

# LEE MONTESSORI

PUBLIC CHARTER  
SCHOOLS

Freedom within Limits



Promoting  
independence



Evidence-based outcomes



## PREPARING FOR 2024-2025



[admissions@leemontessori.org](mailto:admissions@leemontessori.org)



[www.leemontessori.org](http://www.leemontessori.org)

## Our Mission:

**Lee Montessori exists to create a more just, liberated world.**

We are a diverse and interconnected community that redefines high-quality education by pairing Montessori with Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist practices. We create a joyful learning environment where children and families flourish and can show up authentically as their true selves.

Lee Montessori successfully redefines a high-quality education through our collective commitment to the following community values.

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## Our Vision:



**We are a diverse, interconnected community that redefines high-quality education by pairing Montessori with Anti-Bias/ Anti-Racist practices.**

- We create a joyful learning environment where children and families flourish and can show up as their authentic selves.
  - We believe that, by blending progressive Montessori principles with a framework that addresses social inequity through the lenses of race, class, immigration, gender, neurodiversity, and LGBTQ+ identity, we empower each child we serve to transform society.
  - We know that this vision is quite different from other schools, and that's why we are extremely open about our commitment to Anti-Bias/ Anti-Racist principles.
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## Our Core Values:

- ❖ **Equity.** We acknowledge the outsized, generational impact of White Supremacy on historically under served communities and endeavor to ensure that supports for students are provided equitably. This means that some students will receive more services or materials than others -- in the areas of intervention strategies, supplies, face-time with Guides, and/or other ways that we support students.
- ❖ **Bravery.** We achieve our mission in service to our students by making the best decisions we can with the information we have available. We will work to ensure that decisions are communicated promptly and clearly to all stakeholders.
- ❖ **Grace.** We strive to treat children, families, and staff with the utmost grace at all times. We understand the impact that the dynamic nature of everyday life can have on children and families, and will be flexible as families adjust accordingly. In exchange, we ask that families extend grace to school staff and other families as well.
- ❖ **Growth.** We design programs to maximize students' academic, physical, developmental, and social-emotional growth. This includes designing daily work that focuses on growth while also monitoring progress throughout the year using various assessment strategies.
- ❖ **Joy.** We believe that it is critical for children, families, and staff to remain active and engaged in daily activities and work -- and that's why we design our programs and supports to be enjoyable and manageable.



## Our Namesake



### **Tahiira Lee**

Lee Montessori was named after one of the kindest, most talented, and committed Montessori teachers to ever walk the earth, native Washingtonian Tahiira Lee. Beyond her work in the classroom, Ms. Lee recognized the need to promote Montessori in Washington, DC, especially in low-income communities and to students of color.

As a result, not only did she inspire generations of students, but also a number of professionals whom she either introduced to Montessori or helped flame the fires of their passion for the work that we do.

### **Dr. Maria Montessori**

Dr. Maria Montessori was born in 1870 in a small town in Italy. She was the first woman to become a medical doctor in that country.

Through her interests in social and medical sciences and through her interaction with children in her medical practice, she came to be enthralled with the learning potential of children. She formed an educational philosophy based on scientific observation, pedagogical experimentation, and deep respect for the child.

Dr. Montessori's first school, the Casa de Bambini, was opened in 1907. The results were such that the Casa drew international interest. Today, more than a century later, there are Montessori classrooms and training centers all over the world, proving that Dr. Montessori's educational methods work, across time and cultures.



## Our Campuses



Founded in 2014, Lee Montessori - Brookland offers our highly personalized public Montessori education to a diverse community of 270 students in Primary, Lower Elementary, and Upper Elementary classrooms (PK3-6th).

We serve students from PK3 - 6th grade.

### Multi-Age Classrooms

- ❖ Primary (3-6 years)
- ❖ Lower Elementary (6-9 years)
- ❖ Upper Elementary (9-12 years)

### Appropriate Staffing

- ❖ One Montessori trained teacher
- ❖ One classroom assistant
- ❖ Support staff as needed



**3025 4th Street, NE Washington, DC 20017** (202) 779-9740  
**Metro Bus:** 80, H2, H4, **Metro Rail:** Brookland - CUA Station



Lee Montessori - East End is the first full public Montessori school East of the Anacostia River. Opened in Fall 2019, we currently serve a diverse student body of 220 PK3 through 3rd grade students. By 2026-2027, we will expand to serve students PK3 through 6th grade.

