



HAND IN HAND

CHRISTIAN MONTESSORI

**HOMESCHOOL ACADEMY
INFORMATION KIT ©**



*For Families to Learn About Our Unique
3-Day Hybrid Montessori Program*

*Click on Underlined Text for Live Links Throughout Document



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HIHCM'S HOMESCHOOL ACADEMY

Hybrid Partnership Vs. Homeschool Co-op

Hand In Hand Christian Montessori (HIHCM) Homeschool Academy is a unique opportunity for homeschool families who desire a strong partnership with a school that values student individuality, creativity, and high standards in academic excellence. The Homeschool Academy is not a traditional co-op where parents select individual classes for their student, but instead is a 3-day cohesive hybrid Montessori program. To ensure a successful learning experience for the student, parents are expected to teach specific skills and subjects that are not taught during the three in-class days. At HIHCM Homeschool Academy, we emphasize community and accountability. Your enrollment at HIHCM and registration with your school district assumes your involvement and responsibility for your child's education.

The Elementary Homeschool Academy

This 3-day program is designed for home-educated students between the ages of 6 and 12. It offers a unique blend of two educational models – homeschooling and academy – providing the best of both worlds. This homeschooling partnership allows children to be part of a consistent school community for three days a week and spend the remaining two days learning with their parents at home. It also allows parents to maintain the primary responsibility for their child's education at home while receiving support, accountability, and encouragement. This model has produced proven results and rewards.

The CREO Homeschool Academy

This 3-day program is an option for homeschool families that also want deep engagement from teachers who are passionate about their discipline and a positive social learning environment. Through classes, workshops, off-campus outings, and self-directed projects, CREO students will engage in integrated core classes in Christian Faith, Math, Science, History, and Language. An additional specialist day may be added, creating a 4-day program.

Message from Founder

Click the link to read a message from [HIHCM Founder, Michelle Thompson](#) about the Homeschool Academy.





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Homeschool Legal Compliance Information

Did you know that children, ages 7-16 (1st-10th grade), must be in a registered school (public, private or homeschool), according to MN State law? It is important for you to know and be compliant on ALL of the laws regarding homeschooling in the State of Minnesota. This statute, called 120A.22 COMPULSORY INSTRUCTION, can be found on the State of MN website at: [MN Homeschool LAWS](#)

Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA MN Law)

HSLDA is an organization that oversees and defends the rights of homeschool families. Yearly memberships are available for homeschool families for a fee. The HSLDA website also summarizes the laws of each state, including the MN State Homeschool Laws at this link: [HSLDA](#)





REGISTER AS A HOMESCHOOLER

Homeschooling Families Must Register by Oct. 1 with Their School District

If your child is not attending Hand In Hand five days a week, you are considered a homeschooling family and need to be in compliance with the State of MN as a registered homeschool.



To register as a homeschooler complete the following steps:

Notify Public School

If your child attended public school the previous year, you must first notify the school district that you are pulling your child out of the public school and homeschooling them.

Fill Out & Turn In Mandatory Paperwork

- **By Oct. 1**, appropriate homeschool paperwork needs to be completed and turned into the school district in which you live.
- This paperwork can be found on your school district's website, under homeschooling.
 - Fill out the **Initial Report to Superintendent** if this is your first-year homeschooling.
 - If you homeschooled last year, select the **Letter of Intent to Continue Homeschooling** form instead.
 - If you find the paperwork at the school district to be complicated, a simple form is available through mache.org that can be used instead.

SIMPLE FORMS HERE

- After completing it, make a copy for your records and then email/deliver it to your school district.
- Include with this a copy of your child's immunization form or a conscientious objection form notarized, found on the MN Dept. of Health's website.

IMMUNIZATION FORM HERE

Review MN Guidelines

Also read guidelines for homeschooling in the state of MN available on your school district's website.

Instructor Requirements/Testing

Parents teaching their own children are automatically qualified as instructors in the state of MN, however yearly testing must be completed.

- Make sure you have your child tested once a year with a standardized national test such as the Iowa Assessment, California Achievement Test or the Peabody.
- HIH offers the Iowa Assessment test in May for 1st-6th graders. Other options for testing, not offered at HIH include:
 - Iowa Assessment and California Achievement tests which are available for purchase through bjupresshomeschool.com or shopchristianliberty.com
 - A Peabody Test can be scheduled with Judy Vermeulen at testingbyjudy@aol.com or Laura Harris at peabodytester@gmail.com for a fee.

Recordkeeping & Attendance

Make a simple homeschool plan for your child. Include subjects studied, time spent on each subject, curriculum used, and any other key information related to what they are studying/learning. Take daily attendance and write a brief description of work completed. In the student file, also include national test results and a copy of mandatory paperwork that was given to the school district.

