

Education for Life

OMNI MONTESSORI SCHOOL



Welcome to Omni Montessori School

In 1985, a small group of parents joined together to establish an authentic Montessori school on land they purchased in the rural outskirts of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Over the years, the city and the school have expanded. However, the goal of Omni Montessori School has endured - to nurture children who are independent thinkers, creative problem solvers, and life-long learners.

Omni currently serves around 200 students from age three to grade nine. The seven-acre Blakeney Campus in south Charlotte is home to the Primary and Elementary programs, and Omni's middle school is located on thirteen-acres in nearby Waxhaw, North Carolina.

OUR MISSION

- Developing skilled, resourceful and caring members of society who value discovery and who contribute with purpose to the world around them.
- Providing a child-centered environment that offers an individualized and integrated curriculum, and programs for parent education and support.
- Creating significant relationships between teacher, parent and child, and building a community that remains stable in spite of necessary changes.
- Seeking and celebrating diversity.
- Adhering to the teachings of Maria Montessori and the high standards of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).

MONTESSORI HISTORY

The Montessori approach to education was created by Maria Montessori, the Italian physician and anthropologist who lived from 1870 to 1952.

Dr. Montessori observed that all children possess an inherent love of learning and naturally develop in stages. She used her findings to create educational programs and materials, and helped found schools throughout the world. Today, there are tens of thousands of Montessori schools around the globe.

Montessori classrooms are designed with special materials for active, hands-on learning. Because children develop on different timelines, students are given freedom and independence to work at their own pace, with teachers providing lessons one-on-one or in small groups, as well as guidance at appropriate intervals. Montessori classrooms operate on three-year cycles, allowing students to form close relationships and engage in cooperative learning and mentoring roles. Since Montessori learning focuses on developing internal motivation, students do not receive letter grades and testing is minimal.



PRIMARY

Ages 3-6

Blakeney Campus

Primary (ages 3 and 4)

8:30am - 12:00pm

Primary Extended Day

(ages 5 and 6)

8:30am - 3:00pm

Children are invited to stay the extended day when they are ready, typically around age 5.

Children's Nest Aftercare

12:00 - 3:00pm

Omni's Primary Program begins at age three when young students are eager to absorb the world around them, take on meaningful tasks, and lay a sturdy foundation for life-long learning. The three-year curriculum develops skills in the areas of practical life, language, mathematics, sensory development, culture, art, and music. Children must enroll in the Primary Program before age five, as each year of the curriculum builds upon the last.

Each Primary classroom includes materials that have been beautifully and meticulously designed for young hands, as well as a garden for outdoor exploration. School days are divided into morning and afternoon sessions. In the mornings, children work in the classroom and garden, prepare and share snack, and often conclude with story time and music with the teacher. When students show signs of developmental and academic readiness - usually around age five - they transition to the extended-day program. In the afternoon, the children eat lunch in the classrooms and have a full outdoor recess before returning to the classroom for more advanced lessons.



ELEMENTARY

Grades 1-6

Blakeney Campus

Lower Elementary (Grades 1-3)

8:30am to 3:30pm

Upper Elementary (Grades 4-6)

8:30am to 3:30pm

Encore! Aftercare

3:30pm to 5:30pm

Omni's elementary program is divided into Lower Elementary (grades one through three) and Upper Elementary (grades four through six). Termed *cosmic education* by Dr. Montessori, the elementary curriculum builds an understanding of the vast inner-connectedness of the universe and the body of human knowledge.

Students work independently and in groups through a challenging curriculum of language, mathematics, geography, arts and humanities, biology, and physical and outdoor activities. Teachers guide students using lessons and materials, as well as "going out" trips to explore the greater world.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Program for Adolescents

Grades 7-9

Waxhaw Campus

8:00am to 4:30pm

Students are dropped off and picked up daily from the Blakeney Campus.

Omni's Adolescent Program is located 20 miles south of the Blakeney Campus in Waxhaw, North Carolina. To the casual observer, it is a serene and picturesque farm. In Montessori terms, it is an environment appropriate for young adolescents who are ready for increased levels of responsibility and real, meaningful work. The Adolescent Program is a microcosm of our larger society and provides an authentic community scaled to an appropriate size so that students can participate in its government and social life. Students run a farm business, care for animals, and utilize the land as a natural laboratory for the applied sciences.

Students receive a rigorous grounding in language, math, science, the arts and humanities, and in the completion of adult-like work known as the occupations curriculum. Classrooms are used for traditional study, and include a music studio, library, science and computer labs. Classroom work is integrated with field study, goings out, interaction with visiting experts, work on and off the farm, and a range of other experiences.



ADMISSIONS

Omni Montessori School admits students at all grade levels with priority given to current students, siblings of current students, and students transferring from other AMI-accredited schools.

To apply, please begin by reviewing the school's admissions procedures and policies on our website, www.omni-montessori.org, or contact the Director of Admissions, (704) 541-1326, to schedule a tour. Ideally, families should begin the admissions process one year in advance. Interviews for the following school year are conducted in the spring. Omni Montessori School offers rolling admissions.

Applications are accepted and children are admitted throughout the school year if appropriate space is available.

The admissions process includes several steps:

- School tour (parents only)
- Admissions meeting (parents only)
- Classroom observation
- Application and fee to be submitted
- Child's visit and interview
- Child's assessment (age six and up)
- Parent-teacher meeting

Criteria for acceptance include:

- The child's developmental readiness and willingness to learn
- The parents' understanding and adherence to the school's basic goals and Montessori philosophy
- The age and gender needed for classroom balance
- The needs of the current students in the classroom
- All students entering the Primary program must be potty trained

Omni at a Glance

PRIMARY

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Primary (ages 3 and 4)
8:30am - 12:00pm
Primary Extended Day
(ages 5-6)
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*(Children are invited to stay the
extended day when they are ready,
typically around age 5)*

ELEMENTARY

Blakeney Campus
Lower Elementary (Grades 1-3)
8:30am to 3:30pm *
Upper Elementary (Grades 4-6)
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MIDDLE SCHOOL

Waxhaw Campus
Adolescent Program
(Grades 7-9)
8:00am to 4:30pm
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and picked up daily from
the Blakeney Campus.

FACULTY

Omni teachers are highly-trained professionals. At minimum, all head teachers have earned a bachelor's degree and are AMI-certified at their grade level. Many faculty members have also earned master's and other post-graduate degrees.

AMI

Omni is recognized by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), the organization founded by Dr. Maria Montessori to strictly uphold the values and standards of her work.

** Encore! aftercare is available for children ages 5 and up who attend school for a full day. Enrichment classes are also available.*





9536 Blakeney Heath Road
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(704) 541-1326
www.omni-montessori.org