



MISSION STATEMENT ☀ Creative Minds Montessori School is a diverse educational community based on the teachings and beliefs of Maria Montessori. Our school provides a safe and caring environment for children to realize their natural strengths and to develop self-confidence, self-trust and self-direction. Life skills that benefit the whole child are emphasized, including peacemaking, conflict resolution and creative problem solving.

Our educational process focuses on nurturing the innate love of learning that all children possess and guiding children toward taking ownership of their own education. Compassion and empathy are developed through awareness of global concerns and active participation with local charitable and activist organizations. Students learn that they can effect change in their world through concrete activities in their community.

We are a close-knit family in which parent involvement is encouraged and valued as a vital and irreplaceable asset to our school.

"WE MUST GIVE THE CHILD RELAXATION FROM THE CONTINUOUS DIRECTION OF ADULTS. SO WE GIVE THEM THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT, RELAXATION AND FREEDOM FROM ORDERS. THIS IS AN INDIRECT TREATMENT; IT IS NOT THE CORRECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL BUT THE PREPARATION FOR A NEW LIFE." - MARIA MONTESSORI

PHILOSOPHY ☀ Our educational philosophy is based on the methods of Maria Montessori and begins with respect for the child's natural ability and desire to learn. From that foundation we provide affirmative and stimulating educational environments that facilitate each child's individual progress, encouraging students to learn experientially and develop skills for critical thinking and problem solving. Montessori students are noted for their independent thinking and self-confidence. The goal of a Montessori education is the development of a well-integrated personality. Careful attention is paid to development of the child's social skills and feelings of self worth. The ability to resolve conflict in a positive, non-violent manner is modeled and encouraged. Respect for and tolerance of others is stressed.



PROGRAMS ☀ **Toddler Class** for children 18 months to 3 years is offered with flexible scheduling to give the little ones an educational beginning full of wonder and exploration in a safe, inspiring and peaceful environment. ☀ **Primary Class** for children aged 3 to 6 years is under the care of our Directress, Jill Guenther, with her vast experience in connecting with our young students. The children are in a nurturing environment in which they can explore Practical Life, Academics and the Arts in a non-competitive atmosphere that encourages growth at the students own pace. CMMS participates in the state's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program, which provides funds for 4 year old pre-K students. ☀ **Elementary Class** consisting of children aged 6 to 9 years is nurtured by Fran Horn, who has been sharing her compassion and wisdom with Montessori children for many years. The elementary students continue to develop their independence and individuality as they are given more choices and responsibilities. ☀ **After Care.** The After Care program is designed to meet the needs of working parents by providing safe child care Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Dance classes are offered after school as well. ☀ **Summer Program** is offered throughout the summer with a variety of themed weeks offering age appropriate activities that are both fun and educational.



HISTORY ☀ Creative Minds Montessori School (CMMS) was founded to provide a Montessori school that is truly controlled by teachers and parents, with the teachers given all of the support needed to educate our children with compassion and intelligence. CMMS was created by a small group of parents along with our founding teachers, Fran Horn, who directs the elementary class, and Jill Guenther, directress of the primary class. Both teachers are well-known in the Montessori community and bring with them the wealth of many years' experience in Montessori education.

"THE FIRST AIM OF THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT IS, AS FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE, TO RENDER THE GROWING CHILD INDEPENDENT OF THE ADULT."
- MARIA MONTESSORI



OUR SPACE ☀ Creative Minds Montessori School is located on Shire Lane, off Daniels Parkway, west of I-75 in the Unitarian Universalist Church. We are not religiously affiliated, but we have a wonderful symbiotic relationship with the people of the church. Our backyard is many acres of native vegetation and includes the six-acre Holton Eco Preserve, which we are privileged to be free to explore.

VISIT US ☀ We have an open door policy at Creative Minds. However, please call to let us know when you would like to visit so that we may welcome you properly.

13411 Shire Lane
Fort Myers, Florida 33912

☀ 239-357-3693 ☀

www.creativemindsmontessori.com

Creative Minds Montessori School admits students of any race, color, national origin and ethnic origin to all the rights privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

 **CREATIVEMINDS**
Montessori School



"My House" by Violet, age 5

EDUCATION THAT THINKS
OUTSIDE THE BOX