

montessori by the sea

2027-2028
APPLICATION
PACKAGE



"...like a tree planted by streams of water
Which yields its fruit in season." Psalm 1:3

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our mission & vision

On a global level, we envision a world community that coexists in harmony, recognizing each individual's inherent worth. Our vision for Montessori By The Sea's school community is students who are passionate about life and discovery; loving, dedicated educators who facilitate learning; administrators who understand and create an environment to implement our vision; and supportive, involved parents.

We promote a **legacy of limitless possibilities** through our aims:

Love of life, learning & laughter
Environments that engage, excite and embrace all
Acquisition of skills necessary for a balanced, fulfilling life
Respect: for self, others, and the universe
Nourishing self-awareness and peace within
Inspiring innovative thinkers
Nurturing relationships & cultivating self-worth
Global responsibility & citizenship

The concept of educating the whole child is central to everything we do. The Montessori curriculum is cyclical, individualized, and holistic, and provides students with the opportunity to learn in a variety of ways. In addition, every week, our students step into a world of creativity and discovery through specialized classes in PE, Art, Music, Spanish, and Computing. Led by dedicated educators, these enrichment programs are designed to inspire the whole child and nurture their unique potential.

We empower our students to initiate their own activities, helping them to develop self-direction, independence, and a sense of ownership of their classroom and school environment.







From left: A Montessori guide works on a Language lesson with a small group of children. A child reads her book to a Montessori guide. Parents and teachers at a Parent Information evening.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

At MBTS, parents are valued as partners and as the child's first and most influential teachers. We encourage parental engagement in the educational process; your positive involvement is vital to your child's progress and development. Parental involvement is also integral to our vibrant community spirit. As collaborators, parents are welcomed into the classroom to observe and participate in activities, when feasible. A child's educational experience is always enriched by parents' direct input and action. As such, we strive to maintain ongoing, open communication between the school and home. We welcome the opportunity for honest dialogue on ideas, suggestions or concerns.

THE MONTESSORI GUIDE

A Montessori teacher or guide is a child advocate who respects the child's total being. Through careful observation, thorough knowledge of the child's plane of development and responsive feedback, Montessori educators honor the child's natural curiosity, nurturing their inner spark to fuel a lifelong love of learning. Each classroom is directed by a team of educators, led by at least 1 fully trained Montessori guide. Our educators intentionally curate the environment to set children up for success. By following each child's unique lead, they thoughtfully and steadfastly guide them toward realizing their full potential.

THE MONTESSORI LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our safe, nurturing classrooms feature child-sized furniture and specialized, stimulating materials tailored to every stage of the child's development. . This prepared environment supports an inquiry-based program that ignites natural curiosity, independent exploration, and rich sensory learning. Optimal student-teacher ratios ensure that every child is given the care and attention he or she needs. MBTS's expansive outdoor spaces and direct proximity to the seashore allows for both structured and unstructured play, and outdoor sport, and cultivates an indelible connection to nature and our beautiful island environment.

Working Together to Educate the Whole Child









Montessori That Grows with Your Child

FROM 2 TO 12 YEARS

Since the opening of our first Toddler and Casa classes in 2000, our school has grown steadily to become a vibrant, closely-knit community of joyful students, and their dedicated families and educators.

Now spanning Toddler to Upper Elementary, Montessori By The Sea offers a firmly-established, comprehensive Montessori program. To date, MBTS is the only school that offers both early years and primary school education in Cayman to earn the distinction of Excellence from the Office of Education Standards in all areas. Please feel free to review the October 2023 OES Inspection Report.

Montessori By The Sea implements an enriched Montessori curriculum that emphasizes inquiry-based study, cross-curricular integration, and life skills education, complemented by specialized instruction in Spanish, Computing, Physical Education, the Arts, and Music.

Our alumni testify to the fact that graduates do not just excel academically, but emerge as well-rounded, confident, creative and compassionate individuals.

toddler program

AGES 2 - 3 YEARS OLD



"The first few years of a child's life are the most formative years. It is a time when children effortlessly absorb concepts and habits. It is also the period when roots for a love of learning are established. If our own adult ability be compared with the child's, we should need sixty years of hard work to do what [the child] does in three."

- Dr. Maria Montessori

toddler program

2 TO 3 YEARS









The Full Day Toddler Program runs from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, and the Half Day Program runs from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. A nutritious snack is prepared and served daily, and full-day children have lunch and an afternoon naptime. Our Full Day Toddler Program features a dedicated afternoon rest time to support healthy growth and recharge busy minds. If your child has already transitioned away from daily naps, our Half-Day Program may be the perfect fit for your family.



