



## Welcome to...

*Learning the right answers will get you through school.  
Learning how to learn will get you through life!*

Avon Montessori Academy teaches students to think, not simply to memorize, give feedback, and forget.

The basis of AMA's approach is the simple observation that children learn most effectively through direct personal experience and the process of investigation and discovery. No two students learn at the same pace, nor do they necessarily learn best from the same methods. Our goal is to be flexible and creative in addressing each student as a unique individual.

We recognize that before students can take advantage of a challenging education, they have to discover their innate abilities. They need to develop a strong sense of independence and self-discipline. They must be willing to make countless mistakes and learn from them. This suggests an education of the heart as much as an education of the mind, and speaks to AMA's core mission of whole-child development.

Avon Montessori Academy truly is a school where children blossom! We seek to inspire a passion for excellence and to nurture curiosity, creativity, and imagination. Our goal is both to give students a wonderful education and to prepare them as lifelong learners.

Students who spend three years in any Montessori classroom are instilled with tools to search out and accept challenging academics and experiences. Because of the classroom community experience, they've been nurtured to display dignity and compassion for others. Beginning with the habit of community service instilled during their years at AMA, our graduates build a legacy of kindness and wonderful contributions to the world.

We know that this goes beyond the scope of traditional education, but then, Avon Montessori Academy goes above and beyond a traditional school.

We've created a learning space that invites children to feel at home and where teachers are treated with respect and admiration. The teachers at Avon Montessori (also called Guides, Facilitators, or Directresses in the Montessori community) truly make the school what it is. They are caring, educated professionals who hold a deep respect for children and enjoy their time with them.

The following twelve characteristics possessed by Montessori teachers - displaying fairness, having a positive outlook, being prepared, using a personal touch, possessing a sense of humor, possessing creativity, admitting mistakes, being forgiving, respecting students, maintaining high expectations, showing compassion, and developing a sense of belonging for students – center around the theme of caring. Montessori teachers get to know their students well, as they are oftentimes together for multiple years.

Our faculty deeply believes in the human potential. We treat even our youngest child with respect as a full and complete individual. Our task as a school community is to help each student discover and develop the unique talents and possibilities that are his/her birthright.

Montessori Education is a precious gift that families give their children. During childhood, life is spent experiencing different situations socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually, and cognitively. Most children, when offered an appropriate, aesthetically pleasing, respectful environment within which to discover themselves, will grow their skills in all areas and the whole child will emerge.

Avon Montessori Academy was founded on three principles:

- Every child will feel safe, secure, and loved in the classroom so that learning can progress without distraction;
- Our team of educators act with respect, compassion, integrity, and heart as they chart their course by what is best for the child;
- And our teaching methodology is authentically Montessori.

We are nonsectarian and co-educational, and have been so from the day we were founded. Our international student body represents many different countries and nearly every ethnic group and major world religion. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin in the consideration of new applications or in the daily life of the school.

This packet is intended to give you an initial sense of who we are as a school. Hopefully, we have kindled your interest and stirred up a few thoughts about your child's educational future.

We welcome the opportunity to meet and share with you our amazing school. We know we have something very special here!



# Admissions

No school can be all things to all families, nor can it be right for every child. The goal of our admissions process is to ensure a good match between your family's values and objectives for your children and those of our school.

Avon Montessori Academy is a school community that holds values both different and rare in today's traditional educational landscape. We seek families with similar goals who are excited to find a school that reflects their values, philosophy, and parenting approach. We work closely with parents so as to become an extension of the child's home life.

We invite you to visit and see our classrooms in action – this really is the best way to understand the Montessori approach and AMA's mission. Just call our office, and we will happily find a time that works with your schedule. You will be invited to peek in on our classrooms in action ... all children are busy working on different activities at the same time. This is not your typical preschool, nursery school, daycare, or Elementary. Montessori stands alone on the educational spectrum.

