



Middle School Project Update

May 2011



After thirteen years of success as a Montessori charter school, DCS Montessori may be expanding...

“It is about time!”

Middle School Project Underway

After years of speculation and discussion by both faculty and parents alike, we are a little bit closer to answering that burning question, “Will DCS Montessori develop a middle school?”

The DCS Montessori Board of Directors (BOD) has recently approved the following strategic goal: "DCSM will explore expansion into a Middle School program within the next 2 years."

Plans for a unique Montessori Middle School are underway after several parents and excited faculty members have diligently been paving the path to development with tedious yet necessary baby steps. Mike Catalano, better known around campus as “Mr. Mike,” will be attending a Montessori Middle School Orientation program in Ohio this summer and will spearhead the middle school development efforts here at DCS Montessori alongside Mr. Jeromy.

Our expansion into Middle School is pending a contractual process requiring Douglas County School District Board of Education approval, which is not yet submitted. However, parents are encouraged to attend our BOD meetings to observe discussions and reports of this exciting topic!



What does a Montessori Middle School program look like?

“The need that is so keenly felt for a reform of secondary schools is not only an educational but also a human and social problem.”

This can be summed up in one sentence: Schools as they are today are adapted neither to the needs of adolescence nor to the time in which we live.”

— Maria Montessori

Everything we, as a community, love about the Montessori learning process will be carried over into the middle school classroom. The need to inspire children during their adolescent period is more important today than ever. A Montessori method and process can be developed and adapted to take standard state mandated curriculum and teach it through action, creativity, and hands on projects.

A government lesson might involve a trip to the statehouse, learning to write laws, and developing their own middle school system of government. Science classes might involve sustainable development lessons, a composting station for lunch leftovers, and use of our outdoors classroom. One of the many differences between a Montessori Middle School and a regular Middle School program is that in a Montessori program the students experience their lessons through activity and actual work. Since we are a charter school we will still have to meet state mandated criteria and take the same standardized tests (much like upper elementary) the difference will be in the “how we teach,” as opposed to the “what we teach.”

While our middle school development process is still in the very early stages, and still pending Board approval, we hope to develop a program that will not only inspire our students but other middle schools in Colorado as well.

DCS Montessori will be hosting a community night in September. This discussion and presentation will aim to answer several pertinent questions as well as get our parents involved and excited in this new innovative process.

To learn more about the Montessori Middle School programs in general please stop by the front office to pick up some exciting articles.