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# General Information

## School History

Montessori International School was founded in 1982 in Gilbert. MIS originally opened as a primary school out on McQueen Road and Baseline. However, the school quickly outgrew this address. In 1983, the school was extended to the Gilbert Road address where two primary classes are currently housed. In 1984 MIS expanded further to include the Brown Road campus, where one primary and the elementary classes are now located. We added the toddler program across the street from the Brown Road campus in 2003.

Montessori International School has grown from its first primary class to one toddler community (ages 16 months to 2 1/2 years), four primary (ages 2 1/2 to 6 years) classes, one lower elementary (ages 6 to 9) class, and one upper elementary (ages 10 to 15) class at present. Thousands of children have grown and developed through MIS's programs, and many now contribute as adults in the community.

MIS currently inhabits the two campuses in Mesa located on Gilbert Road and Brown Road as well as the toddler community next to the Brown Road campus. In addition, we have a campus in Gilbert on S. Gilbert Road. We are delighted to bring these facilities to life each day with the personalities of our staff, our students and the many others that combine to make up the Montessori International School community.

## Doctor Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori (1870 - 1952) had an educational background based in scientific study. She received a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1896 — the first female in Italy to achieve this status. Dr. Montessori's early work focused on the children of the asylums in Rome. Through this work, Dr. Montessori, unlike others working with children in the asylums, recognized the children's capacity for learning.

Because of her success with the children in the asylums, Dr. Montessori was appointed by the Minister of Education in Rome to run a school for "deficient" children from the schools of Rome and mentally disabled children from Rome's asylums. Dr. Montessori utilized the scientific method in order to develop the means for teaching these children. She spent much of her time during each day observing the characteristics of the children. At night, she would write out her notes, analyze them, and make materials for use in her classroom. The following day she would test these new materials at the school. Again she would use her skills of observation to decipher which materials and which lessons appealed to the nature of the children. The children in Dr. Montessori's first school, despite their disabilities, tested at the same academic level as the children in the traditional schools of Rome.

Rather than simply relishing the success of her students, Dr. Montessori wondered what was lacking in Rome's schools that would allow children of less ability to test at the same level as the more intellectually gifted children from the city's schools. It wasn't until 1906 that she would have the opportunity to find the answer to this question. In the early 1900's there existed in Rome a slum district known as the San Lorenzo quarter. Two buildings housed the poorest class in Rome. It was in this environment that Dr. Montessori made the discovery that would direct her life's work.

During the day, the adults living at San Lorenzo would go off to work, the older children would go to school, and the younger children would be left alone to fend for themselves. These young children, between the ages of 3 and 6 years, began to vandalize the buildings which made up their world. The governing body decided that it would be less expensive to set aside one room to be used as a nursery and to hire a person to take care of these children than it would be to continue paying for the walls and floors to be repainted and repaired.

Dr. Montessori eagerly consented to the position of caretaker for these 60 unfortunate children. Within two years, her discoveries regarding the natural characteristics of young children were known worldwide.

Dr. Montessori continued to use the scientific method to develop a method not only for educating young children, but also for educating elementary aged children. By the time of her death, she had begun to work on a method for educating adolescents as well. In 1929, Dr. Montessori founded the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) to establish training centers that would prepare teachers to carry out her method. Montessori, who received three nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize, died in Holland in 1952. Her discoveries regarding the characteristics of the child have influenced scientists, educators, and most importantly, the many fortunate children who have had the opportunity to attend Montessori schools.

## School Philosophy

The MIS classrooms are places where children are given the opportunity to achieve academic and personal success. The goal in these environments is to encourage the development of a love for learning in each child. The principles put forth by Dr. Montessori are utilized in all classrooms – toddler, primary and elementary. Each of the teachers in these classes uses their training to create environments that cater to the characteristics of the children in their classrooms. Our hope is to provide an opportunity to each student that will lead to their better understanding of the world and the roles that they play in it. The Upper Elementary class serves as a transition from the MIS environment to the world of high school. Adolescents in this class have the opportunity to develop independence, study skills, discipline; and to strengthen their academic abilities. All of the sensorial and reasoning exploration that takes place in the primary and elementary environments leads to abstraction of concepts in the Upper Elementary class. Continued enjoyment for the learning process is fostered at every level.

