



## INTRODUCTION TO THE MONTESSORI MODEL OF EDUCATION

*“Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which the child engages and try to understand them”*

*-Maria Montessori*

Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician, observed that children possess an intrinsic need to explore and learn about the world and a natural propensity to absorb knowledge and information provided them.

Montessori philosophy is based on a deep respect for the individual child. A Montessori classroom environment is specifically designed for specific multi-aged groups. The child has access to a variety of materials, equipment, activities and furniture to his/her age, interest and ability. Central to the environment is the trained teacher, who assists the child in the unfolding of his/her individual personality.

A Montessori program achieves a balance between a child’s needs for freedom of movement and social interaction, and her/his equally compelling needs for order, independence, concentration, and challenge. Qualified, caring adults guide a child to moments of discovery that give her/him great joy, and a sense of dignity as an independent human being. Children learn to think for themselves, collaborate with others, and become actively involved in their own education. Children then take ownership of their knowledge, have confidence in their opinions, and are better prepared to face the challenges ahead.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the Montessori process is that abstractions are not taught directly; instead the necessary components are provided so that the children can make their own abstractions. This means that the children arrive at abstraction through their own creative thought developed during their struggle to understand. Children can achieve this by manipulating concrete manipulatives (Montessori materials) that are arranged sequentially on shelves. These manipulatives are self-correcting and provide maximum potential for success.

Montessori Peaks Academy is a Public School and participates in all State and Federal mandates surrounding student achievement. MPA utilizes Jefferson County Embedded Assessments, CSAP testing and Content Standards while maintaining the Montessori curriculum.

*“The adult works to improve his environment while the child works to improve himself.”*

*-Maria Montessori*

For more information on student testing consult the student handbook.

