

RIO RANCHO PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY MONTESSORI PROGRAM

*At Sandia Vista
Elementary*



TEL: 505-994-2811 EXT. 531

THE MONTESSORI APPROACH

Rio Rancho Public Schools' Montessori elementary program at Sandia Vista Elementary School provides a child-centered, alternative method of teaching based on theories of child development originated by Italian educator Maria Montessori (1870-1952).

The Montessori method places children into a carefully-structured multi-age-level classroom environment which gives them the opportunity to learn through discovery and experimentation. Children are allowed to learn at their own pace and acquire responsibility and leadership as older children in the classroom mentor younger children. Montessori teachers are carefully selected and highly trained to guide students so they can experiment, discover, and learn at their own pace and in their own way.



Rio Rancho's elementary Montessori is a public school program located on the campus of Sandia Vista Elementary School and is one of only about 200 public Montessori programs in the United States. Enrollment is open to pre-K through 5th grade students. Students are accepted into the program through application and interview.

There are no tuition fees for students in kindergarten and above. Pre-school student tuition is \$6,000 per year. Parents must provide their child's transportation to and from school.

For further information and applications visit (www.rrps.net) or call 505-994-2811 ext. 531.



Rio Rancho Public Schools

500 Laser Rd. NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Montessori program phone #: 994-2811 ext. 531
District phone number: 505-896-0667
Fax: 505-994-4135
E-mail: district@rdo.rrps.k12.nm.us



ABOUT RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS' ELEMENTARY MONTESSORI PROGRAM

How is Montessori different from a regular school classroom?

While regular school classrooms are largely “teacher-directed,” learning in a Montessori classroom is principally directed by the child within a carefully-structured environment where ground rules and expectations are clearly stated and enforced by both students and teachers. Programs group together preschool-age students (age 3-5), early elementary students (age 6-8) and older elementary students (age 9-10), as opposed to the traditional grade-level structure. The classroom contains inviting materials especially designed to interest students. Students can move from activity to activity at their own pace. Montessori teachers facilitate learning by acting as the designer of the environment, resource person, role model, demonstrator, record-keeper and meticulous observer of each child's behavior and growth. The classroom materials are designed to help students learn through their own errors to make correct decisions.

Is Montessori a good choice for my child?

Montessori programs support student learning in a different way than programs in a regular classroom. Students sometimes benefit from an envi-



ronment where they learn through trial and error at their own pace. We encourage parents who are interested in the Montessori approach to visit with the program manager and staff to discuss whether the program would best serve their child.

Will my child learn the same subject material as students in a regular school program?

Yes. Students are responsible for learning all of the New Mexico state standards, benchmarks, and performance standards in the core subjects — reading, math, science, and social studies. The Montessori program also includes art, music, and other activities for students.

Will my child have to take the state standardized tests?

Beginning at the third grade level (approximately 8 years of age), students are required to take the state standardized tests in reading, math, and science mandated under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

How much does it cost?

Students who qualify for regular public school enrollment (age 5 before September 1 of the current year and older) are not charged tuition.



Since the RRPS Montessori program is a public school program, costs are paid through the state funding formula. Pre-school students are not funded through the state, and therefore RRPS must charge tuition (\$6000 per year) for pre-school students. RRPS is not able to provide transportation for students living outside the Sandia Vista Elementary attendance boundaries.

Where do I get more information?

To learn more about the Rio Rancho Public Schools Montessori program and obtain an application for admission:

- Visit the Web site, www.rrps.net/
- Call 994-2811 ext. 531



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ABOUT ENROLLMENT:

THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTESSORI PROGRAM IS OPEN TO STUDENTS RESIDING WITHIN RIO RANCHO AND IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. PARENTS WISHING TO APPLY TO HAVE THEIR CHILD PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM MUST FILL OUT AN APPLICATION AVAILABLE ON THE RRPS WEB SITE, WWW.RRPS.NET, OR AT SANDIA VISTA



ELEMENTARY, 6800 FRANKLIN RD. NE. PARENTS MUST PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING FROM OUTSIDE THE SANDIA VISTA ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY.

STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED BASED ON PREVIOUS MONTESSORI EXPERIENCE, AVAILABILITY OF SPACE IN THE APPROPRIATE AGE LEVEL GROUPING, AND SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE OPEN ENROLLMENT ACT.

STUDENTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL AGE DO NOT PAY TUITION. TUITION FOR PRE-SCHOOL STUDENTS IS \$6,000 PER YEAR.