Once an application is received in our office with a \$100 application fee, we will invite you to get to know us even better. If your child is a toddler, we will schedule a one-on-one meeting with our Head Toddler Teacher. She will provide you with detailed information about our toddler curriculum and daily activities, happily answering any questions you might have as she learns more about your family and child. If your child is applying to join our Children's House or Elementary classrooms, we schedule a Student Visit. This is an opportunity to introduce your child to AMA and to the classroom. Prior to acceptance, students spend a morning or two at the school as part of this admissions process. When your child comes for a Student Visit, we ask that you provide any required documents needed for their visit.

We receive most applications for the upcoming school year between November and May. Late applications and mid-year admissions are considered as space is available. We consider each application as it is received and develop a Waiting List when all spaces have been filled for the current academic school year. Avon Montessori Academy admits students without regard to race, sex, age, color, religion, national or ethnic origin or handicap. Any scholarships are also administered on a non-discriminatory basis.

## Application Process:

- AMA Information Packet is emailed to the family.
- Tour with the Head of School or Office Manager for: Meet-n-Greet Discussion, School Tour, and Classroom Observation.
- Hand in Application with \$100 non-refundable application fee. This may be mailed to: 37701-C Colorado Avenue, Avon, OH 44011.
- Once we receive your child's Application, our Office Manager will contact you to arrange a Parent Meeting (Toddler) or Student Visit (Children's House and Elementary).
- Before you bring your child to a Student Visit or come to the Parent Meeting, please fill out the Authorization of Release of Records Form and give it to your current school, nanny, or non-immediate family member. Kindly ask them to fill out our New Student Form to be mailed to AMA. Students participating in a Visit may be asked to come back for a second day of observation and interaction.
- Await a Letter of Acceptance into the program. Please know that if your child is not accepted, you will receive a letter of explanation.
- At the time of acceptance, complete AMA's Enrollment Agreement and turn it in to the office with a \$300 security deposit (nonrefundable, but deducted from tuition) and any applicable fees.
- We are thrilled you are a part of our school community! Await an email detailing FACTS enrollment and a Welcome Folder.



# Learning How to Learn

Young children are naturally curious and want to work with everything they can get their hands on. They absorb concepts and skills from their surroundings and peers through a natural curiosity. Provide them with a challenging atmosphere and intriguing learning materials, and children will spontaneously investigate what they are and how they work. Learning can and should be as natural as breathing!

Students of every age level learn best through hands-on experience, not simply by listening to their teachers' explanations. They need opportunities to learn by trial, error, and discovery. They need time to practice and apply new skills and knowledge. They need to be carefully coached.

Rather than present students with an abundance of right answers, we ask the right questions. Beginning with the very youngest child, we help our students discover the answers for themselves. Learning becomes its own reward, and each success fuels the desire to discover more. We encourage students to do their own research, analyze what they have found, and come to their own conclusions. Our goal is to lead students to think for themselves and become actively engaged in the learning process.

*If they knew the words, even very young children would request: "Help me learn to do it myself!" As we allow students to develop a meaningful degree of independence and self-discipline, we also set a pattern for a lifetime of good work habits and a sense of responsibility. Our students take pride in doing things for themselves--carefully and well.*

At Avon Montessori Academy, students learn not to be afraid of making mistakes. They quickly find that they can try again without fear of embarrassment or failure. We help students set increasingly high goals for themselves so that they can take pride in the quality of their own growing skills and knowledge. We want them working right up to the very limit of their abilities.

*Success in school is directly tied to the degree that children believe in themselves as capable and independent human beings.*

This independence does not come naturally, it must be learned. At AMA, even very small children can learn how to tie their own shoes and pour their own water. At first, shoe laces turn into knots and water ends up on the floor. However, with practice, skills are mastered and the young child beams with pride. To experience this kind of success at such an early age builds self-image as a successful person, and leads children to approach new and next tasks with confidence.

An important aspect of independence is having appropriate interdependence and citizenship. Grace and courtesy are vital everyday living skills that children need to be successful. Young people do not automatically understand and accept that we all have responsibilities to other people. They learn how to handle the new situations that they will face as they become increasingly independent. Most importantly, they need to develop a social conscience and a clear sense of values.

