**THE EIGHT KEY PRINCIPLES OF MONTESSORI EDUCATION**

**Movement and Cognition**

Movement has a large impact on a child’s learning and cognition. Movement is interconnected with the higher functions of mental development. The allowance for movement is structured into each Montessori classroom. Items are placed to be accessible to even the youngest of students, so all children can freely move around the room and be independent.

**Choice**

Montessori students freely choose their work and work at it for as long as they are inspired to. When they are ready, they are free to move onto any other area of focus that is of interest.  Also, providing choices generates intrinsic motivation and engagement with materials.

**Interest**

Montessori education is designed to help children discover what interests them most and to give them the freedom to learn about those things in-depth. Teachers note students’ interest and facilitate projects and research to allow further study. Studying subjects such as math, language, science and history in relation to things the students are passionate about, further deepens their love of learning.

**Intrinsic Rewards**

Students are encouraged to study based on intrinsic motivation, rather than on extrinsic motivators such as grades. Extrinsic motivators may work in the moment, but rarely have a lasting impact.  Instead the impact is fleeting: children may act accordingly at the time, but the change is not long term.  Rather, Montessori education encourages intrinsic motivators for the ultimate benefit and development of the child.  Our teachers give genuine feedback that encourages self-reflection rather than empty praise.  We also encourage independent thinking and self-direction which leads to our ultimate goal: a confident child who loves to learn.

**Connecting and Working with Others**

Multi-age Montessori classrooms offer many benefits of leadership and mentorship.  Also, younger students are able to observe older children’s work.  This creates anticipation and excitement!

Older students are the ultimate role models, as they are the “seasoned” students in the classroom.  They have opportunities to teach and mentor younger children, which builds confidence and patience.  Also, teaching allows the older children to deepen their understanding as they present materials to younger students.

**Contextual Learning**

Children learn to think and discover on their own. Montessori materials are created to allow students to master each concept and build on their success to aid them in developing their critical thinking process. Once students successfully master a material, the pride of their accomplishment and their deeper understanding of the subject matter motivates them to continue their learning.

**Adult Interaction**

Maria Montessori believed the teacher is link between the child and the materials, but are not the focus of the classroom.  Our trained teachers recognize when assistance is needed and are careful to not intervene when unnecessary.  Elementary students often work on detailed projects at school and in the community that allow them to work side-by-side with adults, developing their sense of capability, responsibility and connection in our world.

**Order in the Environment**

 Montessori classrooms https://d.docs.live.net/3f9a684b38a1069a/Documents/Reading%20material%20MTT%205.docx are calm and orderly.  Everything is in its place, and children are often engrossed in their learning. The environment is arranged in a way that maximally facilitates learning. Students benefit from the order and predictability of the Montessori classroom which helps ease anxiety, build independence, and enhance a joyful love of learning.

Because Montessori encourages students to explore subjects, concentrating on the subjects and styles of learning that best suit their individual needs, every child can grow their love of learning .