## Affiliations

The toddler, primary and lower elementary classes at MIS are affiliated with the Association Montessori International (AMI). This training and accreditation organization was founded by Dr. Maria Montessori herself in 1929. The teachers in these classes have finished the AMI training for their specific age groups, and participate in ongoing teacher education in the form of conferences, refresher courses, and meetings with other AMI teachers in the area.

The teachers in the middle and upper elementary classes have met the requirements for the Arizona State teaching credential. They also participate in ongoing education. Montessori International School is licensed by the Arizona State Health Department.

## Enrollment Procedures

A new family interested in enrollment at MIS should first schedule an observation with the class in which they would like to enroll. After this observation, the child is evaluated by the classroom teacher. The child is then invited to spend a day with the class in order to familiarize him / her with the children and classroom operations. Finally, the teacher, administrator, and parents decide upon the enrollment option which best suits the child and the school. The teacher has the authority, at any time, to deny enrollment to any child in his or her class.

# Academic Procedures

## Conferences

The classroom is one of many settings in each child's life. Formal conferences are held in the fall and the spring so that parents and teachers can establish consistency in all aspects of the child's world. These conferences are the primary source for communication regarding each child's progress in the classroom. If the need arises, additional conferences can be scheduled.

## Grades

Grades are not given to children in the primary and lower elementary classes. The children in these classes demonstrate their own successes each day as they choose and perform work in the classroom. The teachers in these classes are trained to recognize the point at which the child has successfully completed work with a particular activity, and is ready to be introduced to the next. Thus, it is the process as well as the product put forth each day by each child that is the continuing evaluation constructed by the child, and interpreted by the teacher.

# General Procedures

## Attendance

The MIS classes operate under the Montessori premise that people learn through activity. When a child misses class time, he or she misses opportunities to engage in such activities. Thus, the process of learning is slowed. Consistency is particularly important for the primary children who are establishing the structure for their understanding of the world. Absences also result in missed lessons that will have to be made up at a time when they might not be as effective. Please sign in and out your child with the time and your first initial and last name.

Please let the school know between **8:00am and 8:45am** on the day of absence so that we can arrange accordingly.

## Arrival and Dismissal

The time before class begins is very important for the teachers' daily preparation to ensure a pleasant and productive day. Please say goodbye to your child outside the classroom so as not to disturb the other students. School begins at 8:30am. Children arriving after this time miss important information and begin their day feeling uncomfortable. Children who arrive on time have the opportunity to meet with classmates and organize their schedule before the work cycle begins. **For primary children, arriving at school on time results in separation from parents at the door with less anxiety.** If a primary child does not arrive to school by **9:30am**, he or she will not be admitted that day.

Unless otherwise arranged, children are dismissed at the time listed for their class under "MIS Daily School Hours." Each teacher takes great care to organize their daily schedule so that the children get the most out of each day. Any time that is missed because of early pick-ups results in a loss of opportunity for the children. Children who are picked up late from school feel uncomfortable. Punctuality is important in a child's life.

Children picked up after 5:30pm will be assessed a late fee of \$15.00 plus an additional \$15.00 for each quarter hour after that.

Please follow carline instructions for your child's campus. For more information on carline times and operations, please talk to your child's teacher.

## Snacks

Children at MIS are given key lessons throughout each day and the year that help them to become functioning members of our society. Snack provides opportunities for the children to prepare food, eat with appropriate behaviors, and clean up after themselves.

In the primary classes, each child will be assigned a day to bring home the snack basket. They will be responsible to bring snack for their class on the following day. This snack should include a fruit or vegetable that the children will prepare, and a prepared dairy, carbohydrate, and milk or 100% juice to be shared with the class.

## Lunch

As we decrease the amount of garbage that we produce in the classroom, be conscious of how you pack your child's meal. A couple more Tupperware containers, and a few less plastic baggies will help immensely. Please include a cloth napkin, 6-8oz cup and child-sized silverware in your child's lunch box or bag. These are intended to remain in the lunch boxes, and travel to and from school with the child each day.