We consciously teach our students age-appropriate ethics, interpersonal skills, and global citizenship. Even the youngest child is treated with dignity and respect. As a close-knit community, students at Avon Montessori Academy grow up in an atmosphere of warmth, safety, and mutual trust.

Children at AMA consistently observe the adults working courteously with one another. As a result, they have a natural tendency to do the same. They quickly learn that they may not interfere with someone else's work unless asked to join. They learn to walk through the room calmly, to speak politely to friends, and to clean up after themselves. While they may work alone or with friends, they may not disturb others.

As they grow, our students learn to accept more responsibility and handle themselves in a wide variety of situations. Learning how to live and work together with others in a peaceful and caring community is, to us, the most critical life skill that we pass on to your child.



# Education is a Partnership

The heart of any good school is the team working within its walls. Each teacher at AMA has been chosen with great care. Our teachers radiate warmth, professional insight, skill, and dedication. They share a common philosophy and approach that makes our school very consistent in practice.

Each of our classrooms is led by a Montessori certified teacher. Associate teachers are chosen because of special talents and qualities that enhance the educational program. All teachers continue their professional growth through ongoing studies, professional development opportunities, and educational symposia.

Frequently, parents at other schools don't feel welcome and comfortable in their child's classroom. We strongly encourage our families to feel at home. Because we believe the parent-school partnership is an essential ingredient in your child's success and positive self-image, we work closely with our families through parent-teacher conferences, formal progress reports, newsletters, parent education nights, and ongoing phone and email conversation. We also foster a strong spirit of community through monthly community meetings through our parent group, parent workshops, and numerous family events at the school. Because we get to know our students so well, we can carefully monitor and evaluate their academic progress within the broader context of their unique talents and personalities.

Avon Montessori supports two-career families by offering Before and After School Care. These programs run from 7:30am until school starts and from the end of the school day until 5:30 pm. Our Before and After School program is facilitated by members of our team that are carefully selected for their kindness, caring, and patience. Although the program is an extension of our Montessori program, it also includes sports, games, arts and crafts, cooking, and outdoor play.

## *Safety*

At all times during the school day, and at every level, there are staff members who are first aid and CPR trained. We follow a positive program of safety, health education, and close supervision. As a result, we have maintained an impeccable safety record.

The doors to both our school and classrooms are locked at all times. Parents receive key fobs that permit access to our front lobby only during the days and hours their child is here with us at AMA. We conduct routine safety and fire drills, ensuring both the emotional and physical well-being of every child in our care.



## An Environment for Learning

Surroundings have a great deal to do with the creation of an atmosphere of learning. Our classrooms are second homes for our students – and we strive to make them as warm, welcoming, and attractive as possible. AMA classrooms tend to fascinate both children and their parents. They are bright, warm, and inviting, filled with plants, animals, art, music, and books. There are interest centers filled with intriguing learning materials, fascinating mathematical models, maps, charts, fossils, historical artifacts, scientific apparatus, a small natural-science “museum” and animals that the children are caring for.

A Montessori classroom is commonly referred to as a *prepared environment*. This name reflects the care and attention that is given to creating a learning environment that will reinforce the children’s independence and intellectual development.

You will not find rows of desks in our classrooms. The rooms are set up to facilitate student discussion and stimulate collaborative learning. One glance and it is clear that our children feel comfortable and safe. Students will typically be found scattered throughout the classroom, working alone or in small groups. They tend to be involved in their work, and visitors are immediately struck by a sense of calm peace.

It may take a moment to spot the teacher within the environment. Oftentimes they are found working with one or two children at a time, advising, presenting a new lesson, or quietly observing the class at work.

