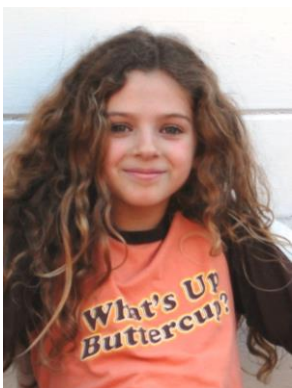


# The Concordia School



# Welcome to the Concordia School!



We realize that choosing the right school for your child is an important decision, with many factors to consider.

We are glad that you have come to visit our classes and encourage you to visit other schools as well, to decide what is best for your child. Many private schools use Montessori in their name, or advertise themselves as Montessori. Yet, each program and approach may be very different.

As you observe in the classrooms, notice whether children are learning the skills and knowledge *appropriate to their age level*. Are they also experiencing artistic creativity — and discovering culture and history?

Even if your child is still two years old, take a look at what the older children are doing. You want to make sure your child's early years connect with later learning. The *richness and diversity of teaching materials* and the curriculum for older children are important clues as to whether your child will be challenged to fulfill his/her learning potential.

Since 1973, the Concordia School has been a quality Montessori school. We are affiliated with the American Montessori Society, and our teachers have all received training in the Montessori method and child development. We have an educational program to meet the developmental needs of the full range of children from 2 to 12 years old.

We are especially proud of our graduates —many of whom have been here for 10 years. They are joyful, thoughtful, enthusiastic learners who care about each other and look forward to tackling the challenges of life beyond Concordia.

We appreciate the time and effort you are putting into this decision about your child's future. We are proud of our school and will be happy to talk to you further about any aspect of our program.

## To Contact Us:

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**E-mail:** [2learn@theconcordiaschool.com](mailto:2learn@theconcordiaschool.com)  
**Head of School:** Kathryn Linzey  
**Admissions:** Kathryn McCormick  
**Office Manager:** Brie Bagwell

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## Our School

*How is the Concordia School unique?*



The Concordia School was founded in 1973 by Jody Kresge, who envisioned a place where “children learn how to learn...learn how to live...and learn how to be accomplished in things of both the heart and mind.”

**We are a warm and welcoming community**, in which children and adults find friendships and support. We offer a place where all are encouraged to ask questions and broaden their understanding of themselves, others and the world. We are a family-centered school where parents are actively involved in their child’s educational life. We are deeply committed to working with parents. In addition, we include caregivers, grandparents, alumni and other educators in the community.



**Mixed age groupings** enable children to learn from one another, gain autonomy and develop positive self-esteem. Having an ethnic, social and economic mix in our classrooms prepares children to accept, respect and understand others in our diverse society.

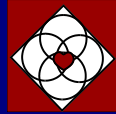
**We are committed to developing physical, social and intellectual competencies.** Our classrooms are carefully designed to focus on the development and integration of specific skills and concepts. Active engagement with hands-on tasks supports the growth of problem-solving strategies, innovation, collaboration, reflection and a positive disposition towards “figuring things out”— qualities needed throughout life.

**We view language as an agent of learning.** We fill our classrooms with discussion about people, events, ideas and plans. Children learn to talk, negotiate, collaborate and express their needs and dreams. They write to learn to read, and they explore science and math to know more about themselves and others.

**Professional Affiliations:** The Concordia School is a Full School Member of the American Montessori Society. We are also a member of the Professional Association of Childhood Educators.

# What is Montessori?

## *How will Concordia teach my child?*



**“We can see and measure and evaluate cognitive skills, but those are only fractions of what this method is all about. The Montessori child experiences the quality of humanity and the dignity of spirit required for people who want to contribute to a better world.”**

Margot Waltuch, Montessori Teacher Trainer

**The Montessori philosophy** begins with a deep respect for children as unique individuals. It was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, one of the first women physicians in Italy. In working with the poor and disabled, she discovered that even very young children were eager to learn and ready to absorb knowledge. This natural potential for self-development, she learned, is encouraged when children are given an opportunity to choose for themselves what they want to learn from a rich and diverse environment, and when they are given the freedom to proceed at their own pace.



Child psychologists and educators have again and again proven the validity of Dr. Montessori’s approach to child development and learning. She left us a legacy of hands-on learning materials that foster scientific and mathematical aptitudes, nurture an appreciation of history and support the creativity of every child. In the 100+ years since the first Montessori *Casa dei Bambini*, thousands of public and private Montessori schools have blossomed all over the world. In addition, many elements of the Montessori pedagogy, from child-sized furniture to base 10 math materials, have been incorporated into public and private school programs.

**When you visit a Montessori classroom**, you will have many things to watch. You may notice the *environment*—peaceful, beautiful, and orderly. Each shelf contains inviting materials related to one of the subject areas. You may notice the *staff*—speaking softly, stepping back to observe the children before assisting the children when needed. But most likely, you will notice the *children*, busily moving through the room. They choose a material from a shelf, take it to a rug or table, work on it with deep concentration, then put it back and choose another. Some children, particularly the younger ones, may do many short works in a morning. Others, often older, may spend most of a morning working on just one work. This cycle of activity goes on for two to three hours, as the children develop concentration, coordination, and a sense of order.

