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## AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY

# ACCREDITATION



White Flint Children's House is an accredited member school of the American Montessori Society(AMS). The American Montessori School (AMS) accreditation is a voluntary process available to AMS full member schools and undertaken by schools that are committed to continuous school improvement. Every 7 years, an AMS member accredited school must undergo a re-accreditation process. Re-accreditation occurs every seven years.

*“Accreditation by the American Montessori Society is one benchmark parents can use in evaluating a Montessori program. AMS accreditation affirms that a school meets a standard of excellence recognized by educators and Montessori's worldwide.” - American Montessori Society*

## Why Accreditation Matters

**White Flint  
Children's  
House is  
  
1 of 10  
accredited  
schools in  
Maryland**

We know that there are many different options for early childhood education in our area, but feel that WFCH truly stands out amongst them. There are only 7 other accredited Montessori schools in Maryland and just 157 accredited schools out of more than 5,000 AMS member schools. So, we are in an elite group, both on the state and nationwide level. There is no trademark on the name Montessori, any school can advertise themselves as a Montessori school, but not adhere to the philosophy, curriculum and credentialing requirements by AMS. *Continued on page 2*

**Out of over  
16,000  
  
Montessori  
Schools in  
the U.S,  
WFCH is one  
of 204  
accredited**

## Why Reaccreditation Matters...continued

Accredited schools have obtained the highest level of recognition by the American Montessori Society. Accredited schools meet a standard of excellence in the implementation of Montessori education that is recognized by the entire AMS community. Accreditation affirms that a school is what it says it is and does what it says it does. Through a self-study and documentation process, a school defines itself in terms of strengths and areas that need improvement and validates that school abides by the Montessori philosophy and best practices. Most importantly, accreditation is a process that results in on-going school improvement and professional development.

### *The AMS Reaccreditation School Self Study*

The self-study process is one of discovery and empowerment. The school's self study examines itself in light of its own philosophy, involving all of its constituents.

**The essential qualities of the educational nature of the school are:**

- **The Montessori Learning Environment**

*child-centered, responsive, adaptive with individually construed competence.*

- **Montessori Learning Activities**

*materials, spontaneous activity, active learning, self-directed, freedom within limits, intrinsic motivation*

- **Montessori Learning Relationships**

*the child as a spiritual and moral being*

- **Montessori Spirituality**

*the child as a spiritual and moral being*

- **What the Montessori Teacher is**

*authoritative, observer, resource, consultant, role model*

- **What the Montessori Teacher does**

*respectfully engages with the learner, able to match learner with knowledge and materials, designer, organizer, and preparer of the environment*

## AMS SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

The following standards are what the AMS team will be looking for in our school. The teachers, administration, and parent volunteers have been working hard to ensure that WFCH meets and exceeds all of the standards listed below.

**STANDARD 1: MISSION AND VISION** The quality Montessori school establishes and communicates a shared purpose and direction for enhancing the development of students and the effectiveness of the school. The school's vision is consistent with the Montessori philosophy of facilitating the student's development of full potential.

**STANDARD 2: GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT – Strategic Plan**-The quality Montessori school promotes student learning and school effectiveness through strong governance and leadership and establishes, implements, monitors, and refines a strategic planning process to demonstrate continuous improvement.

**STANDARD 3: TEACHING AND LEARNING – Educational Nature**-The quality Montessori school operates comprehensively within Montessori philosophy and provides a Montessori curriculum and Montessori instructional methods and materials that facilitate learning for all students.

**STANDARD 4: DOCUMENTING AND USING RESULTS – Learner Outcomes**-The quality Montessori school enacts a comprehensive assessment system that monitors and documents outcomes and uses these results to improve learner outcomes and school effectiveness.

**STANDARD 5: PERSONNEL** The quality Montessori school provides for ethical, fair, and non-discriminatory practices for all employees, teaching and non-teaching.

**STANDARD 6: FACILITY RESOURCES** The quality Montessori school provides facilities, sites, and equipment that are functional, safe, and fully support the school's mission and beliefs.

**STANDARD 7: FINANCES** The quality Montessori school maintains strong and prudent financial management practices and adequate fiscal resources to support its mission and vision.

**STANDARD 8: RECORDS, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS** The quality Montessori school maintains records and has the resources and services necessary to support its mission and vision.

**STANDARD 9: STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIPS** The quality Montessori school fosters effective communications and relationships with and among its stakeholders.