School Center – Old Colony Montessori School

Contact Information – Mikey Walker, Head of School

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Description of Program - Established in 1963, OCMS has been providing Montessori education to children on the South Shore for over 50 years. Children start in our beautifully equipped multi-age classes as young as 2.9, and can remain up through the third grade.

Montessori is a philosophy of education developed by Italian physician, Dr. Maria Montessori, 1870-1952. Dr. Montessori's in-depth observations of children brought forth the understanding that children love tobe involved in self-directed, purposeful activity. The Montessori classroom is a carefully prepared environment that encourages children to explore and engage with materials in meaningful ways. Every classroom is led by a teacher who has an in-depth knowledge of how children develop, and is professionally trained in Montessori philosophy, methodology, and materials. The carefully prepared environment is designed to invite, engage and challenge every child, some who may spend up to 4 years in their multi-age classroom! Children are given the luxury of a 3-hour morning cycle, allowing them the time to explore and practice with materials that meet their interests, peak their curiosities, and satisfy their growing needs.

Description of facilities - Our beautiful campus occupies two buildings, one supporting our four Children’s House classes (children aged 2.9 – 6), and a designated after care program. Our second building houses our elementary class created for children in first through third grades. We have a newly built, state of the art playground, a back to nature outdoor classroom, organic gardens and a large playing field.

Schedule of classes – Pre-school aged children attend from 8:20 am – noon, kindergarten age and elementary aged children from 8:20 – 3:00. Because the nature of Montessori philosophy is to follow the needs of each individual child, children do not need to be a specific chronological age to move up in our programs. On-site before and after school care is available from 7:30 am until 6:00 pm.

Extended Day Option - Before and after school care is available to all enrolled students.

Summer Camp – No

Kindergarten Option – yes, see above

Tuition for 2018 – 19

Pre-K Children’s House 3-Days $6240.00

Pre-K Children’s House 5-Days $9,990.00

Children’s House Full Day $14,449.00

Elementary $16,299.00

Before School Care $20.00 per day

After School Care:

Lunch Bunch, 12:00-1:30 $30.00 per day

12:00 – 3:00 $50.00 per day

12:00 – 6:00 $63.00 per day

3:00 – 6:00 $41.00 per day

Financial Aid available - yes

Class Size Up to 24 students, 1:10 ratio of adults to children

Number of Teachers One certified Montessori teacher per classroom, plus one to two assistants assigned to each class depending on size. Many of our assistants are teacher certified by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Minimum age – 2.9 to start

Potty Training – children do not need to be potty trained

Food Allergy policy – OCMS is a peanut and tree nut free school. Epi Pen training and Food Allergy Professional Development are provided annually.

Licensed – Licensed and accredited by the State of Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

Application Process – Rolling Admissions

Applications – accepted throughout the year

Application Fee - $75.00

Encourage / Discourage Behaviors – Our multi-age classrooms help older children set good examples of behavior for the younger students. We talk about our feelings with our friends, what it feels like if someone hurts us, etc. All OCMS staff model kind behavior and set the expectation for kindness and respect for others.

Specialists – We often bring talented guests into the classrooms to share with our students and a fully integrated Spanish program is in place for all OCMS students Elementary students have weekly art lessons with Norwell teacher, Jeff Menice, music with South Shore Conservatory teacher, Ed Sorrentino, and organic farming with Jonny Belber from Holly Hill Farm. We utilize the many resources our community has to offer with weekly field trips and a robust physical education program.