

The Old Town Montessori School

115 South Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
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(703) 684-7323

Dear Parents,

We are happy to respond to your inquiry about *The Old Town Montessori School*. Enclosed with our cover letter is a brochure, *What Is Montessori?*, which outlines our educational philosophy and will give you insight into the kinds of activities in which our children are involved, an insert with typical questions and answers about Montessori approach to learning, a comparison of Montessori and traditional education, an application for enrollment and the current tuition schedule.

Dr. Maria Montessori believed that children at age 3 were ready to explore an environment wider than the home. These early years, when children develop so rapidly, can be aided by an environment rich in practical life and sensorial activities, an environment that promotes independence and self confidence, and helps the child continue his acquisition of language and understanding of numbers.

Old Town Montessori School provides just such an environment. It began operation in September 1987 and has two classes of children from ages 3 to 6. Classes are held in the educational building of Washington Street United Methodist Church. The school is under the sponsorship of The Aquinas Montessori School in Mount Vernon, and follows the same procedures and strives for the same excellence as The Aquinas School, which began in 1965 and has been operating successfully since then. The Aquinas School continues the development of the child through the elementary years. All principal Montessori teachers hold an AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) diploma in addition to their undergraduate or graduate degrees, and have completed a year of studies enabling them to understand the needs of children of this age, and to present effectively the programmed self-correcting materials that Montessori designed.

The school year is from September to June, following, in general, the calendar for the Fairfax County Public Schools. Morning arrival begins at 8:30 AM, Monday through Friday. Children in the half-day primary classes are dismissed at noon. Children in the full-day primary classes remain for lunch and an afternoon session until 3:00 PM. Before-school care is available from 7:30 AM.

The Aquinas School also operates a Montessori summer day camp program for children, 3 to 9 years, during June and July.

We hope this information will be helpful. Please call (703) 684-7323 for an appointment. We shall arrange to meet with you and offer any further information you might need to understand the Montessori school experience for your child. You may also call The Aquinas School (703) 780-8484 for information and an appointment with a staff member.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen H. Futrell
Director