The Toddler environment is carefully prepared to meet the needs of rapidly-developing Toddlers. In our nurturing community, children happily work towards independence, observe others, explore freely, and express their curiosity. Beautiful Montessori materials engage the senses and invite the child to develop competence. Areas of learning are orderly and accessible, and the space is open to allow for movement and social interaction.

The environment is richly conducive to language development, with guiding adults modelling clear, courteous communication. Age-appropriate songs, stories and presentations broaden Toddlers' understanding as they explore the big world.

Each day brings routines and tasks that purposefully help the child develop. Children complete sensory work and practical tasks that develop motor skills, language, coordination and cognition. Positive social interaction is cultivated through play and the practice of grace and courtesy, and gross motor skills are strengthened through daily outdoor play in a secure, stimulating Toddler play area. Every day brings new opportunities for creative expression, while weekly Music, Spanish, and Physical Education classes spark children's growth. Led by dedicated specialists, these dynamic programs are intentionally designed to strengthen natural rhythm, accelerate language development, and build confident movement.

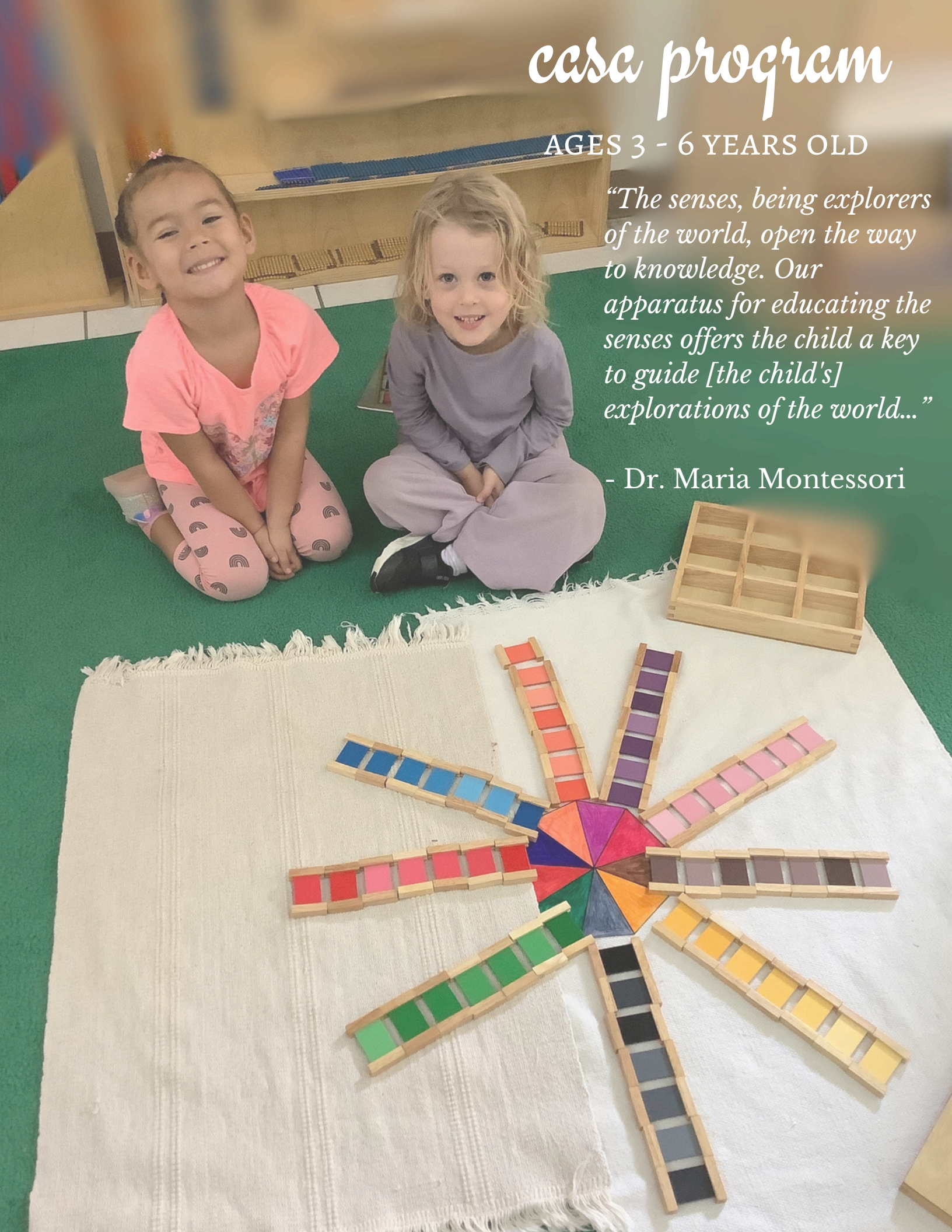
Toilet-independence is part of the program, and child-sized toilet facilities and equipment are incorporated into the environment.

casa program

AGES 3 - 6 YEARS OLD

"The senses, being explorers of the world, open the way to knowledge. Our apparatus for educating the senses offers the child a key to guide [the child's] explorations of the world..."