### Multi-Age Classrooms

- Primary - PK3 - K (3-6 years)
- Lower Elementary - 1st - 3rd (6-10 years)
- Upper Elementary - 4th grade (10-11 years)

### Appropriate Staffing

- One Montessori trained teacher
- One classroom assistant
- Support staff as needed



**2345 R Street, SE Washington, DC 20020.** (202) 966-6700  
**Metro Bus:** 30s, 32, B2, V2, **Metro Rail:** Anacostia Station

# School Day Schedule

Before Care (7:00 - 8:30 AM)

Fridays	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday		
All Children	PK3-PK4	Kindergarten	Elementary
Morning Work Period 8:30 - 11:30	Morning Work Period 8:30 - 11:30	Morning Work Period 8:30 - 11:30	Morning Work Period 8:30 - 11:30
Lunch/Recess 11:30 - 1:00 pm	Lunch/Recess 11:30 - 1:00 pm	Lunch/Recess 11:30 - 1:00 pm	Lunch/Recess/Specials (Phys Ed, Art, Music, Library, Gardening) 11:30 - 1:45 pm
Enrichment Activities 1:00 - 3:40 pm	Nap/Afternoon Work Period/Recess 1:00 - 3:40 pm	Afternoon Work Period 1:00 - 3:00 pm	
		Specials (Phys Ed, Art, Library, Gardening, Yoga) 3:00 - 3:40 pm	Afternoon Work Period 1:45 - 3:40 pm

Optional 1:00 PM dismissal - **After Care** - 3:40 - 6:00 PM

## Extended Day

Lee Montessori currently offers Extended Day services through our partner program [Apollo Afterschool](#). Their afterschool program is a project-based curriculum where students are engaged in hands-on activities daily. Students also have the opportunity to participate in various clubs and programming from trusted vendors in our community, such as [Dance Place](#), [Kaizen Karate](#), [The Washington Ballet](#), and [Chess Wizards](#).

Apollo pricing for the 2023-2024 school year is provided below. Prices may change.

Monthly Rates				
	Full	Discount	Reduced	Free
<b>AC (4-5 days)</b>	<b>\$420</b>	<b>\$360</b>	<b>\$280</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>AC (3 days)</b>	<b>\$260</b>	<b>\$225</b>	<b>\$180</b>	<b>\$70</b>
<b>BC (4-5 days)</b>	<b>\$145</b>	<b>\$105</b>	<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>BC (3 days)</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$65</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Combo (4-5 days)</b>	<b>\$509</b>	<b>\$419</b>	<b>\$302</b>	<b>\$113</b>
<b>Combo (3 days)</b>	<b>\$315</b>	<b>\$261</b>	<b>\$198</b>	<b>\$81</b>

## Specials

Lee Montessori Specials are enrichment classes in which all children across grade levels participate. The classes are taught by specialized and trained teachers, providing a more robust education in addition to the authentic Montessori curriculum taught within the general education classroom.

### Library:

The Library Special provides an exciting opportunity for children to engage with literature in an informative and recreational capacity. The students learn how to use various print and non-print resources to research particular subjects, find books of interest, as well as learn how to check out and return books. In addition, the library curriculum incorporates tools for understanding a text and how to create one's own to share.

### Music:

The Music Special offers our students hands-on exploration of rhythm, pitch, melody, timbre, texture, form, and genre. The children learn through age-appropriate songs, games, body rhythms, and instruments while integrating languages and cultures from around the world. This class cultivates creative self-expression, self-actualization, coordination, focus, camaraderie, and teamwork.



**Art:** In the art studio, we create space for the children to experiment with different mediums and methods of creating visual art alongside studying Art History. Students work in drawing, painting, sculpture, craft, and mixed media art centers to explore a variety of materials within each one. Through this exposure, the students not only learn about the elements of art and design but are able to identify mediums and practices that speak to them individually. Students are continually encouraged to explore and develop those unique interests and skill sets throughout the year.

### Physical Education:

The Physical Education curriculum introduces the children to a variety of techniques for increased cognitive and motor skills. Through play, the children learn sports-related skills, movement patterns, collaboration, and the importance of physical activity. With the use of "Montessori Gym" materials, the environment is prepared in a way to facilitate the physical development of each individual child.

### Gardening:

The gardening curriculum is designed to connect students with nature, help students build healthy relationships with food, and encourage bravery and curiosity. In the garden, students participate in hands-on outdoor activities, try new foods and connect what they learn in the classroom to real-world examples. Gardening is also integrated with the traditional classrooms through our school composting program, growing indoor plants, and learning about the environment, plants, and animals around the world.

## Student Support at Lee

The primary work of Lee Montessori's Student Support Team is to ensure all students have access to a high-quality Montessori curriculum. We recognize that each child's unique strengths, growth areas, and life experiences impact how they learn.

The Student Support Team is dedicated to developing and implementing systematic interventions in academics, social-emotional, or behavior as early as possible in a child. These targeted interventions support students in their lifelong learning.