**The Concordia School has sought to remain faithful to the Montessori tradition.** Montessori-trained teachers and Montessori materials offer children the comprehensive curriculum Dr. Montessori envisioned. We recognize that children have different developmental characteristics at different stages in their lives and plan our instruction accordingly:

### First Developmental Plane

(Birth to 6 years old)

- The child *absorbs her world*, taking in everything
- He has a natural interest in *facts* and asks, “What? When? Who?”
- She is busy constructing her *self*— approaches life saying, “Help me to do it myself.”
- He is an active, *concrete* learner and enjoys real tasks

### Second Developmental Plane

(6 to 12 years old)

- The child enters the *age of reason*; she learns by mastering her will and taking responsibility for decisions
- He sees *relationships* in all subjects and asks, “Why? How?”
- She is busy constructing *community*
- He is moving towards *abstract* thought and needs real ways to practice necessary skills

Our classrooms are prepared environments where children are free to engage in their natural tendency to work. Through their work, the children develop concentration and self-discipline. The opportunity to engage in spontaneous, purposeful activities under the guidance of a trained Montessori teacher ignites a passion that lays the foundation for a lifetime of learning.



## Our Classrooms

*Help your child discover the joy of learning*



**One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the joy of learning. And learning is a joyful activity when children are given the opportunity to progress at their own pace, challenged by lessons and educational materials designed to meet their individual needs.**

**We seek to make the child's school days a foundation for a lifetime of creative learning. To help each child achieve academic excellence, we use individualized lessons. We offer a warm and caring environment where children can learn cooperation and respect for others.**

**In our educational efforts, we support parents as they respond to the needs of the whole child — developing personal values and inner strength for the challenges of the diverse and ever-changing world in which we live.**

**Concordia offers educational programs to take advantage of the unique learning potentials of each age group.**

### The Children's House (2-Kindergarten)

The Montessori curriculum takes advantage of a child's *sensitive periods* —those times when there is a readiness to learn a specific skill. For example, between the ages 3-1/2 and 4-1/2, children are eager and ready to learn to write.

Children are able to learn these skills by manipulating their environment. They play with *objects* and that play later translates into more abstract and symbolic *knowledge*. Thus, we provide hundreds of learning materials, carefully prepared, in an environment of child-sized furniture. Beads, blocks, puzzles and letters prepare a foundation for math, reading and writing.

Each child selects materials he wishes to work with, and he is encouraged to complete each activity. In this way, the child develops an inner sense of how to approach work. He learns the balance between discipline and creativity.



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### **Concordia's Beginner Program (2- and young 3-year olds)**

*The first step toward a lifetime of learning*



**Even at age 2, children are ready to learn and eager to explore their world. The skills and knowledge they develop give them the confidence and learning skills they will need for later success in school.**

In our Children's House classroom, we have a special area for 2- and young 3-year olds to acclimate themselves to life in a school. They learn the routines of circle time and practice taking work out and putting it away again. Developmentally appropriate materials help develop eye-hand coordination and the concentration so important in later learning.

- Children do not need to be toilet-trained to start in our program.
- Part-time programs available for those who wish to help their child adjust more gradually to life away from home. Three or five half-days are available. (When your child enters the pre-K and Kindergarten years, programs are full-time only.)

## The Junior Elementary (ages 6-9)

Beginning at around the age of six, children are ready to use their imaginations to explore their expanding world. We present lessons that strike their imaginations and compel the children to dig deeper for more information. Through the use of hands-on materials, students in the Junior Elementary make the connection between concrete objects and abstract concepts. In studying the classification of animals and the common needs of people around the world and back through history, they discover their own place in the world.

This is also a time of greater social awareness and learning to be part of a community, developing responsibility, time management skills and compassion for others.



## The Advanced Elementary (ages 9-12)

In the Advanced Elementary, we take advantage of the maturing child's desire to sort out values and principles. Through discussion, research, and essays, students explore their own opinions and beliefs. They develop an appreciation for the ideas of others and a respect for differing points of view. They bring their curriculum to life by immersing themselves in whatever they are studying, whether it be defending their principles in a mock Inquisition or creating a play to describe the parts of a cell. Our graduating class chooses a year-long community service project before heading out into the larger world beyond Concordia.

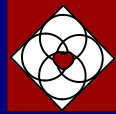
**In both elementary classrooms, we use individualized instruction to help students learn for themselves. We encourage them to go as far as they want in learning about a subject. Students also participate in group lessons and experience the satisfaction of cooperative work.**

**Specialty classes in art, music, Spanish and physical education are woven into the curriculum to create a well-balanced educational program. A highlight of the year for many elementary students is our school play, presented at the Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Every child has a part!**



## Our Staff

*Important people for an important job*



Beyond academics, the teachers at the Concordia School provide warmth, security, love and protection. With this support, the child moves into new worlds of learning —interacting comfortably with other children and adults.