- Dr. Maria Montessori



casa program

3 TO 6 YEARS

The Full Day Casa Program runs from 8:00 am-3:00 pm, and the Half Day Program runs from 8:00 am-12:00 noon. A nutritious snack is prepared and served daily.

The Casa Program at MBTS offers children a joyful, nurturing environment that cultivates concentration, independence and exploration. Children in this stage of growth thrive in the stimulating, engaging Casa spaces, as they learn and master concepts and skills through intense concentration and purposeful repetition. Children foster friendships and develop communication and cooperative skills as they interact with one another and the natural environment, and build the foundation for respect and courtesy.

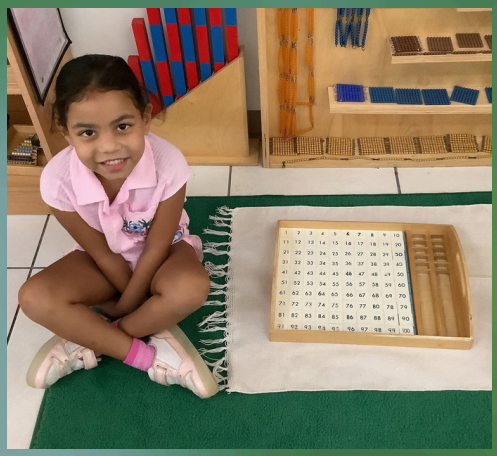
The environment is designed to evoke curiousity and invite exploration. Enticing, orderly areas for key areas of learning, including Sensorial, Language, Mathematics, Culture and Practical Life, feature developmentally-appropriate materials that attract curious hands and minds with their beauty and increasing complexity. Appropriately-sized furniture, work areas and washroom facilities organically fit together to create a truly special place for the Casa-age child.

Uninterrupted work periods allow children to develop deep focus, while observant teachers provide personalized lessons and support at each child's own pace.











In Casa, children develop the social skills that form a happy, peaceful community. They are encouraged to communicate clearly and kindly, exercise grace and courtesy, and care for others, the environment and themselves. Respectful words and actions are modelled by older children and teachers, whose mindful choices reflect the essence of the Montessori community. Arts and creative expression are actively integrated into the program. The Casa curriculum is elevated by weekly Specialty classes taught by dedicated instructors in Music, Spanish, and Physical Education. Crafted to inspire the whole child, these programs cultivate rhythm, advanced language development, and refined physical coordination. In their final year, third-year Casa (Kindergarten) students advance to weekly Computing classes, introducing foundational digital literacy.

elementary program

AGES 6 - 12 YEARS OLD

"Education between the ages of 6 and 12 is not a direct continuation of that which has gone before, though to be built upon that basis. Psychologically, there is a decided change in personality, and we recognize that nature has made the [elementary years] a period for the acquisition of culture, just as the [early years] were for the absorption of environment. Knowledge can be best given where there is eagerness to learn, so this is the period when the seed of everything can be sown, the child's mind being like a fertile field, ready to receive what will germinate into culture. But if neglected during this period, or frustrated in its vital needs, the mind of the child becomes artificially dulled, henceforth to resist imparted knowledge. Interest will no longer be there if sown too late, but at six years of age, all items of culture are received enthusiastically, and later these seeds will expand and grow."

- Dr. Maria Montessori

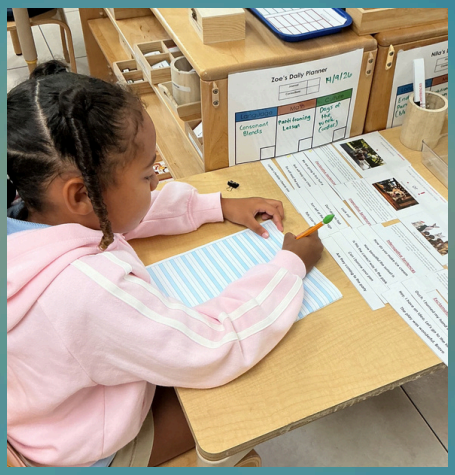
lower elementary program

6 TO 9 YEARS

The Lower Elementary Program runs from 8:15 am-3:15 pm.

