

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

James Simons Montessori School is a safe, inclusive and supportive public Montessori community. We inspire students to become confident, motivated and successful life-long learners.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Teachers administer assessments throughout the year to gain a better understanding of the learning needs of our students.

State and District Assessments are used to help guide instruction as well. These assessments include:

- SC Ready & SC PASS
- MAP testing
- GT Assessments
- Bridges Unit Assessments
- Illustrative Unit Assessments

Student gains **OUTPERFORMED** expectations in the 2020-2021 school year despite a global pandemic and virtual learning hurdles.

RECENT TESTING DATA

Fall to Winter MAP Growth - 2021-2022 SY					
Percent of students meeting their Growth Target					
READING			MATH		
Grade	JSM	District	Grade	JSM	District
1	56.4	47.6	1	35.9	44.4
2	45.7	45.2	2	39.1	47.8
3	34.6	43.1	3	57.7	48.5
4	48.4	46.4	4	54.8	42.2
5	41.7	45.8	5	55.6	42.7
6	50	45.8	6	50	41.1
7	53.8	49.2	7	53.8	47.9
8	66.7	51.1	8	40	50.3

The most recent MAP growth data (percent of students meeting their growth targets) indicate that our school outperformed more than half of the district elementary schools in reading and 75% of the elementary schools in math. James Simons' middle school students demonstrated more growth in reading than all the middle schools in the district with the exception of one charter school. In the area of math, the percent of our middle school students who met their growth targets exceeded 80% of the middle schools in the district. Our opportunities for growth continue to be increasing each student's percentile rank in reading and math.



JAMES SIMONS
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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JAMES SIMONS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

James Simons Montessori School enjoys a rich past of educating Charleston's children. James Simons was one of the first schools in Charleston to desegregate in the 1960's. Ten years ago Maria Montessori's method was introduced to James Simons students and today we educate 3-year-olds through eighth graders.

LOWER EL

Students begin following their interests, exploring the ideas of research, creativity and personal choices. They then reflect and demonstrate their understanding and knowledge of a topic. Math concepts are introduced with manipulatives and develop to abstraction.

UPPER EL

Nine to twelve year olds continue the journey into abstraction into ever more complex fields of study. Observation of the environments will offer children an opportunity to develop skills across content areas. The detailed study of Fundamental Needs of Man goes deeper into comparison of time periods, cultures, and the motivation behind decisions and actions taken in the history of mankind.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School curriculum involves many small group activities that encourage and educate a sense of community, cooperation and active problem solving. Active engagement and readily available feedback produce independent, yet engaged, young citizens who maintain senses of both wonder and responsibility.

THE MONTESSORI METHOD

The Montessori method is an educational approach developed by Italian physician, Maria Montessori. It has been popular all over the world for over 100 years.

The approach focuses on independence, hands-on learning and a thoughtfully prepared environment that allows the child to grow in all the main developmental areas.

The Seven Tenets of Montessori

1. Play is Work
2. Prepared Environment
3. Observation
4. Freedom within Limits
5. Respect
6. Hands On Learning
7. Independence

PRIMARY

The Primary program encourages young children to fine-tune their senses, improve muscular coordination, develop language and math skills, and respect the global human family.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Adolescent Program
Book Fair
Character Education
Daily Run Student News Show
Field Day
Gifted and Talented (SAIL)
Grade Level Music Performances
GreenHeart
Kaleidoscope
MakerSpace
Mini-Courses and Electives
MLK Jr. Parade
Montessori Level Up Night
Multi-Cultural Festival
Restorative Practices
Robotics and Coding
Spanish
Spelling Bee
Strings & Band
Volleyball
Yoga

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The parents and community members are invested in the education of all students. There are currently over 25 active business partners. Parents and community members volunteer for reading buddies, career exploration, mentoring, PTO, and character education.