong love of learning. We focus on your child. Together we build priorities for your children with you.

We are best known for our ability to provide an atmosphere where a partnership between home and school is emphasized and each student's uniqueness is cherished. The Montessori environment promotes the development of social skills, emotional growth, physical coordination and cognitive development. High academic standards are achieved in an atmosphere that fosters independent thinking, personal responsibility, freedom of choice, self-esteem, love and respect.

We want all of this for your child, just as you do. Please call to schedule a visit so that you can watch our students preparing for a successful future!

Sincerely,  
The Administrators of  
Woodland Montessori School  
Kalispell Montessori Elementary

*Sally Blackadder*

*Michelle Talus*

*Jean Russell*

*Dawn Hill*

## Goals

- To support an ongoing partnership between home and school within which independence, responsibility and self-esteem are fostered.
- To support a dedicated, certified staff in teaching the whole child in multi-age, family-like groupings, and a prepared classroom environment.
- To nurture responsible citizens who are respectful of each other and their environment, and who have the ability and desire to fulfill lifetime educational and social goals as members of their various communities and to maintain the highest academic standards through a structured, individualized curriculum.
- To ensure that community buildings and playgrounds are maintained in a manner that is orderly, safe, of good quality, enhances learning, and reflects our Montessori philosophy.

## Mission

Woodland Montessori School and Kalispell Montessori Elementary foster the natural spirit of inquiry and thrill of discovery within each child by upholding the Montessori philosophy that learning is best achieved within a social atmosphere that supports each individual's unique academic, physical, and emotional development.



# Montessori Philosophy

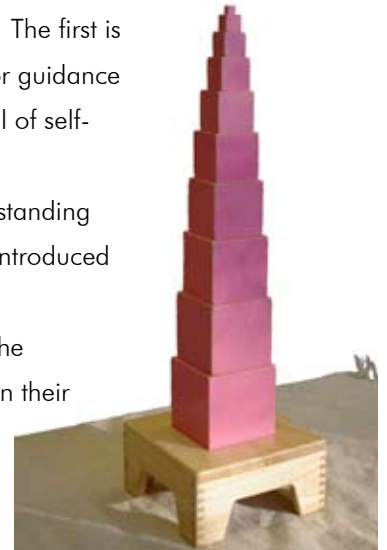
Montessori is a philosophy of education developed by Dr. Maria Montessori at the turn of the twentieth century. Dr. Montessori said of her philosophy,

“Our aim is not merely to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his inmost core.”

Montessori philosophy differs from traditional school systems in three primary ways. The first is through the use of multi-aged classrooms. The young child looks to the older child for guidance both socially and in the academic arena. This in turn gives the older child a high level of self-esteem and a sense of responsibility and leadership.

A second philosophical principle involves the child’s development of abstract understanding from sequenced concrete experiences. The child gains a thorough understanding of introduced concepts.

The final principle focuses on having an individualized program for each child. In the Montessori classroom, children are honored for who they are and for where they are in their personal development. Each child’s strengths are recognized and built upon.



## Our Schools

Our schools offer children:

- Individualized instruction
- Safe, secure environments
- Moral and ethical values – fostering respect for self and others through community involvement
- Fine Arts instruction – art, music, foreign language and theater
- Integrated studies

### WOODLAND MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Early Childhood program – children ages 3-6, includes kindergarten year. 3 classrooms.

Early Learner program – children ages 2 ½-4. 1 classroom.

Woodland Montessori is also the home of Montana Montessori Teacher Education Institute, a MACTE accredited/AMS affiliated certification program for Early Childhood and Elementary I teachers.

### KALISPELL MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY

Elementary I program – children ages 6-9.

Elementary II program – children ages 9-12.



# WOODLAND MONTESSORI SCHOOL

children ages 2 ½ - 6; four classrooms (three early childhood and one early learner) • the “kindergarten” year is the final year of early childhood

## Early Childhood Program

Our Early Childhood program is for children three through six years old. Here, children’s independence, self-esteem and self-discipline are nurtured while they are introduced to the basics of academics. The combination of defined social structure and intellectual atmosphere is propelled by the unique ability of children this age to absorb their environment, language, and culture.

Children in the Early Childhood program learn through the use of many manipulative classroom materials as well as through teacher guidance. The teachers work with a child individually and in small groups on enticing activities, and then allow each child many repetitions with that activity to master its content in depth. Activities include beginning skills in reading, writing, language expression through drawing and writing, mathematics, geography, nature studies, science, practical living skills, social skills, art and music.

Through the use of carefully prepared materials and activities, plus communication with teachers and interaction with peers, children grow in personal independence, concentration, self-motivation, and a genuine love of learning. Materials and activities are readily accessible to students; they enjoy freedom of movement and the ability to choose their own purposeful activity; and they are given the time necessary to complete what they start. They are free to interact socially with their peers in the classroom, in conversation and in their play. By providing children with an atmosphere that fosters respect, curiosity, and security, the early childhood environment gives children a solid base from which to begin their elementary years.