Because each child brings his or her own lunch, providing a balanced meal for your child is important. Avoid candy, soda and other foods with excess sugar, additives or preservatives. When preparing your child's lunch, consider whether each item would by itself provide significant nutrients to your child. If it doesn't, please do not include it. **Be sure to write your child's name on the lunch containers.** Lunch time is an opportunity for your children to receive many key lessons geared toward developing independence. For this reason, please send containers that your children can open on their own. Due to insurance reasons, please do not send noodle cups or anything that needs boiling water. Foods that must be cooked, including microwave dinners, are not permitted; only foods that are to be reheated.

## Clothing

Children should wear clothes to school that are appropriate for playing outside. Remember that we work with paints, oils, and solutions that can and do stain clothes. The Montessori classroom is a hands-on environment in which children learn about the results of their actions, thus gaining independence and responsibility.

- Students should not wear shoes, clothing or hairstyles that are distracting or which interfere with regular school activities.
- Shoes and sandals should have straps around the foot and heel and have covered toes. Cowboy boots and hard-soled dress shoes are **not allowed**. They are too loud for the classroom and hurt fingers when stepped on.
- Although we prefer the girls to have their hair pulled back, excessive or costly hair adornments and jewelry are not allowed at school because they distract children from their activities and might get lost or broken.

- Hats and sunglasses are allowed for outside use; they must be left in the schoolbag during work time.
- Hair must be a natural color.
- Body piercings, tattoos, and temporary tattoos are not acceptable.

Clothing should be comfortable and not inhibit any school activity. If children arrive inappropriately dressed, parents will be asked to take them home to change.

## Birthdays and Gifts

We do celebrate birthdays in the classroom. You may send a snack with your child on his or her birthday. Please send a nutritional treat like muffins or fruit. In the primary classroom, we celebrate the child's time on earth. For this special day, please send one picture from each year of your child's life starting at their birth and the completed information sheet that you will receive prior to his or her birthday.

Your child may bring a wrapped book as a gift for the classroom. This book will become a part of the classroom library, and will serve as a reminder of your child even after he or she has moved on to other classrooms, and, eventually, to other schools. Ms. Therese has a collection of books from which you can purchase for this purpose if you like.

If you are planning to have a birthday celebration for your child outside of school, **do not deliver invitations at school unless you intend to invite all of the students in your child's class.** We do not want other children's feelings hurt. Please remind your child not to discuss their party while at school.

## Emergencies

Any type of injury on school property will be reported to the parents regardless of the nature or extent of the injury. If it is determined that the student is too ill or injured to remain at school, the parent/guardian or the designated emergency contact person will be notified immediately.

According to the AZ Health Department, children who have vomited need to remain out of school for **at least 24 hours.** Young children need sufficient rest before returning to school. Please keep this in mind when your child has a fever or other illness. Also, we are not approved to handle and care for sick children. If your child becomes sick while at school, he or she needs to be picked up within half an hour of the parent being notified. If the parent cannot or will not come within that time, then we will call the other emergency contacts that are listed on the child's blue emergency card. Make sure that your blue card is up-to-date. Let the office know if any of your phone numbers change.

## Medication

When it is necessary for a student to take prescription medication during school hours, a parent/guardian must 1) notify the school in writing of the need for medication, 2) give the school specific directions for administration, and 3) furnish the medication in the original, properly labeled container, that indicates the student's name and proper dosage. Over-the-counter cold medicine and other non-prescription medication will **not** be given.

## Field Trips

Due to increased regulations enforced by the state for preschool-age children, we do not encourage field trips off the school grounds. However, many facilities and companies will come to us, allowing the children to be

exposed to new things while enhancing the knowledge they have already gained. We encourage parents to help organize these events for our classrooms. If we do choose to take the children off school grounds, a signed permission slip, a car seat and a red MIS t-shirt are all mandatory for each child to participate. Replacement shirts are available for purchase in the office.

