



COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL OF ARLINGTON

established 1959

Montessori Program

TRADITIONAL METHOD

- Curriculum structured with emphasis on state mandated requirements
- Teacher-driven curriculum
- Emphasis on rote knowledge, social development
- Often few materials for sensory, concrete manipulation
- Single-age grouping
- Child usually given specific time for work
- Instruction pace set by group norm or teacher
- Errors corrected by teacher. Learning reinforced externally by rewards, discouragements
- Little emphasis or instruction on maintenance of classroom environment
- Child's seat often assigned; encouraged to sit still during group sessions
- Teacher is primary enforcer of discipline
- Teacher's role is dominant, active; child is passive participant
- Individual and group instruction conforms to the adults' teaching style rather than the individual child's learning style
- Most teaching done by teacher
- Voluntary parental involvement, often as fundraisers

MONTESSORI METHOD

- Child's work is self-paced from own interests, abilities
- Child formulates concepts from exploration of materials
- Emphasis on cognitive structure, social development
- Multi-sensory materials for physical exploration, development as concept base
- Mixed-age grouping
- Child works as long as desired on chosen project
- Child sets own learning pace to internalize information
- Child spots own errors through feedback from material or help from teacher
- Learning reinforced internally through child's repetition of activity, feelings of success
- Organized program for learning care of self and classroom environment
- Child can work where comfortable; move and talk at will (while not disturbing others); group work is voluntary and negotiable
- Environment, method encourage self-discipline
- Teacher's role unobtrusive; child actively participates in learning
- Individual and group instruction adapted to each child's learning style
- Children encouraged to teach, collaborate, and help each other