Our Outdoor Classroom is a big component of our special learning environment. Here, at AMA, the child's participation in the Outdoor Classroom as caretaker of the environment is an essential philosophy when educating the whole child. Throughout the school year, children are introduced to various engaging activities involving the planting, growth, and care of plants. In the Outdoor Classroom, children plant, water, weed, and hoe gardens. They maintain compost piles and worm gardens. By sweeping paths, washing windows and chalkboards, and filling birdfeeders, children work together to maintain a tranquil, outdoor environment. We believe a life-long connection and bond is created between child and nature (his surrounding environment) when given the uninhibited opportunity to learn and care for plants and animals.



## Developing a Lifelong Love of Language and Literature

The process of learning how to read should be as painless and simple as learning how to speak.

We begin by placing our three-year-old students in classes in which the older students are already reading. All children “want to do what the big kids do”, and as the intriguing work that absorbs the older students involves reading, there is a natural allure for the young child.

The process of learning to read and write at AMA comes naturally and begins with the child’s first signs of interest. She begins by learning the phonetic sounds of the lower case alphabet, using his/her growing knowledge to read and write increasingly complex words and sentences. Mastery of basic skills normally develops so smoothly that students tend to exhibit a sudden “explosion into reading”, which leaves our young students, not to mention their families, beaming with pride. Once our young students have made their first breakthroughs into reading, they tend to proceed rapidly.

At AMA, there is typically a quick jump from reading and writing single words to reading and writing sentences and stories. At this point, we begin a systematic study of the English language: vocabulary, spelling rules, and linguistics.

We begin to teach the functions of grammar and sentence structure to students as young as Kindergarten, just as they are first learning how to put words together to express themselves. This leads them to master these vital skills during a time in their lives when it is a delight, rather than a chore. Before long, they learn to write naturally and well.

Elementary students focus on the development of research and composition skills. Students write every day, learning to organize increasingly complex ideas and information into well-written stories, poems, reports, plays, and student publications.

An additional key to our language arts curriculum is the quality of the things we give our children to read. From an early age, children are given unrivaled children’s books and fascinating works on science, history, geography, and the arts. Literary studies continue every year thereafter.



# Developing a Mathematical Mind

In Montessori, we use hands-on learning materials that make abstract math concepts perfectly clear. Students can literally see and feel what is going on. Our approach to teaching Mathematics is based on the research of Dr. Maria Montessori and Jean Piaget. It offers a clear and logical strategy for helping students both understand and develop a sound foundation in mathematics and geometry.

Consider the very basis of Mathematics: the decimal system; units, tens, hundreds, and thousands. Since quantities larger than twenty rarely have any meaning to a young child, Dr. Montessori reasoned that we should present this abstract concept graphically. Children cannot normally conceive the size of a hundred, thousand or million; much less the idea that a thousand is equal to ten hundreds or one hundred tens.

Dr. Montessori overcame this obstacle by developing a concrete representation of the decimal system. Units are represented by single one centimeter beads; a unit of ten is made up of a bar of ten beads strung together; hundreds are squares made up of ten ten-bars; and thousands are cubes made up of ten hundred-squares. Together, they form a visual, muscular, and cognitive impression of numerical quantities and mathematical operations using a concrete approach to teaching math. Very young children can form large numbers. "Please bring me three thousands, five hundreds, six tens and one unit." From this foundation, all the operations in Mathematics become clear and concrete, allowing the child to internalize a clear image of how the process works.

Montessori mathematics climbs in sophistication as the child progresses. It includes a careful study of the practical application of mathematics in everyday life, such as measurement, handling finances, making economic comparisons, and gathering data and statistical analyses.

Practical economics is another important element in our curriculum. One of our early lessons is how to use money and calculate change in a store. Students learn to recognize the value of a dollar: how long it takes to earn it and what it can buy. As they grow, students learn how to compute the cost of a meal for their family, plan a weekly budget, maintain a checkbook, invest in the financial markets, and understand how to use credit wisely.



# History and Geography Come Alive!

We are all members of the human family. Our roots lie in the distant past, and history is the story of our common heritage. Without a strong sense of history, we cannot begin to know who we are as individuals today. We instill in our students a global perspective. The study of history and world cultures forms the cornerstone of that process.

