



Golden Oak
Montessori School
of Hayward

Why is Montessori a Good Option for Academic Success?

Golden Oak Montessori School will offer an alternative curricular approach to serve the diverse ethnic, socioeconomic, language, and educational backgrounds of students entering elementary school.

We believe that the best way of meeting the challenges of our diversity is via a proven educational curriculum that has a track record of academic success in elementary and middle school—especially with minority students; small class size with individualized attention; and a commitment to community involvement.

The Montessori curriculum was originally developed to serve disadvantaged children and the philosophy of child-centered education has flourished worldwide because of its inclusiveness and its academic success.

The idea of a Montessori *charter* school integrates the values of public education with the benefits of:

- small teacher-to-student ratios;
- teachers who are both State certified and Montessori trained;
- Montessori hands-on materials designed for interactive learning; and
- a facility which allows collaborative projects such as gardening and specialized curricular offerings such as art, music, and environmental education.

Montessori offers an approach that enriches “the whole child,” where the teacher is a resource, guide, and observer, and the child is an active learner.

What does the research show about children's success with Montessori?

The academic benefits of Montessori elementary education have been demonstrated, as in the recent Milwaukee study (*Science*, September 2006) of urban minority students comparing Montessori and traditional public education, which confirmed superior test scores for Montessori students.

The National Institutes of Health ongoing study of learning disabilities (*Montessori Life*, Summer 2004) also highlights the Montessori approach's success in teaching language, especially to Special Needs children. To see a more local example of public Montessori success, look at Eagle Peak, in Walnut Creek, which demonstrates academic triumph with its 2007 Academic Performance Index (API) rating of 10, ranking it among the top 10% of schools in the state, public or private.

The real success of Montessori may be the long-term achievements gained from the practiced skills of collaborative learning, time-management, and self-governance.

The Milwaukee study cited above showed that students in the Montessori program “were more likely to respond to social problems with a positive assertive response” and “showed a more developed sense of community and social skills.” (*Science*, September 2006)



Performance at Golden Oak Montessori will focus equally on State academic standards and character development.

Montessori emphasizes that children develop positive character traits while they learn. Students will be evaluated by State competency exams, regular markers of academic progress and cognitive understanding, and by evaluations which focus on the following character traits of life-long learners: confidence and competence, independence, autonomy, intrinsic motivation, ability to handle external authority, social responsibility, good citizenship, and positive self-image.