## Health Department

Montessori International School complies with the rules and regulations of the Arizona State Health Department. Inspection reports are available on site. Parents have access to the areas on facility premises where the parent's enrolled child is receiving child care. In addition, MIS will notify parents at least 48 hours before a pesticide is applied on campus. For further information, the health department can be reached at the following address and phone number:

Arizona Department of Health Services  
Office of Child Care Licensure  
150 North 18th Avenue, 4th Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
(602) 364-2539

## Parent Participation

We are a community here at MIS and we encourage parent participation throughout the school year. We ask that all parents sign up to volunteer at least 10 hours of their time per year. There are various volunteering opportunities, from our annual festival to gardening. It is a great opportunity to meet other parents and to spend time with your children. Please talk to the parent organization or your child's teacher for more details.

## Communication

Each primary and toddler child has a hanging file folder that is available for parents to check daily. These are located just inside the front doors of both campuses. Periodically, teachers send notes home about the children's daily activities and about events that parents need to be aware of.

MIS sends out monthly calendars and newsletters which provide information about the activities of the classes. Parents who need to speak with teachers may leave messages at the appropriate campus. Teachers are not available to talk during class time. They will return your calls after school. In case of emergency, you may call the office at 480-890-1580.

## Observations

It is essential that parents observe their children in the classroom environment in order to gain better understanding about this part of the child's world. Montessori classrooms are designed to provide children with opportunities to work without distraction or interruption. It is by performing this work that the children develop understanding about the world around them. The goal for the observer is to see children working under normal classroom conditions. In order to achieve this, observers are asked to be passive members of the classroom environment during their visits. Observations should be scheduled with the teacher whose class you would like to visit.

## Sharing Time

Sharing Time is a great opportunity for your child to share something that they have learned. It may be an object or picture they earned or received, a pet from home, or some information that they have learned. The objective is for the child to be given opportunities to share in front of the class something that they can help their friends learn. Please practice with you child at home what they will be sharing before sharing with the class.

## Parent Information Nights

These are important and functional opportunities to learn more about the Montessori classroom, Dr. Montessori's theory of education, suggestions and guidelines on how to help your child at home, and chances to meet other parents with similar concerns and issues. These evenings are held twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Daycare is available during the meetings if needed. The Parent Information Nights are usually led by the four Primary teachers, but are sometimes led by an outside professional geared towards children.

## Miscellaneous

Items such as toys, video games, magazines (or catalogues), jewelry, and make-up are significant distractions to the work that takes place at school. For this reason, these things are not allowed. They should not be in the classroom or on the playground. Additional items such as stickers and candy not only distract the children, but also encourage unpleasant interactions during which feelings are often hurt. Please do not send any of these particulars to school with your child. If noticed by the staff, they will be taken and held until a parent comes to retrieve them.

The use of book bags has been very successful. They have encouraged the children to keep their personal belongings together as well as promote independence. Each child will be provided with one book bag at the time of enrollment, and we encourage all to use them as they have proven to be very effective. Additional bags will be available throughout the year for \$10. Due to limited space, backpacks are not allowed at school.

# 2011-2012 Tuition Policy

## Tuition Schedule

Annual payments are due on or before June 1. Tri-annual payments are due on or before July 1, October 1 and January 1. Monthly payments are due on or before the first of each month for a period of ten (10) months, from August 1 to May 1. **A 5%-per-week late fee will be charged on all payments received after the due date. In addition, returned checks will be subject to a \$20.00 fee.**

## Registration Fee

There will be a nonrefundable registration fee of \$75.00 for new students. The director will conduct an interview with the child and parent for proper placement in the classroom. The fee for returning students will be \$50.00, which includes enrollment and insurance costs.

## Tuition Rates

	Program	Annual	Tri-annual	Monthly
<i>Toddler</i>	Half day	\$6100.00	\$2083.00	\$640.00
	Full day	\$7900.00	\$2683.00	\$820.00
	Full day extended	\$9000.00	\$3050.00	\$930.00
<i>Primary</i>	Half day	\$4550.00	\$1567.00	\$485.00
	Full day	\$6650.00	\$2267.00	\$695.00
	Full day extended	\$7550.00	\$2567.00	\$785.00
<i>Elementary</i>	Full day	\$6650.00	\$2267.00	\$695.00
	Full day extended	\$7550.00	\$2567.00	\$785.00

*Separate extended hours:* Available at \$5.00 per hour (at the specified times before and after school), to be paid on the day used or by the end of the week.

