



# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL K-5 MONTESSORI



“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn.”

- Maria Montessori

Black River's elementary K-5 Montessori program lays the foundation for academic success in middle school, high school, college and beyond.

## Kindergarten - A Major Milestone

A Montessori kindergarten classroom looks quite different from a traditional kindergarten classroom. Montessori students have choices allowing them to control the direction and pace of their learning. While Montessori students still have skills they are required to master, the means by which they master those skills is self-directed. Students thrive in this environment.

## MAJOR AREAS OF LEARNING

### Montessori Kindergarteners Strive Toward Physical Independence

- **Practical Life** - Lessons to develop coordination and concentration
- **Sensorial Materials** - Students develop and refine the five senses
- **Pre-Reading Strategies** - Reading begins before they open the book
- **Language Development** - We curate an environment rich and full of language learning opportunities for the absorbent mind
- **Mathematics** - Montessori math materials are nothing short of amazing with hands-on lessons teaching through a natural progression
- **Cultural** - Students are introduced to the world that surrounds them - includes history, biology, geography, and physical science
- **Grace and Courtesy** - Lessons designed to help students interact with one another politely with kindness and confidence

# WELCOME! #BRBOUND

## Elementary - Multi-aged Classrooms to Honor Student Growth and Development

We believe students deserve a developmental approach that **engages and challenges** them as they are ready. Children learn and grow at varied times and rates, therefore there are great advantages to a more flexible, multiage classroom environment:

- **Lower Elementary classrooms include students in grades 1-3**
- **Upper Elementary classrooms include students in grades 4-5**

## MAJOR AREAS OF LEARNING

### Montessori Elementary Students Strive for Mental Independence

- **Practical Life** - Students learn the skills of everyday life
- **Multi-genre Reading/Writing** - See how stories intertwine and blend
- **Vocabulary Knowledge** - Improves all areas of communication
- **Research Skills** - Students work through the solving process from A to Z, including searching, finding, collecting, breaking down, and evaluating the relevant information
- **Computer and Technology Skills** - Students utilize technology-based activities and programs to enrich learning
- **Mathematics** - Montessori math materials help students approach math with hands-on, visual, and physical learning aids
- **Cultural** - Students wonder in the physical world that surrounds them with lessons in history, biology, geography, and physical science
- **Collaborative Learning** - Montessori classrooms are a cooperative learning environment, not a competitive environment
- **Grace and Courtesy** - Key lessons on modeling peace, learning how to act in social situations, and showing respect and dignity for our fellow classmates

Black River's non-traditional classrooms are well thought out and prepared for learning. Open spaces and circular tables promote independence and student collaboration. The environment is carefully and purposefully arranged to create a comfortable learning atmosphere.



“Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.”

- Maria Montessori

### **Our Students Hop, Skip, and Jump through the School Hallway**

One way we integrate movement into our curriculum at Black River Montessori Elementary is through a sensory path that is located in the hallway. Here students can practice a number of different motor skills (frog jumps, tiptoes, and crossing the midline) while increasing their heart rate and having fun while doing it. This is a great opportunity for students to take a break and get the blood and oxygen flowing to their brains, so they can return to the classroom ready to learn.

### **Mentoring in the Black River Montessori Classroom**

Our multi-age classrooms allow Montessori teachers to choose and foster mentor/mentee relationships within the classroom. Mentoring takes on many forms as older students serve as leaders, not only academically but socially. Mentees learn a great deal by simply observing their older peers. They naturally feel compelled to practice and achieve mastery over tasks, so someday they can do the work to be a mentor. It is a wonderful dynamic that promotes a healthy, balanced classroom.



Our Montessori teachers use many different forms of skill assessments which fit into two main categories:

#### **Formative and Summative**

See below for an explanation of how we use both.

Formative assessments happen during the learning process in order to modify teaching and learning activities to improve student attainment.

Summative assessments are more like a traditional test at the end of a unit, or a standardized test. Black River is a public school and is mandated to assess the students with a universal screener and adhere to the state testing requirements. Universal screening is a critical first step in identifying students who are at risk for experiencing learning difficulties and who might need additional instruction and support.



### **Montessori Home Visits - Build Relationships**

A Montessori school year starts with a home visit for our new students. This visit is essentially a playdate for your student and their teacher. Home visits are not mandatory but a wonderful opportunity for your student to meet their teacher in their own space. Studies have shown that children who have a home visit prior to the start of the school year have less separation anxiety and more confidence. We hope you take advantage of this special time.



### **Project Term - Project-based Learning**

Project Term is a campus-wide month of experiential education for upper elementary and a two week period for lower elementary students. Through field trips and hands-on activities, students gain educational experiences that are difficult to provide in a more traditional setting. Lower Elementary students can choose from over twenty courses from Mythological Odyssey to Helping Hands! Upper elementary students enjoy a larger selection. See the full course catalog on the Black River website.