**Students learn best when they feel safe and supported, to that end, we provide the following supports for all students at Lee Montessori:**

- ❖ **Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL):** the school shares a common curriculum that builds on the Montessori grace and courtesy lessons to support the self-regulation and emotional health of our students
- ❖ **Positive Discipline Approach to Behavior:** the school shares a common philosophy that ALL behavior is communication. We are committed to creating long-term change by addressing the skills that are lagging and preventing the student from being successful
- ❖ **Restorative Practices:** In addition to Positive Discipline, we work to build and repair community through restorative practices, helping students repair the harm they have done



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“The hand is the instrument of intelligence. The child needs to manipulate objects and to gain experience by touching and handling.” - Dr. Maria Montessori, The 1946 London Lectures

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**Lee's Student Support Team includes the following members:**

- ❖ Director of Special Education
- ❖ School Social Worker
- ❖ Special Education Managers
- ❖ Special Education Teachers
- ❖ Behavior Technician (including ABA-trained therapists)
- ❖ Speech Pathologist

**We integrate social-emotional learning and an Anti-Bias, Anti-Racist framework, combined with a supportive foundation of positive discipline and restorative justice practices.**

- With this holistic approach, our schools don't simply single out student behaviors, but also examine the impacts of staff behaviors, pedagogical choices, and school policies.
- We use a whole-school approach to help children understand themselves and their role in the community. We then give them the tools to help them collaborate with adults on solutions and repair harm they may have committed.
- In a punitive discipline system, punishments often interrupt a student's education and lead to further bad behavior. In a restorative justice system, students must take responsibility for their actions, while receiving opportunities for dialogue, participatory problem solving, and relationship-building. As a result, the student's bond to the community is strengthened.

## **Our Commitment to Anti-Bias / Anti-Racist Principles**

**The Montessori approach to education embodies the principles of anti-bias and anti-racism in all aspects of the philosophy and curriculum. By creating respectful, inclusive classrooms, celebrating diversity in all its forms, crossing cultural boundaries, and modeling engaged citizenry, Montessori educators who are committed to social justice nurture students who will transform the world.**

- Since our founding, Lee Montessori has been committed to working to increase opportunities and to improve conditions for historically underserved and/or marginalized children, families, and communities. In 2019, we made this commitment more explicit in our mission -- work we see as a logical extension of the values Lee embraces and exemplifies.
- Lee Montessori commits to our schools serving as a tool for eliminating injustice in our society. We are committed to being a partner that seeks to build meaningful relationships within the communities we currently serve and beyond. We will contribute to transforming society by
  - o Transforming ourselves (individual identity formation)
  - o Transforming our school culture (policies & practices)
  - o Transforming our community (local advocacy)
  - o Transforming our country, society, and world (social action)
- **Our Commitment to Students and Families:** Lee Montessori's educational approach is based on educational equity, the principles of social justice, and providing educational experiences in which all students reach their full potential as lifelong learners. With this in mind, we center equity in all of our decision-making, practices, and policies to ensure that we are providing our students with the tools they need to be successful stewards of society. We will provide learning opportunities for students and families to also do the work in parallel with us.
- **Our Commitment to Staff: White Supremacy** has contributed to multi-generational cycles of poverty and the rationing of educational opportunities largely based on xenophobia, racism, and sexism. In response, we will ensure that supports and resources -- especially continuous learning opportunities -- are distributed on an equitable basis. At Lee Montessori, we will strive to ensure that each individual feels valued, is recognized for their contribution, and is provided support to achieve their personal and professional goals.



## How to apply

**Step I:** Make sure you know what campus you will be applying to either Lee Montessori - Brookland or Lee Montessori - East End.

**Step II:**

Create a MySchoolDC [Family Account](#), complete a profile, and start ranking your schools of choice. Rank Lee Montessori PCS as your number one choice.

**Step III:**

Submit the application. [Application opens December 11, 2023](#)

**Step IV:**

Match Day (March 29, 2024)



**Keep in mind - DC Residency Requirements:**

Establishing residency is a key factor in funding public education in the District, and this residency must be proven annually in order to enroll in a DC public school. Lee Montessori will check proof of residency annually at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment and families should notify the school of any change of residence within three days.

Only resident students of the District can attend DC public schools tuition-free. Families who are eligible include:

- Families regardless of immigration status
- Families experiencing homelessness

A student's residency is based only on the residency of their parent(s), guardian, custodian, or other primary caregivers. For more information about homeless status and resources, please visit the [Homeless Education Program](#) webpage.

**To be a resident, you have to:**

- Be physically present in DC; and
- Submit valid documentation of DC residence

## Got questions?

### Contact us:

[admissions@leemontessori.org](mailto:admissions@leemontessori.org)

Brookland Campus - (202) 779-9740

East End Campus - (202) 966-6700

### Visit our website:

Here you can find more info about our schools, including virtual tours.



[www.leemontessori.org](http://www.leemontessori.org)

### Follow us:

