



Dearcroft

Montessori School



Dearcroft Montessori School

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Home of West Wind Junior High



Dearcroft Montessori School

...Your Natural Choice

Founded in 1968, Dearcroft is Oakville's original Montessori School and one of the first to be established in Canada. Our campus is located on a stunning two-acre, wooded historic estate property. Our school is within walking distance of downtown Oakville and beautiful lakeside parks. We have remained family owned and operated, now run by second-generation Montessori educators. Dearcroft is CCMA accredited and a founding member of the Oakville Independent Schools. Celebrating over 50 years, Dearcroft continually proves to be a highly respected leader in education. Our experienced staff takes great pride in offering a warm and engaging environment for students.

Dearcroft provides programs for toddlers through Grade 8. We offer an intimate learning experience within our supportive and close-knit community. The comprehensive and methodical training of staff, excellent ratios and long-term relationships allow us to focus on all aspects of each child's development. Keeping in-line with Montessori best practices, all of our classrooms feature:

- Individualized, child-centered programs
- Enriched programming, tailored to meet the needs of each student
- Multi-age environments
- Low student/teacher ratios
- Hands-on, experiential learning
- Individual and small-group lessons



Toddler

18 months – 3 year olds

Children are in their most formative period of development at this age. They are able to absorb impressions from all aspects of their surroundings, and have a natural love of learning. Our program is designed to help toddlers develop their order, concentration and control of movement through practical life experiences. Daily lessons promote development of oral communication, independence, problem solving and building respect for oneself and others. The prepared classroom environment provides materials that lay the foundation of math and language work before they enter our preschool program. We offer a half or full day option (with a maximum ratio of 1 teacher for every 5 students).



Casa

2.5 – 5 year olds

Students at this level are in a sensitive period in which they are able to absorb concepts and information with minimal effort. With this in mind, our classrooms are prepared to stimulate interest and exploration with a myriad of materials and activities designed to promote learning in all areas of the curriculum, including math, language, science and culture. As the children become engaged in activities, they begin to develop concentration, attention to detail and self-discipline. Together, three, four and five year olds interact and learn from each other in a classroom that is rich in choice and opportunity. As children progress within the group, their confidence grows along with their expanding knowledge. We offer half and full day options.



Junior High

12 – 13 year olds

Our Junior High Program is a two-year model, providing an interdisciplinary, experience-based curriculum designed to stimulate student's creativity and intellectual growth. Our skilled teachers understand the very specific needs of adolescents and work to build a strong classroom community, allowing youth to feel a sense of belonging. This safe environment creates ideal conditions for students to focus on their academic growth, and engage deeply in their studies. We offer a low student/teacher ratio allowing for completely individualized learning. As an academically rigorous program, students are challenged through authentic, purposeful work projects. French, art, physical education, science and music classes are provided. We offer a number of experience-based opportunities in addition to leading the school community, such as Expedition Education trips across Canada, Montessori Model United Nations, Fall Bonding Trips, and Great Lakes & Canadian Heritage River studies. Our graduates move on to High School with confidence and clarity of vision. Collaborative and motivated, they emerge from our program with a strong academic foundation and carry with them a genuine strength of character and desire to contribute to the world.



Elementary 6 – 12 year olds

The Elementary Program continues to build on the foundation established in Casa, and centres on the Montessori concept of a cosmic curriculum. Aided by a curious mind, developing imagination and ability to absorb large amounts of information, the child begins to learn about the universe and his/her place in it. Careful attention is paid to the development of language and mathematical skills. These abilities assist in the integrated areas of history, geography, science, botany, zoology and peace education. Interest and enthusiasm fuel the development of research skills and help the children become independent learners, skilled in time management.

Our classroom structure allows for students to have consistency, challenge, individualized instruction, and programs tailored to their specific needs. Elementary classes are led by dynamic teams of highly experienced and dedicated teachers. During the three-year cycle of their academic development in the classroom, our students gain confidence, self-esteem and an impressive level of independence and learning. Their maturity, sense of global awareness and overall citizenship is nurtured and strengthened by their multi-aged experience. In addition to the classroom instruction, we offer French, physical education, music and art lessons. Both Junior and Senior Elementary classes participate in a number of experiential education field trips.



In addition, our school offers the following programs and services:

- Before and after school care
- Hot meal plan option
- A variety of extracurricular clubs and programs including Arts Club (Drama), Chess Club, PSAA Athletics, Mandarin, Music Programs
- Many community events such as the Fall Festival, Christmas Concert, Heritage Day, Art Shows, Science Days, and a Year End BBQ.

We look forward to the opportunity of welcoming you to the Dearcroft community.