



Parent Education Meetings

You are embarking on the journey of a lifetime: the education of your child. We know that this is not a decision to be taken lightly, nor is it simply a decision about academic achievement. There are many aspects to be considered, including your personal philosophy of educational best practices, your value system, your financial situation, and your ability to make a long-term commitment to a consistent educational program for your child. The following meetings are designed to help you in your decision to become a Montessori parent and a part of the Chaffee County Montessori School community. We ask that both parents attend these meetings so that together you may make an informed decision about your child's educational program.

The classes do not need to be taken in a particular order, however, many parents like to begin with the Montessori 101 as it addresses the specific educational program and how it unfolds over a child's school years.

Montessori 101: This class covers the foundations of Montessori philosophy and methods, the history of the Montessori movement, the story of Chaffee County Montessori and a comparison between Montessori and traditional educational methods.

The School/Family Partnership: This class investigates what it means to be a partner in your child's education as well as a partner with CCMS: Its methods, its mission, and its values. A mission-driven school uses its mission and values statements to guide all its planning and decision-making. We will discuss how this decision-making takes place at CCMS, what the school expects of you and what you can expect of the school.

Montessori at Home: Having compatible home and school environments helps your child be successful and feel secure. This class will show you practical ways to bring Montessori home.

Learning for Life: The Outcomes of a Montessori Education: All parents wonder how their child's Montessori education will serve his or her future needs. This class will outline the goals of a Montessori education, how we work toward their achievement, and what you can expect of the Montessori graduate at each level. We will also discuss issues of transition at each level.

On line Resources for Parents

In our efforts to follow environmentally conscious practices, we offer the following resources which can be accessed online. For print versions of many of these pages, you may refer to our Parent Information and Resources Notebook and the CCMS Lending Library.

North American Montessori Teachers Association

<http://www.montessori-namta.org/namta/geninfo/whatismont.html>

NAMTA offers many pages of information about the Montessori response to each stage of child development. The information is clearly written and there are references for further investigation.

The American Montessori Society

<http://www.amshq.org/>

The American Montessori Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Their website offers a number of pages and publications for parents:

- Biography of Maria Montessori: <http://www.amshq.org/montessori.htm>
- Maria Montessori quotes on various topics relating to her teaching methods and child development: http://www.amshq.org/montessori_quotes.htm

Association Montessori International/USA

<http://www.amiusa.org/>

AMI/USA is the parent organization started by Maria Montessori and her son, Mario, to set standards for authentic Montessori schools.

- The Montessori Approach:
- A Comparison Between Montessori and Traditional Methods:
<http://www.amiusa.org/images/ami-usa%20montessori%20vs.%20mainstream.pdf>

Montessori Videos on YouTube

Ericedvid2: Eric is a videographer from Cincinnati, Ohio who has produced a number of Montessori instructional videos that are helpful for parents desiring to educate themselves about the Montessori Method.

- <http://www.youtube.com/user/ericedvid2> (Eric's Channel)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM1Gu9KXVkk> (Montessori in the Early Years)
- <http://www.youtube.com/user/ericedvid2#p/a/FB81B46845AB1919/2/RTpAILazPnM> (Montessori Elementary)

The Montessori Foundation and International Montessori Council

<http://www.montessori.org/>

This organization's website offers information and articles for parents and teachers. Of particular interest for new parents is the following:

- Bringing Montessori Home: <http://www.montessori.org/story.php?id=271>