Primary teachers are Montessori certified as experts in early childhood development.



## Kindergarten

Children who are 5 years of age by September 10th of a given school year are eligible for “kindergarten.” The kindergarten year is the final year of the Early Childhood program. Kindergarten children attend on a 9:00-3:00 schedule.

Mornings are spent in the traditional multi-age Montessori classroom environment where older children naturally assume the roles of leaders and mentors to the younger children, gaining self-esteem and mastery of skills by aiding younger students while the younger children learn from their older peers. Enrichment programs for the kindergarten children addressing specific social, academic, creative and physical education needs are presented in the afternoons.

## Early Learner Program

The Early Learner Program introduces two and three year old children to a Montessori environment. This room centers learning around sensory experiences, language, coordination and muscle development, small manipulatives and sequencing. It includes large practical life and sensorial areas as well as beginning phonics, mathematics and cultural materials.

Teachers help the young child adapt to a community environment by providing a warm and secure place to learn, communicate, and grow emotionally and socially.



# KALISPELL MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY

children ages 6-12: Elementary I & Elementary II

## Elementary I

The Elementary I Program, for students ages 6 through 9, continues to facilitate the development of the child taking them several steps further. Students move beyond sensorial and practical life experiences into more challenging academics. The program is built on the same principles of multi-age grouping, concrete lessons, and individual pacing as the Early Childhood environment.

Teachers provide an atmosphere that allows students to explore, while learning to read with proficiency and developing a solid understanding of basic math functions. Students learn with a personalized work plan based on individual assessments. Large and small group lessons are also a part of each day.

The students participate in many exciting and educational field trips to places like the Glacier Institute's Big Creek Field Station, Glacier Park, Owen-Sowerwine Nature Preserve, and The Hockaday Center for the Arts.

## Elementary II

Students ages 9 through 12 "learn to fly" in the Elementary II Program. During these years the students integrate the entire Montessori curriculum into project-driven tasks. Students continue to work with advanced concepts in Language Arts and Mathematics, integrated



with the Science and Cultural Curriculum (History, Geography, Language, Physical Science, and Biology). Elementary II students can begin studies such as individualized Latin and can participate in beginning Band.

Every spring, the students produce a Shakespearean Festival. They gain knowledge of project development by designing the sets, sewing costumes, memorizing their lines, and working in production crews – everything necessary to put on a magnificent performance!

Students become increasingly self-directed and aware of their full potential and capabilities. Graduates leave Kalispell Montessori Elementary with excellent academic, social, and life skills, along with a level of self-confidence that carries them through high school, college, and beyond. They are truly prepared for life's journey.



# Daily/yearly programs' schedule

Program	Academic Year Schedule September-June	Before-School Care	After-School Care	Summer Program
<b>WOODLAND MONTESSORI</b>				
Early Learner	9:00 a.m. to 12:15 a.m. (3-5 days per week)	7:00 a.m. to	3:00 p.m. to	No
Early Childhood	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or Part Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (3-5 days per week depending on age)	9:00 a.m. (EL, EC, K)	5:45 p.m. (EL, EC, K)	Yes
Kindergarten Year	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (5 days per week)			Yes
<b>KALISPELL MONTESSORI</b>				
Elementary I & II	8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.	7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	3:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.	No (summer program available for children up to 10 years old at WMS)

## Enrollment Procedures

### 1. Tour the Schools

The very best way to understand the Montessori philosophy of education is to come visit the school while we are in session. Please call 755-3824 (Woodland Montessori) • 755-3826 (Kalispell Montessori) to make an appointment for an individual tour. Tours usually run 30-45 minutes. We ask that your first visit be without your child. We will gladly schedule another visit for you and your child when he or she can have special time with the teacher.

### 2. Initial Paperwork

Complete the Application for Admission form and return it to the school office.

### 3. Visiting Day for Elementary Students

After your paperwork is complete, it will be necessary to schedule your student (elementary only) for a visiting day. Your child will spend up to a regular school day with us at the Kalispell Montessori Center Elementary Campus. They will fully participate in the activities of the day.



### 4. Appointment with the Directors

The next step is to make an appointment with the school director to ask any final questions and verify that space is available.

### 5. Final Paperwork

Complete the Enrollment Form and return it to the school office along with any fees due. Immunization records are required prior to the child's first day.



# Family Involvement

*“Teaching children effectively requires a close collaboration between parents and teachers. Research confirms a direct link between student success and parental involvement with the school.*

*We need to understand one another, share knowledge and insights, and agree on goals. That’s why we consider the concept of community—the community that surrounds and supports and secures your child—paramount.”*

~ a quote from Princeton Montessori School

Family involvement is a core value to Montessori education. Woodland Montessori School and Kalispell Montessori Elementary provide a variety of opportunities for parents to effectively partner with the schools in the education of children. For example: Positive Discipline courses making communication and disciplinary practices consistent between home and school are offered regularly; periodic evening informational presentations aid in understanding Montessori curriculum, educational transitions, or other relevant educational topics; parent-teacher conferences are prepared and conducted twice per year (parent participation mandatory); and opportunities to assist in student activities—outings, events, performances—are numerous. Enjoyable social functions are also scheduled throughout the year to further support the building of our community.