If you have detailed questions about content that should be covered during your homeschool days, please reach out to your Campus Director. If you have specific questions about homeschooling registration, please contact Jean Schmidt, Director of CMFE, at j.schmidt@hihcm.org.

Thank You For Partnering With Us On Your Homeschooling Journey!





PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Communications Platforms

Communication between HIHCM and families comes in various ways, including through:

- **FACTS Family Portal**- this platform is used for information related to registration, tuition contracts, required forms, and payments.
- **Email Communication:**
 - **HANDLE**- This weekly email newsletter is from the classroom teachers to inform parents about classroom events/updates.
 - **SNAP**- This email newsletter is sent to parents to highlight key events and happenings at HIHCM
- **NOTES FROM THE OFFICE/NURSE**- Occasionally, a separate email is sent to parents with a specific announcement
- **HIHCM Website**—This site highlights general information about the three HIHCM campuses and has access to the password-protected “Parent” tab, which is used to access critical campus-specific communication.
- **Montessori Compass** (Highcroft campus only) - This app is used for record-keeping and communication.

A Word About the Homeschool Guides

- We're excited to partner with parents through our homeschool academy! On the next two pages, you will find comprehensive E1 and E2 Homeschool Guides. To help provide clarity and ease as you support your child's learning at home, we've added more detailed guidance to each curriculum area. We hope these additions give a clearer picture of the topics we do not cover at school, so you can decide how you would like to incorporate them into your homeschooling. We also want to emphasize that you have six elementary years to explore and cover these subjects at your own pace, so there's plenty of time to dive into each one without feeling stressed or overwhelmed. We hope this added clarity helps make your homeschooling journey smoother, and we're here to support you every step of the way!



HOMESCHOOL GUIDE

1st – 3rd Grade

What HIHCM Teaches...

Math/Geometry:

- Operations: (+ - x ÷)
- 2 & 3 dimensional shapes
- Lines & Angles
- Polygons
- Quadrilaterals
- Plane Figures

Language Arts:

- The 9 Parts of Speech:
 - Noun, Article, Adjective, Verb, Conjunction, Preposition, Adverb, Interjection, Pronoun
- Sentence Structure & Analysis:
 - Subject
 - Predicate
 - Direct Object
 - Indirect Object

Geography & History Skills:

- Calendar Work
- Timelines
- Roman Numerals
- Land & Water Forms
- Physical & Political Study of Continents
- Flags of the World
- Fundamental Needs of Humans
- Biomes
- Study of Continents
- Map Skills
- Continents & Oceans

Science:

- Life Science:
 - Botany
 - Zoology

Atrium:

- Faith Stories
- Devotions & Worship
- Verse of the Week

What YOU Teach...

Math:

- Memorization of Math Facts (+ - x ÷) Practice Daily
- Time & Temperature
- Number Lines & Graphing
- Money & Measurement
- Story Problems
- Tally Marks & Arrays
- Sequencing & Patterns
- Greater than, Less than, Equal to
- Estimating & Rounding
- Number Lines & Graphing
- Daily practice mastered operations learned at HIH

Language Arts:

- Systematic approach to phonics and reading
- Spelling
- Story Elements
- Comprehension
- Handwriting: print and/or cursive
- Types of Sentences
- Capitalization & Punctuation
- Writing Skills
- Complete Monthly Writing Assignment
- Monthly Book Club at HIHCM

Science:

- Physical Science
 - Light, Sound, Heat, Forces, Magnets, Energy, Electricity
 - Properties of Matter
- Science Fair Project
 - Geology (Earth Science)
 - Meteorology
 - Astronomy

History:

- Reading weekly assigned chapter in *Story of the World* and do map work/summary
- History Character Presentation

* HIHCM may provide exposure to topics listed in "What you teach."
This exposure is generally not enough to master the content.





HOMESCHOOL GUIDE

4th - 6th Grade

What HIHCM Teaches...

Math/Geometry:

- Fractions & Decimals
- Percentages, Ratios, & Proportions
- Exponents
- Squaring/Square Roots & Cubing
- Integers & Variables
- Order of Operations
- Mode, Median, Mean, Range
- Geometry concepts, including Area & Volume

Language Arts:

- The 9 parts of speech & their functions:
- The 12 Tenses
- Indepth Study of the Verb
- Phrases, Clauses, & Types of Sentences
- Sentence Structure & Analysis

Science:

- Life Science:
 - Botany
 - Zoology
 - Human Biology

Cultural Study:

- Biomes
- Study of Regions
- Study of the United States
- Government
- Study of a State
- Minnesota History
- Study of Continents

Atrium:

- Faith Stories
- Devotions & Worship
- Verse of the Week

What YOU Teach...

