



**Richmond
Montessori
School** a world of difference

“ Growing up at Richmond Montessori School, I was awarded the opportunity to not only receive an outstanding education, but also to learn who I was, the kind of person that I wanted to become, and that there were no limits to what I could achieve. Combining a love of learning and nurturing my potential, I left the school with a series of life skills that I continue to live by over a decade later. The ambition, drive, and work ethic I learned early on at RMS have guided me along my path to achieving my dreams of becoming a professional ballerina. ”

Maggie Small

*Richmond Ballet
RMS class of 1999*

Our Mission

Richmond Montessori School is a premier Montessori community, inspiring academic excellence and nurturing human potential.

Our Values

Community through diversity, dynamic learning, service

Character in personal empowerment, integrity, accountability

Authenticity in Montessori curriculum, philosophy, method

Respect for self, others, the environment

Excellence in academics, leadership, and accreditation



What is Montessori?



Dr. Maria Montessori, (1870–1952)

Developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician, educator and innovator, Montessori is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adolescence.

Montessori education is based on nurturing and cultivating the child's natural desire to learn by:

- Creating student-centered learning environments
- Providing hands-on concrete experiences
- Encouraging exploration and problem solving
- Supporting the development of the whole child
- Fostering intrinsic motivation
- Offering multi-aged groupings and social settings
- Focusing on cooperation, collaboration, and mutual respect
- Promoting "freedom within limits"
- Promoting independence, leadership, and responsibility

About Us

At Richmond Montessori School, we support empowered learners. Our students are inspired by their curiosity and confidence and are energized to delve deeper into their interests and passions.

Our highly-trained Montessori teachers guide students through the curriculum rather than dictate what they learn and when. The result is a community of excited students and divergent thinkers.

By celebrating and encouraging the intrinsic motivation of our students, we support their growth and self-determination as lifelong learners.

RMS was founded in 1965 by a group of parents dedicated to the principles developed by Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952).

In the 50 years since its founding, RMS has grown from its two original classes to 15 classes on two adjacent campuses. We serve approximately 300 students, ages 18 months to 14, hailing from more than 30 different zip codes around the Greater Richmond area.

RMS admits students and administers its policies and programs without regard to race, color, religion, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, or any other protected class.

In addition to an undergraduate degree, RMS lead teachers hold American Montessori Society (AMS) and/or Association Montessori International (AMI) teacher certification.

Richmond Montessori School is the only Montessori school in the Richmond area and surrounding counties that is fully accredited by two external organizations – the American Montessori Society (accredited since 1991) and Virginia Association of Independent Schools (accredited since 2002). Our dual accreditation means that our school meets and exceeds the strict standards required to provide an authentic Montessori education.



"I was intrigued about a different type of education. I liked the idea of a hands-on approach to learning and a 3-year cycle. I didn't want my child to just be 'shoved in a box.'" - RMS parent

Unique Aspects of Montessori

Freedom Within Limits

The Montessori classroom balances freedom with responsibility.

Intrinsically Motivated Learners

The Montessori teacher guides and empowers students with challenging, authentic, and meaningful work. As students begin to make independent choices they become actively engaged in an in-depth exploration of topics and skills, gain a deeper understanding of new concepts in an integrated fashion, and become better critical thinkers. There is no ceiling on what can be discovered and students are internally driven toward mastery.

The Prepared Environment

The Montessori classroom is warm, inviting, aesthetically pleasing and student-focused.

Life-long Learners

Each learning environment is organized to respect the diversity of learners and to support the natural developmental needs of the age group it serves. The self-correcting materials facilitate self-directed learning and allow students to reflect on their own learning. This student-centered approach is enriched with real world experiences designed to provide conceptual context of how the natural and human-designed worlds are organized, interrelate, communicate and change.

Multi-age Classrooms

The multi-aged groupings provide opportunities for broad social development and meaningful friendships which are often lifelong.

Compassionate Global Citizens

A shared and profound respect for one another and the environment fosters a collaborative environment focused on shared values and peaceful discourse. The range of ages, abilities, and cultures builds acceptance and appreciation of individual differences as students form a diverse and cohesive community.

"It's quite simply a great education for our children, hands-down. And its not just education academically, obviously that's important and the academics here are strong, but it's also education on how to be a good person." - RMS parent



A Unique Approach to Education

Richmond Montessori School isn't like other schools. For 50 years our unique approach to education has not only helped students learn, but has given them the tools by which to discover their authentic selves – who they are, what their interests are and who they are meant to be.

Developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician, educator and innovator, Montessori is a child-centered educational approach based on nurturing and cultivating a child's natural desire to learn.

With a focus on individual development, all aspects of the child are taken into consideration –

cognitively, emotionally, socially and morally – allowing the whole personality to take shape, not just the intellect. This means we strive to create not only good students, but good people, too.

When you choose Montessori, you give your child an exceptional education that prepares them for endless possibilities for success in the classroom and beyond.

Our graduates advance to private high schools, Governor's schools and specialty centers at public high schools throughout the Greater Richmond area, where they are praised as confident, intelligent and independent thinkers who are self-motivated, compassionate and highly respectful of others.



"We chose RMS for its diversity, nurturing environment, and well-proven pedagogy. Our son is thriving at RMS, learning math, language, reading, geography, and science, among other subjects, beyond what I thought kindergartners were capable of, not to mention embracing what it means to be a good person and a positive part of his community." - RMS parent

Toddlers **Ages 18 months - 3 years**

In our toddler classrooms, we celebrate the independent spirit, active curiosity, and energy of our students. Toddlers spend their days in a warm, inviting space filled with art and music that is purposefully designed to encourage social, physical, and emotional growth and awareness. Children learn practical life skills, such as preparing food, setting the table, and sitting for a meal with friends. Authentic Montessori materials offer hands-on experiences to teach the fundamentals of reading, writing, mathematics, and creative reasoning.

Primary Half-Day **Ages 3-4**

Children in primary are active, curious, and excited learners. Hands-on learning resonates with these children. The Montessori materials help them learn the symbols and sounds of language and the meaning of numbers. They do not memorize; they learn by doing, which leads to concrete understanding and a strong foundation for abstract thinking skills. They enjoy practical life skills like gardening and food preparation, and they strengthen the social and emotional skills they need to be kind, compassionate members of a supportive community.

Primary Full-Day **Ages 5-6 (Kindergarten)**

During the capstone third year of our primary program, kindergarten, students experience extraordinary growth. During the later part of their day, they receive individualized lessons in a small class setting with their third-year peers. This small, close-knit community allows for deeper learning and development of metacognition skills. Parents often marvel at the magic that happens in the last year of primary as children advance in their academic skills, emotional maturity, and independence. Creative, happy, caring students leave our primary classrooms ready and excited to enter our elementary program.



"They love coming to school, and you can't have a better feeling as a parent than that." - RMS parent

Lower Elementary: Grades 1-3

Ages 6-9

The world opens up to children in the lower elementary level with expansive lessons about the story of the universe and the Earth. While studying earth science, history, geography, and biomes, students make connections across time, space, and world cultures. Hands-on materials help them commit what they learn to their long-term memory and strengthen their abstract understanding of complex concepts. We support their imagination and their curiosity with creative writing, poetry, research projects, and dramatic presentations. Field trips enrich their appreciation of history, nature, the arts, and our communities.

As these children work and play alongside their classmates, they not only experience joyful connections with each other but also learn how to support effective group dynamics and how to work through problems. We prioritize teachable moments in which children learn and model thoughtful communication skills, patience, and empathy.

Third-grade students are nurturing, engaged role models to the younger students, and leave lower elementary with the advanced academic and social skills they need to excel in the upper elementary program.

