



# Admissions Policy

## Alexander Montessori School

At Alexander Montessori School, we seek to enroll children and families who value an authentic Montessori education. We welcome students who will thrive in an environment rooted in independence, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning.

Our admissions process is designed to support a thoughtful and intentional match between each child, their family, and our school community.

## Admissions Philosophy

Admission to Alexander Montessori School is based on a holistic review that considers:

- The child's developmental readiness
- The family's understanding of and commitment to Montessori education
- The balance and needs of the classroom community
- Space availability at each campus and program level

We view admissions as a partnership with families and a long-term educational journey, and we value families who are seeking a continuous experience through the Elementary Program.

## Priority Considerations

When space is limited, priority may be given to:

- Siblings of currently enrolled students
- Families whose educational goals align with the full scope of our Montessori program

As a school serving Toddler through Grade 5, Alexander Montessori is designed as a continuum of learning. We prioritize families who are interested in a long-term Montessori experience and partnership through the Elementary years.

## Age Requirements by Program

- **Toddler Program (Palmetto Bay Campus):**  
Children must be at least **18 months old**
- **Toddler Program (Old Cutler Campus):**  
Children must be at least **2 years old**
- **Preschool Program:**  
Children must be at least **3 years old**



## **Preschool Readiness Expectations**

To support a successful transition into the Preschool environment, children are expected to:

- Be fully and consistently toilet independent (100% toilet trained), demonstrating the ability to recognize and respond to their body's needs without adult prompting
- Demonstrate at least six weeks without accidents
- Independently pause an activity to use the restroom, manage clothing (including underwear and shorts), wipe appropriately, and maintain personal hygiene throughout the school day
- Be able to follow simple directions and begin engaging independently in classroom activities

Children who still require a nap are best supported in our half-day Preschool program, with the option to transition to full day when developmentally ready.

## **Toddler to Preschool Transition**

Transitions from Toddler to Preschool are guided by developmental readiness and program structure.

- In some cases, a child may transition into Preschool prior to turning three
- In these situations, the child will typically remain in the Preschool program for an additional year to ensure a complete Montessori cycle

Teachers closely observe each child and communicate readiness to the Admissions and Head of School to support thoughtful placement and ensure classroom continuity. These transitions can occur at many possible points throughout the year.

## **Early Childhood Classroom Placement (Toddler-Kindergarten)**

Placement within our Toddler and Preschool programs is guided by each child's developmental readiness, social dynamics, and the overall balance of the classroom community.

Families are welcome to share relevant insights or preferences that may help us better understand their child.

Classroom assignments, however, are thoughtfully determined by school leadership to ensure the most appropriate environment for each child's growth, independence, and progression within the Montessori work cycle. For this reason, we are not able to guarantee specific classroom or Teacher requests.



## **Elementary Admissions (Grades 1-5)**

### **Elementary Admissions & Readiness**

Admission to our Elementary Program is based on a review of each child's academic readiness, independence, and alignment with the Montessori learning environment.

Applicants are asked to participate in:

- An admissions assessment and if applicable, a student visit
- Review of prior school records and teacher recommendations

Students should demonstrate:

- Readiness for a structured, independent learning environment
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively
- Foundational academic skills appropriate for the grade level

### **Grade Placement**

Alexander Montessori School follows a developmental approach to placement. Final grade placement is determined by the School and is based on:

- Academic readiness
- Social and emotional development
- Previous educational experience
- Alignment with the Montessori curriculum

While families may express a preferred grade level, placement decisions are made by the school to ensure each child's long-term success within the Montessori Program.

In some cases, placement may differ from a child's current or expected grade level in order to support a strong foundation and a successful transition into our Elementary Program.

Placement into Grade 1 is typically offered to students who have completed Kindergarten or the final-year of a Montessori Preschool program (3-6)

### **Class Placement**

Placement decisions are an integral part of our admissions process and are made with careful consideration for each child and the classroom community.

Families are welcome to share relevant insights or preferences that may help us better understand their child.

Class placements, however, are thoughtfully determined by school leadership to ensure the most appropriate and balanced environment for each child and the classroom community as a whole. For this reason, we are not able to guarantee specific Teacher or classroom requests.



## **Elementary Program Structure**

Our Elementary program is designed as a multi-year learning cycle:

- **Lower Elementary:** Grades 1-3
- **Middle School Prep:** Grades 4-5

Students in Lower Elementary benefit from multi-age classrooms that foster independence, collaboration, and a strong academic foundation.

In Middle School Prep (Grades 4-5), students experience a more structured, departmentalized program that mirrors a middle school environment. Instruction is organized by subject area, allowing students to transition between Teachers and classrooms throughout the day.

This model helps students:

- Build strong organizational and time management skills
- Develop increased independence and accountability
- Gain confidence navigating a schedule and multiple instructors

Middle School Prep is intentionally designed to ensure students transition to their next school with confidence, readiness, and a strong academic foundation.

## **Availability of Space**

Openings in Grades 1-5 are limited and vary by year. Most available spaces occur in Grade 1, with fewer openings in upper grades.

## **Transition to Elementary**

Students enrolled in our Preschool Program are thoughtfully guided through the transition to Elementary, with readiness determined by Faculty and Administration.

## **Placement & Classroom Readiness**

All admissions decisions are based on:

- Developmental readiness for the program
- Classroom composition and balance
- Space availability

Our Faculty and Leadership Team work collaboratively to ensure each child is placed in an environment where they can grow with confidence and success.



## **Admissions Process Overview**

Our process typically includes:

1. Inquiry and school tour
2. Submission of application with appropriate required document submission
3. A Meet & Greet for Toddler through Kindergarten applicants, and a student assessment/visit for Elementary applicants, as applicable
4. Review by the Admissions Committee
5. Admissions decision and enrollment

Our Admissions Committee thoughtfully reviews each completed application to ensure the best fit for both the child and our school community. Admissions decisions are communicated to families in writing.

All offers of admission may be contingent upon readiness and final placement evaluation.

## **Commitment to Partnership**

We value open communication and a shared commitment to each child's development. From the first inquiry through enrollment and beyond, our team is here to guide families every step of the way.

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

Alexander Montessori School is committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and respectful community. We welcome students and families from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

The School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law in the administration of its admissions policies, educational programs, financial aid, and other school-administered programs.

We believe that a diverse and inclusive learning environment enriches the educational experience for all and reflects our commitment to respect, empathy, and global understanding.

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