



ENROLLMENT PACKET



OUR HISTORY

Located in the heart of Bluffton's historic downtown, the school embodies our town's sense of small community. May River Montessori opened its doors in August 1987 to 17 young children who became the school's first students. In four short years, the school's growth exceeded the capacity of the original site. Over the last three decades, the school has continued to grow through three relocations and over seven major additions and renovations to its current home. May River Montessori has played a significant role in the social and educational environment of the growing Bluffton community.

The brainchild of two mothers, May River Montessori has grown and flourished. throughout the years, touching the lives and hearts of hundreds of families. In turn, each of these families has become a beautiful part of May River Montessori's heritage and has helped to make the school what it is today.

We believe joy is crucial—for a child's development, for learning and academic growth, and for life as a whole. It is our mission to help each student carry a flame of curiosity and a genuine passion for learning that will continue to burn brightly throughout their lives.



PROGRAMS OFFERED

TODDLER PROGRAM (24 months–3 years)

- **5-Day Program** (Monday-Friday) 8:00–11:30am ★
- **3-Day Program** (Wednesday-Friday) 8:00–11:30am
- **2-Day Program** (Monday-Tuesday) 8:00–11:30am

PRIMARY PROGRAM (3–6 years)

- **Half-Day Program** (Monday-Friday) 8:00–11:30am ★
- **Full-Day Program** (Monday-Friday) 8:00am–2:45pm

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM (6–12 years)

- **Lower Elementary, Grades 1–3** (Monday-Friday) 8:00am–2:45pm
- **Upper Elementary, Grades 4–6** (Monday-Friday) 8:00am–2:45pm

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM *for an additional fee*

- Available for Primary and Elementary students, 2:45–5PM

★ Option for
Lunch Bunch
to extend the
day to 2:45pm

OUR VISION

Shaping future generations of world changers and peacemakers.



MISSION STATEMENT

We inspire a love of learning, compassion, and acceptance within an authentic Montessori community.

- A Montessori education develops independence, self discipline, and respect for others
- Montessori allows the child to set the pace of learning
- Multi aged classrooms create an environment in which younger children are learning from older children along with a strong sense of community.

May River Montessori is a non-profit, tax exempt, 501(c)(3) corporation. Voluntary contributions to MRM, where no goods or services are received in turn, are tax deductible as defined by the IRS guidelines.

The school is licensed by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) and operates under the guidelines of the Department of Public Health (DPH).



WHY MONTESSORI?

A look at this unique educational model and why it might be right for your child

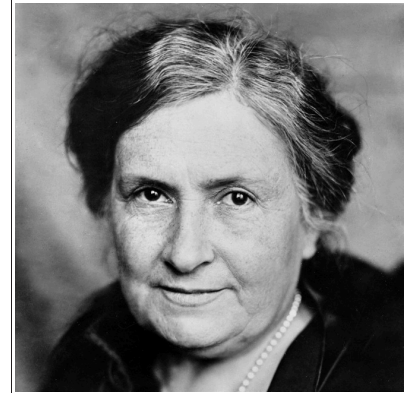
THE HISTORY OF MONTESSORI

Dr. Maria Montessori was the first woman to graduate from the University of Rome Medical School in 1896. As a woman she was deterred from becoming a physician. Working in the shadows led her to treat underprivileged young children. Using love as the center of her method, Maria Montessori created the “prepared environment.”

Materials were arranged on low shelves and provided a structured, proven path of learning, which allowed the child to develop at their own pace, according to their own learning modalities. Dr. Montessori said the years between birth and six are the formative years, which modern science has since validated. These are the years of the absorbent mind, the years in which intelligence itself is being formed. It is also the time that a child most easily learns attitudes, values, and the ground rules of human behavior. These years can be constructively devoted to helping them acquire good manners and habits, to take their place in culture. The importance of the prepared environment lies in its ability to provide the use of attractive, inviting, and developmentally appropriate materials, and to provide opportunities to explore the world of sensory, motor, and intellectual experiences.

The children developed an extraordinarily high level of intellectual and social ability using her approach.

Montessori was introduced in the United States in 1912. One of the earliest schools was established by Alexander Graham Bell. Today, the Montessori approach is taught in a great number of schools in the United States and throughout the world.



Dr. Maria Montessori
Founder of the
Montessori Method of
Education



IS MONTESSORI RIGHT FOR YOU?

Montessori education should not be chosen just because parents are seeking an alternative to the traditional classroom. Parents should choose Montessori because they believe in this approach. Please take time to understand the method, the environment, and how your child will need your support at home to thrive.

The Montessori Difference

Traditional

Teacher is the focus of the classroom

Mainly group instruction

One subject typically studied at a time, in allotted time, in a group

Same-age grouping

The teacher is in charge of lessons

Timed lessons, activities, and class schedules break up work flow

Child errors are usually pointed out by the teacher

Learning is reinforced externally by repetition and rewards

Teacher has an unobtrusive role in the classroom

Teacher introduces activities to children and then lets them pursue their own interests, while observing their progress.

Mainly individual instruction

Teachers work one-on-one with children in order to ensure that they fully grasp tasks and activities.

Children select their own experiences, at their pace

Once children have seen the teacher demonstrate an activity at least once, they are encouraged to pursue that activity on their own, to work on figuring it out for themselves.

Mixed-age grouping

Children of various skill levels work alongside each other, so that learning takes place at all different experience levels and is not limited by age.

Children learn from each other

In the mixed-age environment, the opportunity exists for older children who have "mastered" activities to share their knowledge with younger children; learning is enhanced by this positive exchange of experiences.

Child works as long as they want on chosen projects, enabling focus and concentration

Uninterrupted work times allow for a level of immersion that is difficult to achieve when lessons are timed and scheduled.

The teacher guides children toward self-realization and self-correction

Through repetition of activities, children learn to identify and rectify their mistakes, encouraging awareness of their abilities.

Child reinforces learning through repetition and feelings of success

The more a child works on a particular task or activity, the stronger they become, and the more confident they are in their abilities.

MEET OUR ALUMNI



Ella and Molly Williamson

Attended May River Montessori Toddler–6th grade

Currently attending McCracken Middle School

Ella: *I really enjoyed that the teachers were nice, and all the fun things we did. This includes working the Farmer's Market, gardening, school plays, Camp Earthshine and Science Fair. I feel that the transition to middle school was good. Although our new school is different, I am doing well.*

Molly: *I feel like the transition out of May River Montessori was good because I manners like being respectful, listening to teachers, and following directions carefully.*



Wells P Sharp

Attended May River Montessori Toddler–6th Grade

Currently a Sophomore at Furman University

“ *May River Montessori helped nurture my curiosity and independence, teaching me to embrace learning as a journey. Consequently, the foundation began at an early age fostering both creative and critical thinking. These pillars of learning helped me thrive in high school and now into my college years.* **”**



Reece John Woods

Attended May River Montessori Toddler through Primary Cycle

Citadel Graduate- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Masters in Business Administration

“ *May River Montessori was a vital foundation for my growth. It's where I learned to navigate social interactions and develop essential learning skills. Through play and collaboration, I discovered the importance of teamwork and communication. These early experiences shaped my curiosity and confidence, setting the stage for lifelong learning.* **”**



Margaret Pearman

Among the first Kindergarten graduates in 1989

Graduated from Tulane University with a degree in International Development and Italian Literature. Owns and runs Charlie's L'Etoile Verte, and paints almost daily.

“ *One of my most prized take-aways from my Montessori beginning was learning how to treat others kindly. I have a strong sense of just how small each individual is in this big universe. Even more, I have been able to lead myself as an entrepreneur, and start every day with a new goal.* **”**



PROGRAMS & EXTRACURRICULARS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

2:45- 5:00PM for an additional fee

EXTENDED OUTDOOR TIME



FARMER'S MARKET

Upper Elementary entrepreneurial program



PORCH PARTY

A meet and greet for parents at the beginning of the school year



PIZZA FRIDAYS

Upper Elementary fundraiser offering a special catered lunch

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Soccer, Dance, Equestrian Club
(additional cost)

SILLY GOOSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Beautiful school pictures each year



SPECIALS

Gardening, Art, Music

SPRING PERFORMANCE

SUZUKI METHOD MUSIC

Lessons provided at an additional cost during the school day





TUITION

May River Montessori is a nonprofit organization completely dependent on tuition as its principal source of income. We know and appreciate the sacrifices and hard work required to pay for your child's education. The skills and love of learning your child acquire here will serve them well for a lifetime!