The Second-Plane Elementary Child continues on the journey towards independence and self-actualization, characterized by an expansive imagination, relentless inquiry, a developing sense of justice, and a desire for social interaction. With this in mind, the Montessori Lower Elementary Program at MBTS is structured to facilitate connective, cross-curricular learning, inspire independent inquiry, cultivate life skills in collaboration and communication, and establish the foundation for moral justice.









Connective thinking happens easily in a Lower Elementary environment that is carefully structured to cultivate it. Children are encouraged to actively inquire and to apply their creativity, knowledge and academic abilities to answer questions or solve problems, thereby developing the essential skills of lifelong learning. Big ideas are presented to the child, with the 5 Key Montessori Lessons acting as both anchor and launchpad for inquiry, and hands-on experiences with materials and other learning tools form the backbone of learning. Empowered by autonomy, the child explores and pursues their unique interests through an integrated curriculum that sparks curiosity across every subject.

The inherent control of error and sequential order of many Montessori materials provide feedback for children as they work. Our trained educators carefully observe each child, tailoring lessons to match their unique pace, interests, and readiness. Reflection and accountability for one's choices are routine. Curriculum mapping to national and international learning standards and supplementary testing offer supporting data and insight.

Children learn naturally from one another. Productive, positive partnerships and group work are facilitated and encouraged. Having mixed ages across 3 years organically creates an environment that inspires and empowers, where individual strengths shine and budding abilities are given due time to develop. Group lessons are based on ability, maturity and readiness - not just age or grade - and children strive together and inspire each other towards growth.

In the Lower Elementary classroom, we are not only cultivating inquisitive, motivated learners – but also responsible, kind and confident citizens. The Elementary years are a crucial time for the child to build key skills in communication, conflict resolution, compromise, and collaboration, and to learn the value of compassion. The program focuses on community-building and reaching out into the world beyond the classroom. Students take a primary role in modelling values and virtues, in collaboratively forming solutions during disputes, in setting high expectations in the classroom environment, and in finding ways to make a positive impact on their community. At MBTS, we believe that these life skills do not just complement a child's academic skills or talents; they are integral to a person's ability to become a successful and happy human being.

As they continue on their journey towards independence, students learn to balance freedom with responsibility, with consistent, concrete modelling and the opportunity to consider and take ownership of choices. Natural consequences, community jobs, respectful communication, peaceful conflict resolution, and weekly class meetings are key ways for students to exercise their ability to mindfully manage their choices.

Montessori By The Sea cross-references its Montessori curriculum with the Cayman Islands National Curriculum and English National Curriculum objectives, and employs standardized testing as a supplementary means of evaluating academic progress. Diagnostic testing based on English National Curriculum standards in Mathematics and Language is administered starting in the second year of Elementary, and continues until Grade Six. These tests are offered as a supplementary method by which to evaluate student progress.

upper elementary program

9 TO 12 YEARS

The Upper Elementary Program runs from 8:15 am-3:15 pm.

As the Elementary Child matures, the essential characteristics of imagination, intellectual inquiry, moral justice, and desire for social interaction and collaboration are refined. In Upper Elementary, this is done with an increasing expectation for independent critical thinking and purposeful application.

Through a classroom culture that emphasizes resilience, self-motivation, responsibility and life skills, Upper Elementary is structured to deepen connective thinking, to cement the drive of independent inquiry, to embed life skills in collaboration and communication, and to solidify the foundation for moral justice. The seeds that were planted in Toddler and Casa, and nurtured in Lower Elementary, are actively supported and fed, in preparation for the exciting transition into young adulthood, and for the journey of life.





The Upper Elementary Program continues to offer inquisitive, independent, and innovative learners a collaborative, dynamic environment that respects their need to be inspired and to take active ownership of their learning. Individuals are encouraged to actively inquire and to apply their creativity, knowledge and academic abilities to answer questions or solve problems, thereby developing the essential skills of lifelong learning.

The pervading culture of the Upper Elementary environment values collaboration and "productive struggle", and utilizes both to powerful effect. Students continue to apply essential social skills alongside academic ones, as they interact with one another and learn to be active participants in society. The striving for excellence is not misconstrued as a drive for perfection, and students learn to appreciate the powerful learning that comes with error and challenge.

Students revisit the expansive ideas of the 5 Key Montessori Lessons, with greater detail and the deeper insight that comes from returning to an idea with more experience and knowledge. Project-based inquiry is actively facilitated and supported, as students expand and hone research and study skills. Cultivating time management skills facilitates the autonomy to pursue individual interest whilst balancing core requirements.