To foster the unique potential of each child takes a very special teacher. At the Concordia School, the teacher is, first of all, an astute observer. S/he carefully watches each child, looking for readiness-to-learn signals. Materials are introduced, and guidance given, when needed. The teacher senses the direction the child wants to go, and is responsible for helping the student progress to increasingly challenging subject matter.



Each of our head teachers is Montessori-trained and certified. Our Children's House staff has all state-mandated early childhood education requirements. We also provide in-house training and encourage continued professional development for all of our staff through additional coursework and workshops.

## Child Care



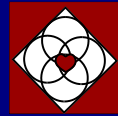
The Concordia School is dedicated to helping your child discover the joy of learning. One of the reasons learning is such an enjoyable activity at Concordia is that it takes place in a warm and caring environment — a “home away from home.” These multi-age classes offer your child a family environment in after-school care, with older children helping younger children, and children playing as they would in your neighborhood.

**Current Hours: 7:30 am to 8:30 am  
3:00 pm to 6:30 pm**

(Note: On a regular school day, there is no additional charge for this service for full-time students.)

## Investing in your child's future

*The student who learns how to learn knows how to live*



**To maintain excellence in learning, we look for those families who are committed to an educational process that honors the natural needs of the child and fosters self-discipline.**

When you decide to enroll in the Concordia School, you are laying the foundation for a lifetime of joyful learning for your child. Within the comfort and security of our beautiful classrooms, children flourish as they grow emotionally and academically.

The Concordia School is a tuition-based school; almost all of our income is derived from the tuition paid by families. We turn around and put over 80% of that money back into our classrooms, in the form of staff salaries and educational materials. We pay close attention to our expenses throughout the year to make the most efficient use of your hard-earned dollars. We also offer a number of ways to help our families.



### **Sibling Discount**

If you have more than one child enrolled in the Concordia School, the tuition for the additional child is reduced by approximately ten percent.

### **Full Payment Discount**

Most of our families prefer to pay in monthly installments. We do offer a discount to families who pay their annual tuition in one payment.

### **Financial Aid**

The school is able to offer a limited number of financial aid grants each year, based on need as determined by the Tuition Aid Data Service, Minneapolis, MN. Applications may be requested through the office. Grants will be made after March only if funds remain.



**2022/2023**

## Part - Time

### *Children's House Beginners (2- and 3-year-olds only)*

3 half days	<i>Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday, 8:30-11:30</i>	\$880/month
3 full days	<i>Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday, 8:30-3:00</i>	\$980/month
5 half days	<i>Monday thru Friday, 8:30-11:30</i>	\$980/month

## Full - Time

### *Children's House (2-year olds thru Kindergarten)*

5 full days	<i>Monday thru Friday, 8:30-3:00</i>	\$13,622 annually	or	\$1,390/month
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### *Elementary (1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades)*

5 full days	<i>Monday thru Friday 8:30-3:00</i>	\$13,769 annually	or	\$1,405/month
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## Child Care

**Before school:** Childcare is available at no charge for all families each day, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

**After school:** Child care is available until 6:30 p.m. This child care is free for all *full-day* Children's House and Elementary students on regularly scheduled school days. The cost for half-day children is \$15.00 per hour to stay past 11:30 am.

**Optional child care** is available for an additional fee for Children's House students during school breaks and over the summer. These sessions are dependent on enrollment.

## Additional Fees

**Enhanced Curriculum Fee:** At Concordia, we offer music and movement, Spanish, Concert Recorder lessons, science labs, drama, computers and physical education as a part of our curriculum (offerings vary from class to class). Many of these programs, plus funds for field trips and class projects, come from this *annual* fee.

Children's House	\$165	Grades 1 - 3	\$250	Grades 4 - 6	\$350
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Families receive a School Calendar each July, so that they can plan their year accordingly. We have many opportunities for families to connect with each other and for parents to learn more about Montessori and what their children are doing every day. Parent participation in events is encouraged, but not required. Many of these events were put on hold or done virtually in 2020-2021; we look forward to their return!

**Family Events**

*Back-to-School Open House*  
*International Potluck Picnic*  
*Harvest Fair*  
*Holiday and Spring Concerts (Elementary)*  
*Holiday Luncheon (Children's House)*  
*Science and Book Fair*  
*Concordia School Play*  
*Hands-On Night*  
*Grandparents Day*

**Parent Education**

*New Parent Orientation*  
*School Orientation*  
*Parent Breakfasts*  
*Parent-Teacher Conferences*  
*Silent Journey Workshop*  
*Parent Observations*  
*Elementary Information Night*  
*Parent Education Nights*

Our regular school year runs from September to mid-June. Two summer sessions are offered to students in the Children's House. Summer Session I (mid-June through mid-July) continues Montessori learning. Summer Session II (mid-July through August) focuses on creative arts and nature projects. We observe the traditional federal holidays. We are only closed one full week a year — the last week of August, before Labor Day — for staff training and classroom preparation.