

Benefits of a Montessori Education

Independent Learners

At Camino the child is able to choose his or her own work, direct their own progress, complete the work on their own timetable, and seek help from other children and adults when they need it. The student planner and weekly conference facilitates the independent learning process.

Confidence & Competence

At Camino each child is taught a system to manage their work with a clear sense of purpose and organization. Through observation, reflection, and discussion they receive ongoing feedback, much of which is constructive and positive, building self esteem and the ability to self correct.

Autonomy

Through daily living and working in a collaborative approach to learning the child finds community membership can be both personally satisfying and socially rewarding. There are ample opportunities for inclusion in the work of others as well as appreciation for the freedom to create and control one's own work.

Intrinsic Motivation

Strong emphasis on independent learning creates intrinsic motivation. The child engages in continuous study and exhibits satisfaction in the process. Children achieve levels of competence and often revel in their mastery by showing others.

Adept at Handling Guidance & Authority

Rapport and relationships that grow over the three year cycle enable the child to accept the "ground rules" of the group. The child recognizes the appropriate way in which to comport himself/herself with other children and the classroom adults.

Socially Responsible

Camino's community based approach to learning integrates the independent and autonomous aspects of learning with group study. This solicits collaboration and cooperation. Our mixed age community creates conditions that foster individual differences as strengths, and promotes groupings of various abilities. These ongoing experiences develop social skills as a response to conditions, rather than through direct teaching intervention.

Academic Preparation

Camino implements a well-developed, clearly-defined interdisciplinary curriculum which knows, understands, and responds to the needs of each child in a developmentally appropriate way. Highly structured, (each child has a personalized "lesson plan" daily), it is the very structure of each environment at Camino that allows for the intellectual freedom and exploration which characterizes the Montessori

classroom. Camino encourages its students to work in small groups, to read from a variety of books in the library, to keep journals, and to learn scientific and mathematical concepts by solving concrete problems. The Montessori approach has a breadth of content that ensures the child has the richness of scope and understanding to interrelate and apply knowledge. Specially designed, concrete materials constantly engage the children in their own learning, allowing each to learn – and to understand – by doing.



“Citizens of the World”

A well-rounded citizen must not only have an intelligent understanding, but also a sense of social responsibility and strong moral character. In an authentic Montessori approach, intelligent understanding comes through the study of civics content, and through the perspective of history. The roots of culture emerge in the study of civilizations and the child begins to grasp the significance and interrelatedness of human achievements over time. An appreciation of humanity is awakened through knowledge of human history. As the child recognizes the essential elements of culture and then acquires these characteristics, the child simultaneously learns how an individual’s actions affect others, a key element in socialization. Character development is integrated into the Montessori learning process. Moral development is about both the self and the connection of one’s actions and healthy relations with others. A strong moral character grows from the self discipline and civility necessary to be a participant in the Montessori classroom community. Although the modern definition of civility refers to politeness and courtesy, the root Latin *civilitas*, was a term denoting the state of being a citizen and hence good citizenship or orderly behavior. This is our expectation for civility in the Montessori classroom and school environment. Through a holistic approach that develops the intellectual, social and moral character of the child, the Montessori education method *prepares the child for life*.