



I CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!



I AM A MONTESSORI STUDENT!



UPCOMING VIRTUES
1/18 & 1/27 - PATIENCE

WAUSAU AREA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

The Process of Normalization

In Montessori education, the term "normalization" has a specialized meaning. "Normal" does not refer to what is considered to be "typical" or "average" or even "usual." "Normalization" does not refer to a process of being forced to conform. Instead, Maria Montessori used the terms "normal" and "normalization" to describe a unique process she observed in child development.

Montessori observed that when children are allowed freedom in an environment suited to their needs, they blossom. After a period of intense concentration, working with materials that fully engage their interest, children appear to be refreshed and contented. Through continued concentrated work of their own choice, children grow in inner discipline and peace. She called this process "normalization" and cited it as "the most important single result of our whole work" (*The Absorbent Mind*, 1949).

She went on to write, Only "normalized" children, aided by their environment, show in their subsequent development those wonderful powers that we describe: spontaneous discipline, continuous and happy work, social sentiments of help and sympathy for others. . . . An interesting piece of work, freely chosen, which has the virtue of inducing concentration rather than fatigue, adds to the child's energies and mental capacities, and leads him to self-mastery. . . . One is tempted to say that the children are performing spiritual exercises, having found the path of self-perfectionment and of ascent to the inner heights of the soul. (Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*, 1949)



E.M. Standing (*Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work*, 1957) lists these as the characteristics of normalization: love of order, love of work, spontaneous concentration, attachment to reality, love of silence and of working alone, sublimation of the possessive instinct, power to act from real choice, obedience, independence and initiative, spontaneous self-discipline, and joy. Montessori believed that these are the truly "normal" characteristics of childhood, which emerge when children's developmental needs are met.

Change of Schedule for Parent Connect & Gov. Council Mtgs.

The Parent Connect and Governance Council meetings have been changed as follows:

- Parent Connect: 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning 1/12. Start time remains 3:30.
- Governance Council Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning 1/12. Start time remains 4:30.

Open Enrollment & Open Houses

The **Open Enrollment** Application timeline for the 2016-17 school year has been set by DPI.

The public school open enrollment application period:

- Begins at midnight on Monday, February 1, 2016, and
- ends at Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 4:00 PM.

More information may be obtained at the DPI website - <http://oe.dpi.wi.gov/>. If you have questions please contact Sheryl Kazda at 715-261-0570.

Every year we also hold **Open Houses** for those parents and students who have interest in attending our school. These are held monthly. Please let families who have interest in Montessori aware of these dates.

Open House Dates: All times are 4:30-6:30pm

- January 28, February 25, March 17, & April 14

Snow Reminders & Safety Precautions

Now that snow has finally come it is important to remember important information and safety precautions as follows:

- If the Wausau School District cancels school due to weather, we are closed. We follow all district policies relative to school closings. Announcements for these closing are made through school messenger and on local television and radio stations.
- **Have Kids Prepared to be Outside:** Please send kids with appropriate winter gear as they will be outside for recess. If they want to play in the snow they must have gloves, snow pants, boots, winter jackets and hats. We do have some spare hats and gloves in our lost and found if needed.
- There is not set policy on how cold it must be before we stay inside for recess. However, we do use zero degrees (temperature and "feels like" which takes into consideration the wind chill).
- When snow arrives there are several things we discuss with the kids to ensure safety during recess. Please be sure to review these with your children.
 - No throwing snow in any way.
 - We cannot allow kids to climb snow hills created from plowing. They are too high and could cause injury from falling, slipping, tripping, etc.
 - Winter gear must be worn to play in the snow & go sledding on the hill at Horace Mann.

- If winter gear is not worn, students still have the opportunity to play on the playground where there is no snow.

Parent Connection - Upcoming Important Dates

January

- 28th – Montessori Open House 4:30 -6:30 pm
- 29th – Virtues Assembly 8:30 am,
- 29th – Family Bowling Night 5:30 – 7 pm

February

- 9th - Mr. Patten’s Birthday
- 9th – Parent Connect Meeting 3:30, Governance Counsel Meeting 4:30 (Child Care Provided)
- 12th – Valentine Dance 5:30 – 7 pm
- 19th - North American Hoodie Hoo Day – High Noon
- 26th – Virtues Assembly 8:30 am,
- 26th - Peace Concert 2- 3:30 pm

March

- 2nd - Read Across America (Guest Readers)
- 4th - Family Sledding Night 5-7:30 pm
- 15th – Parent Connect Meeting 3:30, Governance Counsel Meeting 4:30 (Child Care Provided)
- 9th – Ms. Bailey’s Birthday
- 17th - Montessori Open House 4:30 – 6:30 pm
- 23rd & 24th – Spring Parent Teacher Conferences
- 24th – Virtues Assembly 8:30 am

April

- 7th – Grades k-3 to the School Forest
- 8th – Parent Connect Meeting 3:30, Governance Counsel Meeting 4:30 (Child Care Provided)
- 13th & 14th – Talent Showcase Tryouts – 3:30 pm
- 14th – Montessori Open House 4:30 -6:30 pm
- 15th – Family Swim Night 4:30 pm
- 22nd – Earth Day Celebration
- 29th – Virtues Assembly 8:30 am

WSD Information

Check out **E-Flyers** for the latest non-profit community and school-sponsored events. You can access E-Flyers [here](#) or by clicking on the E-Flyers button on the top bar of the WSD website.

For information on **Volunteering** click [here](#) or by clicking on Volunteer Info on the WSD website under the Parents tab.

Information on **WSD Board** Meetings can be found by clicking [here](#) or by clicking on Board Information under the District tab on the WSD website.

Bi-Weekly Planner

Week of January 18th

1/18-1/20: Aimsweb Testing Window

1/22: Early Release Day @ 11:30

Week of January 25th

1/25-1/26: No School, Professional Development

1/28: Open House, 4:30-6:30pm

1/29: Virtues Assembly, 8:30am

1/29: Family Bowling Night, 5:30-7pm