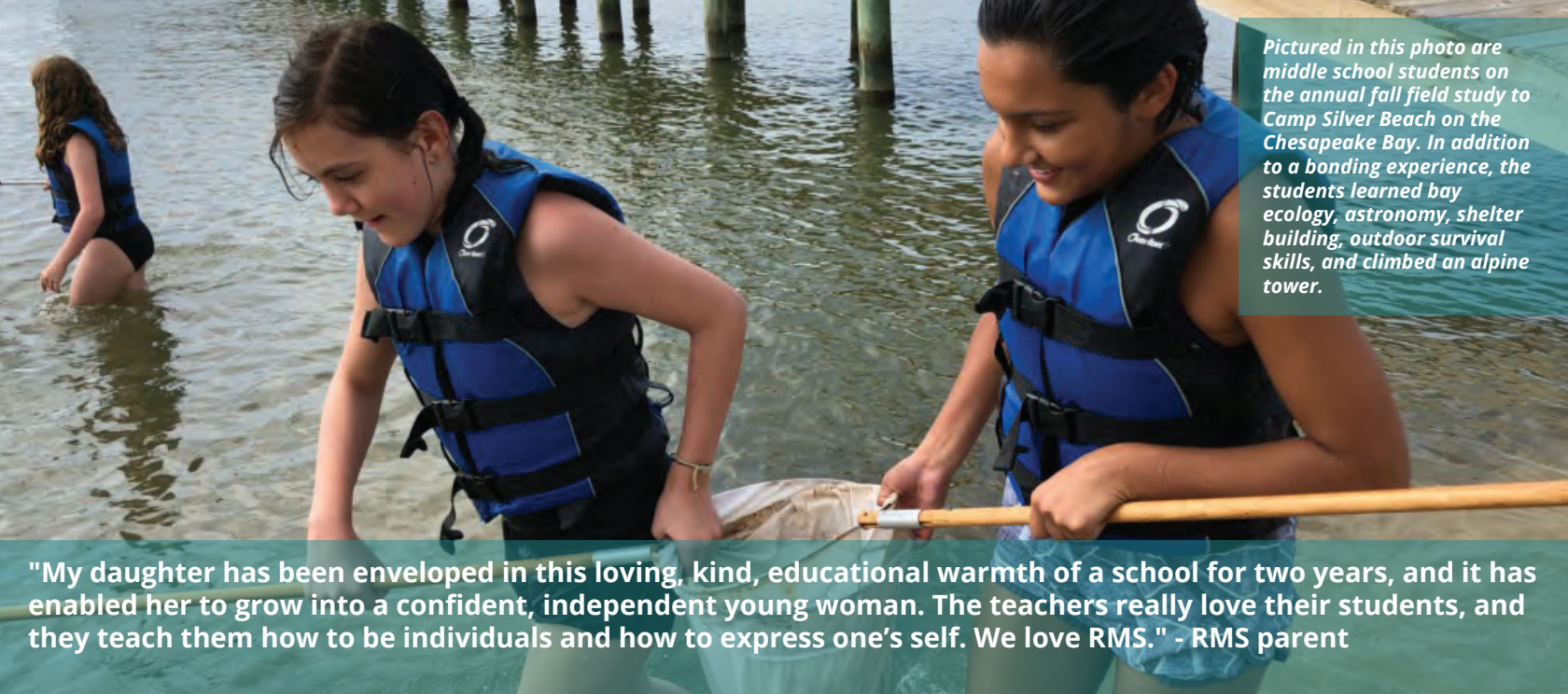
Upper Elementary: Grades 4-6

Ages 9-12

Our upper elementary students seek a deeper understanding of the world and their place in it. They create meaningful multi-disciplinary work and are passionate about their interests.

The capstone achievement of the upper elementary experience is our sixth grade students' yearlong research project. Immersing themselves in a topic of their choosing, each student writes an extensive research paper, then delivers a public presentation at a special evening event. Experiences like this help our upper elementary students develop exceptional poise, responsibility, and communication skills.

Upper elementary students work, play, and socialize in beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces, and they explore the world outside our school, whether on a hike at a state park or attending the symphony. Our students move on to middle school as happy, curious, kind children ready to shine academically and socially.



Pictured in this photo are middle school students on the annual fall field study to Camp Silver Beach on the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to a bonding experience, the students learned bay ecology, astronomy, shelter building, outdoor survival skills, and climbed an alpine tower.

"My daughter has been enveloped in this loving, kind, educational warmth of a school for two years, and it has enabled her to grow into a confident, independent young woman. The teachers really love their students, and they teach them how to be individuals and how to express one's self. We love RMS." - RMS parent

Middle School: Grades 7-8, Ages 12-14

Middle School is the pinnacle of the Montessori experience. As budding adolescents, students now understand that life extends beyond the classroom and begin to think about their place in society. They have unique needs, and we ensure those needs are met by preparing them not only as students, but as global citizens.

To facilitate this, we incorporate field studies and service into the curriculum, offering real-world opportunities for community involvement. The hands-on participation fosters independence, practical life skills and demonstrates that through hard work, they truly can make a difference.

The RMS middle school program is designed to meet each student's needs with the ultimate goal

of all Montessori education: preparation for life. Each day, RMS middle school teachers work with students to create community that will enhance and encourage the development of each child.

When our middle school students graduate, they are passionate, fearless and optimistic about their future. They have learned how to learn and have developed a deep respect for themselves, their community and the world at large.

As we watch our graduates take charge of their lives, it is clear that Montessori has made all the difference. We know they are empowered through self-confidence, motivation and the belief that they can do anything.

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To apply or visit:
www.richmont.org



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