



[School photo caption]

The 7.5 acre campus is situated in a peaceful rural setting in the rolling plains east of Boulder. This delightful setting promotes learning and a high level of student involvement.

The Mountain Shadows Story

Mountain Shadows Montessori School was founded in 1976 by its directors, Alan and Deborah Temple. As a private non-profit school, Mountain Shadows has grown from a single classroom into an attractive, spacious, and professionally-operated campus dedicated to the needs of its students.

The Mountain Shadows commitment to children is based on the guiding principles of the Montessori educational method. The school maintains high academic standards and prepares students of all abilities and backgrounds for the challenges of the 21st century.

Welcome to Mountain Shadows

At Mountain Shadows, we believe that all children are natural scientists — they learn by discovery and with a sense of joy and wonder. The Montessori teacher guides the children in discovering the school's rich learning environment. Children work closely with each other to explore topics in great depth, and they achieve a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

At Mountain Shadows, our basic tenet is “Respect the children and honor their unique qualities.” We work one-on-one with the students and their families to design individualized learning programs. We also emphasize cooperative and collaborative learning, for these are the skills children will need as adults.

In all areas, Mountain Shadows uses the proven “child-centered education” principles pioneered by Dr. Maria Montessori over 80 years ago. The results are easy to see: Academic excellence. A passion for learning. And the excited and eager faces of the children as they go to school every day...

[classroom photo caption/sidebar]

Mountain Shadows offers a Primary program for children of ages 3-6, and an Elementary program for children 6-12. Before and after school child care is available and children love the exciting day camp program during the summer.

The Montessori Environment — Key to a Lifetime of Learning

The Mountain Shadows student works in a mixed-age setting, with a three-year age span in each classroom. Children move around the classroom freely, working alone, in pairs, or in a group. The children help each other and this process fosters self-confidence, leadership and responsibility. Children flourish in this environment where their thoughtful, independent choices are respected and encouraged.

The Mountain Shadows teacher guides the children in their discoveries and helps free the child's full potential. The teacher doesn't issue grades, but rather works with the children to assure that they learn as much as possible from the other students, the learning resources, and the Montessori materials.

The specially-designed Montessori learning materials encourage exploration and a "hands-on" mastery. As children work with these materials, they acquire learning skills that will last a lifetime, and the confidence to use them.

Primary

The Mountain Shadows primary program is designed for children ages three through six. During these years, children learn primarily through their senses and absorb information effortlessly. The primary classroom is filled with an array of colorful, exciting, and stimulating materials. This carefully prepared environment encourages discovery and fosters the development of independence, concentration, sequential thought and controlled physical movement.

The primary program encourages sensory development, introduces math and language concepts, and helps the children develop the practical skills they need in everyday life. Art, music, drama and movement are an integral part of this joyful learning experience. Every day, the children discover new creative expressions, while developing respect for themselves and others.

Elementary

The elementary program consists of two age groupings: Elementary One (ages six through nine) and Elementary Two (nine through twelve). These are the years that children discover the world beyond themselves and develop their intellect and sense of who they are in society. It's a tremendously exciting period in which children's imaginations and creativity race ahead, fueled by the constant desire to know "Why?" The learning methods they've acquired in their primary years prepare them to explore the full breadth and wonder of nature, and gain an abiding respect for the world around them.

Aided by the challenging Montessori materials, this capable and inquisitive child will rapidly discover a whole new range of knowledge, including history, botany, zoology, earth and physical sciences, social studies, ecology, physical education, and the arts. It's a very special time, when intellect merges with wonder, discovery joins discipline, and children spontaneously reach new and important understandings about themselves and the world around them. These are the learning tools and life skills that will sustain them as adults and make them the responsible guardians of our future.

The Staff

Mountain Shadows is an exciting and challenging place for teachers, too — they work closely with individual students and share in their exciting discoveries. All Mountain Shadows teachers hold college degrees and are certified by the Association Montessori International. They are not only responsible for their classrooms and students, but also play a major role in developing and implementing school policy.

To guarantee the smooth operation of the school, we've also assembled a dedicated group of professional support staff — special instructors, assistants, program coordinators, property managers, and administrative personnel. These caring people oversee the constantly changing needs of our growing facility, and help guarantee a full and vibrant learning experience for the children.

The Parents

A successful Montessori education depends upon a strong relationship between the parents, child, and the school and home environment. We emphasize education that is family-centered, and parental involvement is the key to its success. Mountain Shadows fosters this participation by offering formal and informal gatherings, parent education programs, and monthly Parent Guild Meetings. Parent/teacher conferences are held regularly to promote a free and spontaneous exchange of information and ideas.

Child Care

The Child Care program at Mountain Shadows offers elementary and primary children a safe and fun after-school environment. Playtime, crafts, swimming, and trips are just a few of the many enjoyable activities. "Study friends" and "playtime friends" have a place to gather and socialize, and children looking for a quiet moment can also find a spot that's all their own.

Whether early in the morning before the schoolday begins, or after classes end... Mountain Shadows is a safe, exciting, and joyful place to be.

Summer Program

Summer offers a change of pace and a change of faces from the regular school year. Mountain Shadows students and friends join other area children to discover the pleasures of crafts, games, swimming, new friendships and expanded horizons.

Every week, the children share a carefully designed combination of work and play, storytelling and exploration, and lots of outright giggles. It's a magical time that perfectly complements the Mountain Shadows learning experience.

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