With this goal in mind, we teach history and world cultures from age three through graduation. Our youngest students work with specially designed maps and begin to learn the names of the world's continents and countries. Physical geography begins in the first grade with a study of the formation of the Earth, the emergence of the oceans and atmosphere, and the evolution of life. Students learn about the world's rivers, lakes, deserts, mountain ranges, and natural resources.

International studies continue through all classrooms. Our curriculum integrates art, music, dance, cooking, geography, literature, and science. The children learn to prepare and enjoy foods from all over the world. They learn the traditional folk songs and dances in music. Students explore traditional folk crafts in art. Language Arts studies include the reading of traditional folk tales, and the research and preparation of reports about the countries that are being studied.

In our Elementary classroom, older students begin to study world cultures in greater depth: the customs, housing, diet, government, industry, the arts, history, and dress. Keep in mind that our students go to school and grow up with children from diverse cultural backgrounds. They learn to treasure the richness of their own cultural heritage and those of their friends. We aim to present a sense of living history at every level through direct hands-on experience.



## *2020-2021 Program Overview*

### Toddler (18 months through 3)

- 2-Day Program (Thursday-Friday)
- 3-Day Program (Monday-Wednesday)
- 5-Day Program (Monday-Friday)
  
- Half Day (8:30am – 11:30am) OR
- Full Day (8:30am – 3:15pm)

### Children's House (2 ½ through Kindergarten)

- 5-Day Program (Monday-Friday)
  
- Half Day (8:15am – 11:55pm) OR
- Full Day (8:15am – 3:30pm)

### Elementary (1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- Full Day (8:00am – 3:30pm)

### Lunch Buddies

- 12:00pm – 12:30pm

### Before Care

- 7:30am to Class Start Time

### After Care

- Class End Time to 5:30pm

## *2020-2021 Pricing Overview*

		<i>Tuition After Security Deposit</i>	<i>12-Month Payment</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Toddler Program – Half Day, 5 day (Mon – Fri)		\$6,200	\$516.67
<input type="checkbox"/> Toddler Program – Full Day, 5 day (Mon – Fri)		\$8,200	\$683.33
<input type="checkbox"/> Toddler Program – Half Day, 3 day (Mon – Wed)	<input type="checkbox"/> (3 Day Full Day=\$7,300)	\$5,300	\$441.67
<input type="checkbox"/> Toddler Program – Half Day, 2 day (Thu – Fri)	<input type="checkbox"/> (2 Day Full Day=\$5,500)	\$4,200	\$350.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's House (Ages 2.5-5, Half Day Mon – Fri)		\$6,400	\$533.33
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's House (Ages 2.5-K, Full Day Mon – Fri)		\$8,500	\$708.33
<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (Grades 1-6)		\$7,800	\$650.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch Buddies		\$1,500	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Before/After School (7:30 – class & class – 5:30 p.m.)	(\$8.03/hr. equivalent)	\$3,600	\$300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Before School Only: 7:30 to a.m. class	(\$10.63/hr. equivalent)	\$1,300	\$108.33
<input type="checkbox"/> After School Only: class to 5:30 p.m.	(\$8.59/hr. equivalent)	\$2,800	\$233.33

### Available Discounts:

- Children's House Third or Fourth Year discount – 10% off your Children's House tuition!
- Family discount – 10% off your 2<sup>nd</sup> child, 20% off your 3<sup>rd</sup> child, 30% off your 4<sup>th</sup> child!

## *Please Visit Us!*

We love to welcome families into our school! One of the best ways to learn more about Montessori and what AMA is all about is to see us in action. Please consider booking a tour where you can sit down with us one-on-one, learn more about the Montessori approach, have all your questions answered, and peek into our amazing classrooms. Call us at 440-934-1774 or send us an email at AvonMontessoriOffice@gmail.com. We are looking forward to welcoming you to Avon Montessori!