2026-2027 TUITION

Grades 4-6.....	\$13,315
Grades 1-3.....	\$12,995
Primary Full Day.....	\$12,225
Primary LB.....	\$11,975
Primary Half Day.....	\$9,975
Toddler 5 Day LB.....	\$11,975
Toddler 5 Day.....	\$9,975
Toddler 3 Day.....	\$7,945
Toddler 2 Day.....	\$5,715

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE POLICIES

- **Monthly tuition payments** are due every month on the 15th from July to May of the current school year.
- **Semester tuition** are due July 15th and December 15th of the current school year.



TUITION PROTECTION FUND

Each family enters into a financial contract for the full annual tuition for the entire academic year for their child(ren). The school is unable to refund any tuition or cancel unpaid financial obligations if a student is withdrawn for any reason at any time during the school year. To help protect against unforeseen circumstances, the May River Montessori Tuition Protection Fund provides the school with assurance that financial obligations will be met in the event of a student's withdrawal. This fund is self-funded by the school, and all claims are subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the Tuition Protection Agreement.

In the event of a withdrawal, a parent or guardian may submit a claim by providing a written explanation and following the procedures detailed in the Tuition Protection Agreement.

Participation in the May River Montessori Tuition Protection Fund is required for all student accounts not paid in full by August 1st of each year.



- **Annual tuition payments** are due July 15th of the current school year.
- **After School Program** Guaranteed enrollment into the After School Program is done at the time of enrollment. After August 1st, enrollment into the program is possible on a first-come, first-served basis and is limited by current availability. The fee is \$75/month/weekday.



TUITION SAVING OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER CREDIT PROGRAM

Families who complete **12 volunteer hours** between August 1, 2026 and April 30, 2027 will receive a **\$600 tuition credit**, applied to the May 2027 tuition payment.

Tuition Credit Program

- Hours must be logged through our volunteer management system.
- The credit applies per family, not per child.
- Partial completion does not qualify for credit.

All volunteers must complete a background check and be approved before participating in volunteer opportunities during school hours.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

A state-funded school choice program offering \$7,500 per student for qualifying K-12 students.

- **January 15, 2026:** Applications for priority groups open.
- **February 9, 2026:** General applications open.



**Scan here to
learn more!**

MAY RIVER MONTESSORI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Thanks to our generous community donors, MRM offers a limited number of **partial scholarships** for families with demonstrated financial need. Applications are reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.

- Requires submission of tax returns and documentation of financial hardship.
- Apply **September 1, 2025–February 1, 2026** at mayrivermontessori.com
- Decisions are announced March 1, 2026



ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- **Inquire** – Complete our online inquiry form.
- **Campus Tour** – Attend a campus tour with your child(ren).
- **Apply Online** – Submit an application through our admissions portal along with the \$100 application fee per child.
- **School Records Request** (*Grades 1–6*) – May River Montessori requests school records.
- **Student Visit**
 - *Toddlers*: A 15-minute morning visit with classroom teachers.
 - *Primary*: A 30 minute visit with classroom teachers.
 - *Grades 1–6*: A 30-minute after-school visit held from 3:15–3:45 PM with classroom teachers.
- **Classroom Shadow Day** (*Grades 1–6*) – Your child experiences a half-day session from 8:30–12:45 within our classroom, engaging in the Montessori Work Cycle, connecting socially, and being observed by teachers to assess independence, social-emotional adjustment, and academic readiness

Please note: Submission of school records is required prior to scheduling a Shadow Day.

- **Contract Offer** – Extended if both family and school determine it is a good fit.