

Brookview Montessori School, 501 Zollar Rd., Benton Harbor MI 49022 www.brookviewschool.org

Mission: Brookview School exists to educate children based on the teachings of Dr. Maria Montessori in an environment of academic excellence that nurtures each child's growth into a whole, responsible and integrated person."

This Mission thrives on support from a multi-cultural, diverse and dedicated community of teachers, staff, parents, and friends who work together to awaken in each child a spirit of inquiry, exploration, independence resilience, self-esteem, service and respect for all people.

Talking Points: It is an exciting time at Brookview School as we observe the progress of the children as they explore, understand and master their new learnings the Montessori way! There are an astounding number of enthusiastic and positive comments that are heard daily here about the value and results of this kind of education. These are useful as we seek to impart what really happens via Brookview School's Montessori education thru the eyes of parents & community.

Describe why your child goes to Brookview Montessori School.

--A mother's quote this week, *"I love this school. The academics are superior, but more than that my children are becoming whole, well-rounded, global citizens of this world. They are empowered to do for themselves and for others."*

--Results. Students in Upper Elementary classes were recently tested with standardized public school tests as preparation for their futures. They tested in the upper percentiles in all subjects with some students testing exceeding high school levels.

--The ratios of students to teacher mean highly individualized guidance for my child. Infant is 3 to 1; Toddler is 4 to 1; Primary levels are 10 to 1; Elementary levels are 12 to 1.

--An area scientist explained this week, "My children came to Brookview because if they had an interest or excelled at something, they were encouraged and supported to go the next levels and not held back as in the average classroom."

In a well written paper called "Parent Orientation to Montessori", experienced Montessori educator and past executive director Laurie Moreno summarizes a great many Montessori concepts in short sentences. A few helpful examples :

--"Children in Montessori environments are allowed to develop naturally, in tune with natural brain development."

--"Children go through planes of development (0-6, 6-12, 12-18) which should be honored."

--"Children experience sensitive periods for learning different things. The teacher capitalizes on those sensitive periods in order to maximize the child's learning potential. Learning the same concept takes longer and will be more challenging for the child if the sensitive period was missed".

--Montessori students 'progress is assessed through observation and by oral review and practice. The goals are mastery of the material and individual whole person success. Letter grades are not given".

--"Children may rapidly excel in areas of their strength and spend more time in areas of difficulty."

--"Montessori children gain an organized structure of knowledge and information which is carefully arranged in their minds enabling them greater capacity for use in the future."