



Garden Oaks Elementary

“A Place Where Children Flourish”

Lindsey Pollock, Principal
Moses Diaz, Assistant Principal

Dear Montessori Family,

This is an exciting time in your child's education! You are nearing the end of your years in our Montessori Children's House Program and transitioning into the Lower Elementary Program. Just as you thoughtfully considered your child's beginning with us, I would like to share some information about the next steps for your child moving on to 1st grade in the fall.

The Montessori Method is based on key developmental periods. Just as the three year cycle of 3 – 6 year olds is focused on language development, the 6-9 year old period focuses on research and learning the child's place in the world. At Garden Oaks Elementary, your child has the opportunity to continue with an individualized curriculum that is geared to the needs of your child. Because our teachers facilitate your child's natural curiosity, our students become life-long learners.

Continuing to Lower Elementary for 1st through 3rd grades will build on the skills with which your child has become confident. The spiral of the Montessori curriculum moves from the concrete to the abstract level of understanding. At this time of psychological development, children prefer to work with others instead of working alone. Moving into Lower Elementary where the teacher will stay with your child for the next three years builds a deeper sense of connection to the learning community.

Within the context of academic rigor and excellence, you can be assured that in addition to the core content, the focus of our program is the development of the whole child. Our challenge is to develop the body, mind, heart and spirit of the whole child. A Montessori education leads children toward the conscience, vision and self-discipline of a peaceful world. No matter the level your child is functioning, the Montessori environment is individualized to compliment your child's development. Since our program is part of the public school system your child is still eligible for services through Houston ISD such as the campus Vanguard program or Special Education support. Additionally, your child receives Ancillary classes such as Art, Math and Computer, Physical Education, Library and all the other programs and services provided by the district.

As you may remember when you enrolled, acceptance to the program is highly competitive and spaces limited. If you intend to continue at Garden Oaks Elementary in the Montessori Program in the Lower Elementary Program, please sign the attached Commitment Letter. If you are a transfer student from out of our attendance zone, you will be required to meet with me and discuss the transfer agreement prior to next year's enrollment. In order to hold your child's spot for next year, the letter of commitment must be returned to the school office by January 29, 2010. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at Garden Oaks Elementary 713-696-2930.

We look forward to continuing the journey of your child's development together with you!

Best wishes,

Mrs. Pollock, Principal

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