

MONTESSORI PROGRAM

Background

The District believes it is desirable to offer a program of choice for students which emphasizes the Montessori philosophy. The general aims of the program are: the optimal use of individualized learning; the development of social responsibility; learner initiated activities in multi-age groupings; and the provision of an experiential approach in a materials rich environment.

The Montessori Program shall be provided in designated elementary and middle schools subject to sufficient enrolment, the availability of space and Montessori trained teaching staff, and the requirements of provincially and locally determined educational programs.

The Montessori Program in School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) is characterized by a high level of commitment and involvement by both parents and teachers. The Coquitlam Montessori Society (CMS) is a charitable society formed by Coquitlam Montessori parents. The society fundraises to purchase materials for Montessori classrooms and to support the program in School District No. 43 (Coquitlam).

The District Montessori Advisory Committee provides advice to the Superintendent on District-wide matters related to the operation of the Montessori Programs in the District. It may make recommendation to the Superintendent and provides a forum for exchange of information and views among parents, teachers, administrators and SD43. It is comprised of a teacher, parent (from the CMS) and administrator from each of the Montessori schools, one member from the District Leadership Team, and resource staff, as appropriate.

Procedures

1. Regular classroom resource allocations, class size and staffing shall approximate the District average.
2. Montessori philosophy and/or curriculum will align with provincial learning outcomes.
3. Factors to be considered in determining Montessori program location include: space in the host school; growth potential of the attendance area; and geographic dispersion of designated schools.
4. When a District Program of Choice, such as Montessori, is challenged due to space problems at the host school, options will be reviewed with the school staff, parents, and appropriate advisory groups as soon as it is practicable to do so. The Board will be kept informed of the discussions and issues.
5. Siblings will be placed in advance of a general registration.

6. Kindergarten students may enroll in the Montessori program through a lottery process. This process must take place before regular Kindergarten registration. Consideration will be given to Grade 1 entry on a case-by-case basis and when space permits.
7. Official entry points for Montessori are at the Kindergarten/Grade 1 level and for late Montessori at the Grade 6 level. Other entry points will be considered based on parent-teacher-principal consultation, prior Montessori experience, student needs and classroom space. Priority for Grade 6 entry will be given to those students who have had prior K-5 Coquitlam Montessori experience.
8. Each year, subject to available classroom space, opportunities will be provided to parents with children in a current district Montessori program, to relocate to their preferred school. Parents who wish to change schools should follow the cross-catchment process that is generally held in February. The School District will make these decisions and families will be advised before or after Spring Break.
9. The lottery placement process will be facilitated by the Assistant Superintendent responsible for enrolment and the District Principal of School Services and Special Projects (Programs of Choice).
10. Transportation for District Programs of Choice is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
11. Non-resident students shall only be accepted when space is available and resident students have been placed in the program, as per Policy 19 (*Student Attendance Areas*).

Last revised: September 2021