Opportunities to make a positive impact on the community within and beyond school are vital in strengthening every student's self-esteem and in building future leaders and citizens. Building upon the key skills and values in conflict resolution, compromise, collaboration, communication and compassion developed in Lower Elementary, the Upper Elementary Program goes further in building connections with the community and reaching out into the world beyond the classroom. Philanthropy and community service are actively integrated into the classroom, with frequent student-led endeavours to make a positive impact on others, and the exceptional KIDS CARE After School Club.

Academic concepts and skills are effectively explored, expanded and applied to relevant, real-world problems both within and beyond the classroom. Students go out into the community for stimulating on-site learning opportunities and community outreach, including yearly trips (when possible) to Little Cayman and to the Montessori Model United Nations Conference in New York.



Montessori By The Sea cross-references its Montessori curriculum with the Cayman Islands National Curriculum and English National Curriculum objectives, and employs standardized testing as a supplementary means of evaluating academic progress. Diagnostic testing based on English National Curriculum standards in Mathematics and Language is annually administered starting in the second year of Elementary, and continues until Grade Six. Additionally, students in Grades 5 and 6 participate in UK Key Stage testing. These tests are offered as a supplementary method by which to evaluate student progress.

admissions policies & procedures

Choosing a school is an important decision for your entire family. Before enrollment and when possible, we ask that interested parents schedule a time to visit the school to meet with the teachers and observe the environment. This will give you further insight into the philosophy and structure of Montessori By The Sea and help inform your decision regarding the formative, educational needs of your child. It is important for your child that the school's aims and those of the parents are in sync.

MBTS admits students of any economic and social class, racial and ethnic heritage, religious belief or lack thereof, and family structure. MBTS reserves the right to select students based on compatibility with the Montessori philosophy and program.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

Toddler Program (2 to 3 Years)
1. Children must be 2 years old before September 1st. Younger children who are at least 21 months on the first day of attendance may be considered but will spend two years in the Toddler Program.
2. Children do not have to be toilet trained to attend.

Casa Program (3 to 6 Years)
1. Children must be at least 3 years old before September 1st.
2. Children must be FULLY toilet-trained (diapers or pull-up diapers are not permitted.)

Elementary Program (6 to 12 Years)
1. Previous Montessori experience.
2. If no Montessori experience, the child may take part in an interview process.
3. Official records from present school.
4. Children entering the Elementary Program must be 6 years old before September 1st and meet all requirements for placement.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE
When the decision to apply to Montessori By The Sea is made, complete the Application Form and submit it to Montessori By The Sea with a non-refundable CI$300.00 application fee by the given deadline. Applications received after the deadline will be considered only if a space becomes available after the first round of applicants have been placed.

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

Admission decisions are made based on the needs of existing classes, with an aim to provide an optimal learning environment. Parents will receive written notice of admissions status. If a place is not immediately available, you will be placed on the Waiting List unless otherwise advised.

Priority is given in the following order:
1.) Returning students
2.) Children of staff members
3.) Siblings of present students
4.) Paid application from a previous year (Please note that if you have applied for a previous year, you must reapply for the following year. Application fees are valid for two years.)
5.) New applicants from our 'Waiting List'.

If your child is accepted into Montessori By The Sea, you will be sent an 'Enrollment Contract' to guarantee your child's position. Please note that you will be contractually obligated for the school year's tuition (September -June).

All families that become a part of the Montessori By The Sea community are expected to fully support all policies and procedures. All children accepted into Montessori By The Sea are on a six-week probation period. This time will allow the children and family to adjust into the environment and allow both MBTS and the family to evaluate the children's readiness as well as the family's compatibility with the school philosophy and program. Class placements are made by administration with input from staff. MBTS reserves the right to place children in order to maintain balanced classes with respect to classroom dynamics, children's ages, gender and the individual needs of students.

A start date will be assigned for new students, which may differ from the announced first day of classes. The 'phasing in' of new students allows for a smooth transition for beginning children, while maintaining an even rhythm of classroom activities.



next steps...

Thank you for taking the time to read this document and learn about our school community.

If you have questions or would like to proceed to the next steps in the admissions process, please contact Kourtni Jackson at kourtni@mbts.ky or 345.947.0684.

As noted on the preceding Admissions Policies and Procedures page, you may also complete and submit the online Application Form. The completed Application Form will need to be submitted, along with a non-refundable CI$300.00 application fee by the deadline specified. In order for your application to be considered complete, please ensure that the application fee and any supporting documents are submitted to kourtni@mbts.ky by the published deadline.

Thank you and we hope to see you soon.