To ensure participation, families are asked to contribute a minimum 18 hours of community service per year, but encouraged to participate in as many events as possible!



# Fundraising

**Why do we need to raise funds when we pay tuition?** Funds raised above and beyond the school’s revenue from tuition allows purchases and upgrades to be made that would not be covered by the annual budget. This enables the schools to maintain high standards in the prepared environment. It keeps the area fresh, inviting and stimulating, therefore promoting a higher rate of learning. New climbing apparatus for the playground, books for the library, or new Montessori materials are things the parents enjoy supporting.

Monies raised above and beyond tuition revenue are also applied to the scholarship funds (Woodland Montessori School Foundation & Kalispell Montessori Elementary). These resources make some money available to families in need of financial assistance. Fundraising itself also allows recipients of scholarship money a chance to “repay” what they have received.

Being involved as parents and building a community among families is an important part of the Montessori experience. As a side benefit to raising money, the process of fundraising is community-building. Hand-in-hand we work toward a common goal; all the while getting to know each other and growing to care about one another. Fundraising is also a valuable way to contribute to the community service hours required of each family.

The level of success in fundraising is directly connected to the amount of family involvement. Even a small amount of participation on the part of each family can achieve noteworthy goals.

# Teacher Education

All of our lead teachers are certified Montessori instructors. In addition to any other education a teacher may have completed, Montessori certification is a one-two year educational commitment. Adult students participate in over 300 hours of in-class instructional time devoted to Montessori materials and curriculum areas, Montessori philosophy, and child development, as well as a full year’s classroom internship.

Montana Montessori Teacher Education Institute, a faction of Woodland Montessori School, is our resident training center. MMTEI operates certification programs for both Early Childhood (2 1/2 through 6) and Elementary I (6 through 9) teachers. It is accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council on Teacher Education and fully affiliated with the American Montessori Society through 2011. This program not only gives interested candidates the opportunity to study in Kalispell, but also enables our currently certified teachers to share their knowledge and experience to other interested adults.

# Financial Considerations

Woodland Montessori School and Kalispell Montessori Elementary are separate financial entities, yet consider themselves “sister schools” and maintain continuity and cooperation to create an all-encompassing continuous educational system and community. Every effort is made to keep operational systems and practices as consistent as possible.

In general, students are enrolled for a school year beginning in September. Tuition may be paid annually at a 3% discount or in 10 equal payments charged monthly (July, Sept-May). Charges for before/after care, other additional services, fees, or supplies are applied to family accounts monthly.

A limited number of partial scholarships are available each year. Applications are reviewed and funds awarded in June for the following school year.

Woodland Montessori School

5 Park Hill Road

Kalispell, Montana 59901

Phone (406) 755-3824

Fax (406) 755-7234

E-mail: woodland@mtmont.com

Kalispell Montessori Elementary

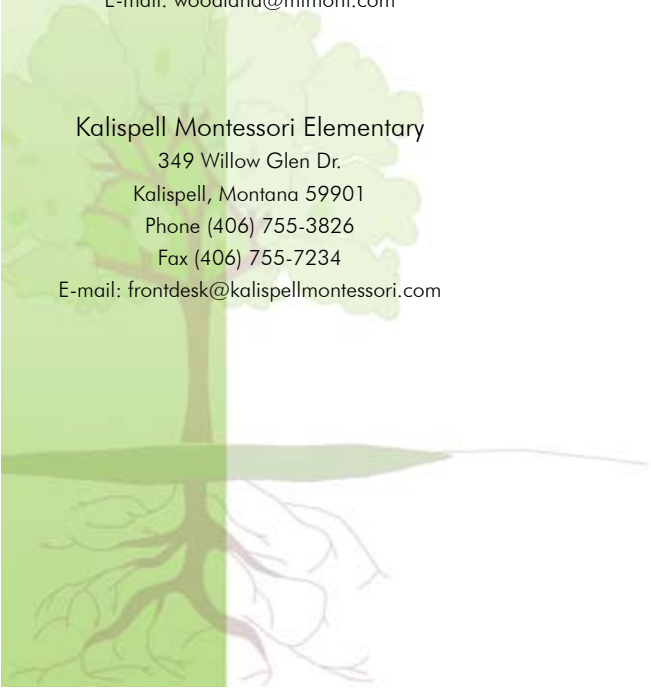
349 Willow Glen Dr.

Kalispell, Montana 59901

Phone (406) 755-3826

Fax (406) 755-7234

E-mail: frontdesk@kalispellmontessori.com



*~ Maria Montessori*

*“fate of the future”*

*“Within the child lies the*

