Coulee Montessori

A Charter School of the La Crosse School District
CM Introduction Video
Montessori Pedagogy: Philosophy

- Education of the “whole child”
- Maria Montessori was an advocate for human rights.
- Maria Montessori developed her comprehensive philosophy of childhood development working with orphans and children with special needs in Rome.
Montessori Pedagogy: Philosophy

- **Sensitive Periods** - focused energy on one skill

- **Planes of Development**
  - Four periods in a child's growth and development where youth are drawn to different skills and activities, and can make great progress with exploration and practice.
Montessori Pedagogy: Planes of Development

- **First Plane: Birth – Age 6**
  - The absorbent mind, when young children are capable of taking in large amounts of information through their senses
  - Children's House: Ages 4-6 (traditional grades Pre-K and Kindergarten)

- **Second Plane: Ages 6 – 12**
  - Interest in community and culture
  - Sensitive period for the imagination
  - Accelerated intellectual growth and in-depth studies
  - Elementary I – Ages 6-9 (traditional grades 1st, 2nd, 3rd)
  - Elementary II – Ages 9-11 (traditional grades 4th and 5th)
Montessori Pedagogy: Planes of Development

- Third Plane: Ages 12 – 18
  - During the third plane of development, students collaborate and organize ongoing projects that allow them to make contributions to the outside community, applying the real-life skills acquired through the earlier Montessori years
  - Adolescent Program – Ages 12-14 (traditional grades 6th-8th)

- (Fourth Plane: Ages 18 – 24)
Montessori Pedagogy: The Teacher’s Role

- Observer
  - Follow the child

- Respect for each child
  - Honor the whole child
  - Match learners with materials that will inspire concentrated activity

- “The main connecting link between the material (objects) and the child.”
Montessori Pedagogy: The Prepared Environment

• The teacher creates and maintains a child-centered environment that reflects beauty, simplicity, and order.

• Provides materials and activities that facilitate children's learning.

• Learning materials are ready and available for daily use.
Montessori Pedagogy at CM: What Does It Look Like?

- Multi-age classrooms
  - Build community
  - Peer learning
- Grace and courtesy lessons
- Peace education
- Time management and self-regulation
- Students earn freedom as they show responsibility
Montessori Pedagogy at CM: What Does It Look Like?

- Five Great Lessons
- Six day curriculum cycle. Different core subject each day:
  - Language, geography, geometry, culture, math, science
- 1:1 lessons in Children’s House
- Small group lessons in E1 and E2
- By the end of 8th grade, students will have received instruction in all Common Core subjects