

## POINTS OF PRIDE

- Research based, Montessori Education is recognized worldwide as a successful alternative to traditional teaching methods
- Participates with North American Montessori Teacher's Association (NAMTA)
- Teacher inquiry projects with University of Florida
- Montessori Parent Education nights
- Teachers hold Montessori certificates in addition to state teaching certification
- Cultural, arts, and nature study field trips provide real-life experiences that connect directly with classroom research

## HOW TO APPLY

Only students who live in the southern portion of Pinellas County can apply to this school during the designated application period. Please check the district website at [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org) for more information.

## TRANSPORTATION

Arterial bus transportation (buses that operate on main roads with a limited number of stops) is provided to students who live more than two miles from the school. Magnet bus stop locations may require that parents drive their children to and from the stop.



## OUR MISSION

We believe in our students. Gulfport Elementary School's mission is to guide and empower our students while we all learn and develop in our global community.



**Gulfport Elementary**  
Montessori Academy

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[www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org)

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*Brochure information is subject to change.*

# Montessori Academy

**GULFPORT ELEMENTARY**



**MAGNET SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS**

**LOOK • EXPLORE • DISCOVER**

# look · explore · discover

## ABOUT US

Gulfport Elementary offers an authentic Montessori education focusing on each student's individual learning in grades K-5. Hands-on, didactic materials developed by Dr. Maria Montessori are presented to students based on each individual's learning style and developmental level. Multi-aged classrooms with a three-year cycle create a trusting learning environment among students and teacher. Students are encouraged to explore, inquire, and collaborate with peers in learning communities. Montessori students are self-disciplined, independent thinkers with strong interpersonal skills ready to face the challenges of middle school and beyond.

## areas of study

### PRACTICAL LIFE, SENSORIAL, LANGUAGE, MATHEMATICS

Gulfport Elementary's Montessori studies begin at the Kindergarten level, where young learners are introduced to work in the four areas of the classroom: practical life, sensorial, language, and mathematics. Dr. Montessori referred to the four areas of the Montessori prepared environment as a means to "provide the keys to understanding the world."

During their work in the Primary classroom, children develop the ability to focus on a task for extended periods of time. Focused work allows children to develop deep concentration and an understanding of logical sequence. Skills developed by

the Kindergarten student lay the groundwork for physical, mental, and social development.

At the elementary level, students are divided into two groups: Lower Elementary (6-9 years old/first-third grade) and Upper Elementary (9-12 years old/fourth and fifth grade). The child enters Lower Elementary with work habits that support success in all academic areas. Maria Montessori referred to the Montessori Elementary years as "Cosmic Education". Now the child's interest lies in an understanding not only of the world, but of the universe. Many of the materials introduced at the

## what is a magnet?

Magnet programs focus on a certain theme with specialized curriculum in areas such as arts, communication, science and technology, and gifted studies. Some programs have eligibility requirements. Only students living in the southern portion of the county may apply to this school.

Primary level are revisited during the elementary years. Repetition of work with didactic materials becomes increasingly difficult. Students work requires use of critical thinking skills and development of abstract reasoning. No subject is taught in isolation. The cultural curriculum studies fully integrate history, geography, mathematics, science, biology, botany, language, literature, art and music. "Great Lessons" provide the framework for integrating studies as students learn about the story of the universe, life on Earth, and development of humanity.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Montessori-certified teachers and an assistant in each classroom
- Social etiquette instruction using Grace and Courtesy lessons
- Montessori learning communities develop confident, self-directed lifelong learners
- Students develop higher level thinking skills moving from concrete to abstract understanding
- Montessori peace curriculum develops students' ability to independently resolve social conflicts
- Students learn using didactic, self-correcting Montessori materials
- Student activities including Art club, Chorus, and K-Kids service club
- Student produced daily news show and character education videos