*Materials fee:* \$250.00 annually *or* \$25.00 per month for primary students  
\$300.00 annually *or* \$30.00 per month for elementary students

A \$100.00 deposit is required to enroll each child. This deposit is nonrefundable for early withdrawals.

Admission to Montessori International School is for the full school year, and enrollment of your child is a contract with the school for the full tuition amount, to be paid on an annual, tri-annual or monthly schedule. **Note that the payment schedule and payments do not necessarily correlate to the school year.** Early withdrawal will result in the loss of your enrollment deposit as well as any tuition you may have to your credit, and may result, at the school's option, in enforcement of the full ten (10) months' tuition obligation. We understand the kinds of crises and circumstances which may necessitate the early withdrawal of a child; however, we cannot be financially responsible for them.

# 2011-2012 MIS School Calendar

**This calendar is not final and is subject to change.**

Wed. Aug. 10	<b>First day of school</b>
Mon. Aug. 15	Ms. Reggie & Ms. Laticia's parent orientation 6:00 pm Ms. Nilo's parent orientation 6:00 pm Ms. Bindu's parent orientation 6:00 pm
Tues. Aug 16	Ms. Sylvia's parent orientation – 6:30 pm Mrs. Nair's parent orientation – 7:30 pm
Fri. Aug. 19	Back to school ice cream float social - 6:30 pm
Tues. Aug. 23	Arizona Festival meeting - 6:30 pm
Fri. Aug. 26	Half-day 12:00 pm dismissal - teacher meetings (daycare for extended care only)
Mon. Sept. 5	<b>No school</b> - Labor Day
Fri. Sept. 24	Fall Open House
Tues. Sept. 27	Arizona Festival meeting - 6:30 pm
Fri. Sept. 30	Half-day 12:00 pm dismissal - teacher meetings (daycare for extended care only)
Fri. Oct. 14	<b>No school</b> - parent/teacher conferences
Sat. Oct. 22	United Nations Day potluck picnic – 5:00 pm
Fri. Oct. 28	Fall Festival 12:00 pm dismissal - teacher meetings (daycare for extended care only)
Fri. Nov. 11	<b>No school</b> - Veterans' Day
Tues. Nov. 15	Arizona Festival meeting - 6:30 pm
Wed. Nov. 23	Grandparent's Thanksgiving feast - 12:00 pm dismissal (no daycare)
Nov. 24 - Nov. 25	<b>No School</b> - Thanksgiving break
Tues. Dec. 20	Holiday program 12:00 pm dismissal - teacher meetings (daycare for extended care only)
Dec. 21 - Jan. 3	<b>No school</b> - winter break
Wed. Jan, 4	<b>School resumes</b>
Sat. Jan. 7	Open House
Mon. Jan. 16	<b>No school</b> - Martin Luther King Jr. /Civil Rights Day
Fri. Jan. 27	Half-day 12:00 pm dismissal - teacher meetings (daycare for extended care only)
Fri. Feb 17	<b>No school</b> - Montessori refresher course
Mon. Feb. 20	<b>No school</b> - Presidents' Day
Fri. Feb. 24	Arizona Festival - half-day (no daycare)
Thurs. Mar. 1	Picture Day
Mar. 12 – 16	<b>No school</b> - Spring break
Fri. Mar. 23	Half-day 12:00 pm dismissal - teacher meetings (daycare for extended care only)
Fri. April 6	<b>No school</b> - April Break
Fri. April 13	<b>No school</b> - parent/teacher conferences
Fri. April 27	Half-day 12:00 pm dismissal - teacher meetings (daycare for extended care only)
Thurs. May 24	<b>Last day of school</b> 12:00 pm dismissal- teacher meetings (daycare for extended care only)

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