

## What is Montessori?

The Montessori philosophy is based on the educational approach developed by Maria Montessori, a physician who combined an interest in child development and educational theory with her study and practice of medicine. The first Montessori-based classroom opened over 100 years ago and since then the Montessori method has become well-established internationally.

### Montessori Teaching Philosophy

- Emphasis on individual student choice in learning.
- Balance between whole class lessons and individual lessons.
- Students work independently with self-checking materials at times.

### How Does Montessori Integrate with the B.C. Ministry Curriculum?

The first Montessori class in Coquitlam was established in 1979. The Montessori classrooms in School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) differ not so much in “what is taught” but “how it is taught” and the materials used. At all grade levels, children follow the curriculum as prescribed by the BC Ministry of Education. The Montessori philosophy and curriculum will align with provincial learning outcomes. Montessori-trained teachers participate in district and provincial Montessori professional development opportunities on a regular basis.

## Parent Involvement is Essential

There are many ways parents can support both their child and the Montessori Program.

The Coquitlam Montessori Society was established as a non-profit charity in 1983 and serves as an important communication link and support service between the district, Montessori schools and parents. You can support the CMS through an annual donation and as a school liaison volunteer or as a member of the board. The society fundraises to purchase materials for Montessori classrooms and to support the program in School District No. 43 (Coquitlam).

All parents are encouraged to participate in the Coquitlam Montessori Society.

### For More Information

#### Coquitlam Montessori Society

Email: [chairperson@coquitlammontessori.ca](mailto:chairperson@coquitlammontessori.ca)

#### Brenda Aarstad (Administrative Assistant)

or

#### Robert Zambrano (Assistant Superintendent)

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

550 Poirier Street

Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 6A7

Phone: 604-939-9201

Fax: 604-939-7828

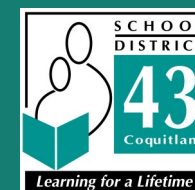
Email: [information@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:information@sd43.bc.ca)

# Welcome to the Montessori Program



*“Our care of children should be governed not by the desire to ‘make them learn things’ but by the endeavor always to keep burning within them the light which is called intelligence.”*

**Maria Montessori**



Learn more about the Montessori Program at SD43 by visiting: [www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/Montessori](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/Montessori)

## Guiding Principles

### Individualization

The use of individualized materials in the Montessori classrooms allows for a varied pace that accommodates many levels of ability. Children are continually challenged by the wide variety of material lesson presentations. The habits and skills emphasized in a Montessori class are lifelong: to work responsibly, observe carefully, and concentrate effectively. Independent learning is a goal for every child.

### Citizenship

Children are taught to respect others, their classroom, and the school environment. They are provided with opportunities to participate in classroom, school-wide and community activities. In multi-age classrooms older children are given opportunities to be leaders, often teaching the younger ones. Children are encouraged to set goals and evaluate their work and progress.

### Experiential Learning

The Montessori classroom stresses the importance of “learning through experience,” and the variety of materials used by the children satisfies this need to learn by doing. Children learn as they select materials and/or activities that interest them. The teacher observes the children at work and guides them to choose more challenging materials, as their skills develop. Many Montessori materials are made to be self-correcting so that the children may discover their own mistakes and learn from them.

## When Can My Child Start?

School aged children can enter the Montessori Program in the September of the year they turn 5 years old. Official entry points include Kindergarten and Grade One. There is also an opportunity of Late Montessori Program registration in Grade 6 at Montgomery and Scott Creek Middle Schools.

Registration for the Montessori program takes place in late January each year and is on a lottery selection basis. Parents may indicate a school preference, however school organization and student placement is determined by school and district administrators who take into consideration a number of factors.

Registration information is available through seven elementary schools and two middle schools offering Montessori, advertisements placed in the local media prior to registration, or email: [information@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:information@sd43.bc.ca)

## Middle Schools

### Montgomery Middle (Grades 6-8)

1900 Edgewood Avenue  
Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 2Y1  
Phone: 604-939-7367 Fax: 604-939-7930  
Email: [montgomery@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:montgomery@sd43.bc.ca)

### Scott Creek Middle (Grades 6-8)

1240 Lansdowne Drive  
Coquitlam, B.C. V3E 3E7  
Phone: 604-945-0156 Fax: 604-937-8049  
Email: [scottcreek@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:scottcreek@sd43.bc.ca)

## Elementary Schools

### Aspenwood Elementary (Grades K-5)

2001 Panorama Drive  
Port Moody, B.C. V3H 5G8  
Phone: 604-461-7680 Fax: 604-937-8002  
Email: [aspenwood@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:aspenwood@sd43.bc.ca)

### Baker Drive Elementary (Grades K-5)

885 Baker Drive  
Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 6W9  
Phone: 604-461-5323 Fax: 604-937-8003  
Email: [bakerdrive@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:bakerdrive@sd43.bc.ca)

### Hampton Park Elementary (Grades K-5)

1760 Paddock Drive  
Coquitlam, B.C. V3E 3N8  
Phone: 604-464-2549 Fax: 604-937-8014  
Email: [hamptonpark@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:hamptonpark@sd43.bc.ca)

### Harbour View Elementary (Grades K-5)

960 Lillian Street  
Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 5C7  
Phone: 604-936-1494 Fax: 604-937-8015  
Email: [harbourview@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:harbourview@sd43.bc.ca)

### James Park Elementary (Grades K-5)

1761 Westminster Avenue  
Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 1E5  
Phone: 604-942-6658 Fax: 604-937-6871  
Email: [jamespark@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:jamespark@sd43.bc.ca)

### Miller Park Elementary (Grades K-5)

800 Egmont Street  
Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 4J8  
Phone: 604-936-4208 Fax: 604-937-8023  
Email: [millerpark@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:millerpark@sd43.bc.ca)

### Seaview Elementary (Grades K-5)

1215 Cecile Drive  
Port Moody, B.C. V3H 1N2  
Phone: 604-936-9991 Fax: 604-937-8039  
Email: [seaview@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:seaview@sd43.bc.ca)