Math:

- Memorization of Facts (+ x - ÷) *Practice Daily*
- Time & Temperature
- Number Lines & Graphing
- Money & Measurement
- Daily practice mastered math skills learned at HIH

Language Arts:

- Systematic approach to phonics and reading
- Vocabulary & Spelling
- Literary Devices and Story Elements
- Advanced Comprehension Skills
- Typing
- Types of Writing
- Editing Skills
- Complete Monthly Writing Assignment
- Monthly Book Club at HIH

Science:

- Physical Science
- Chemistry
- Periodic Table
- Science Fair Project
- Geology (Earth Science)
- Meteorology
- Astronomy

History:

- Reading weekly assigned chapter in *Story of the World* and do map work/summary
- History Character Presentation

* HIHCM may provide some exposure to topics listed in "What you teach," this exposure is generally not enough to master the content.





HIHCM PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Academic Goals

We believe that parents are the first and foremost teachers of their children. Our unique programs were designed to support and strengthen parents so they can lead their families well. Click on the link below to find the Elementary Curriculum Guide.

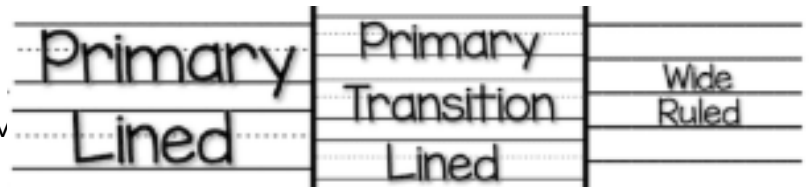
- [Elementary Curriculum Guide](#)

Language Arts Goals

On homeschool days, these are the areas of writing HIHCM recommends you work on with your child:

Goals for the end of 1st grade:

- I can form all upper- and lower-case letters and numbers correctly on primary lined paper.
- I understand how to write on a paper: left to right, top to bottom and on primary lined paper.
- I can write 1-2 sentences neatly and independently, using a capital at the beginning and punctuation at the end. (COPS - Capitalization, Organization, Punctuation, Spelling)
- I can write using the correct pencil grip.
- I can read **90** words per minute.
- I have memorized 100 of sight words.



Goals for the end of 2nd grade:

- I can write all letters and numbers without reversal.
- I can write on primary lined paper.
- I am learning to write in cursive.
- I can write 3-5 sentences neatly, independently without fatigue about a given topic using capital at the beginning and punctuation at the end. (COPS - Capitalization, Organization, Punctuation, Spelling)
- I can read **130** words per minute.
- I have memorized 200 of sight words.
- I can answer basic comprehension questions.
- I can brainstorm ideas.
- I am beginning to understand the “cheeseburger paragraph.”
 - Top bun: topic sentence
 - Cheese, lettuce, and hamburger: 3 supporting details
 - Bottom bun: closing sentence

Goals for the end of 3rd grade:

- I can write in cursive.
- I am able to write neatly and accurately on wide-rule lined paper.
- I can consistently write 1 or more paragraphs with 5 sentences in each paragraph without fatigue.
 - Each paragraph should have a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence.
- I understand different types of writing such as personal narrative, fiction story, and research writing.
- I can read **140** words per minute.
- I have memorized 300 of sight words.
- I can answer advanced comprehension questions.

E2: Language Arts Goals

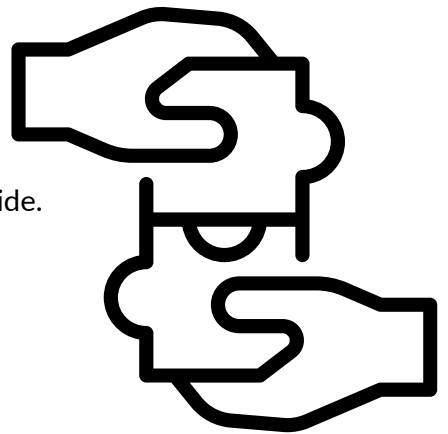
Goals for 4th - 6th grade:

- I can write legibly and accurately with stamina.
- I can write in cursive as it is helpful for writing with ease and speed.
- I can copy words and sentences accurately and legibly onto paper/notebook from the board or other source.
- I am learning keyboarding and computer skills.
- I can write a paragraph with ease, knowing what a topic sentence is and how to write interesting supporting details to support the topic sentence, including ending with the paragraph with a concluding sentence.
- I can consistently and accurately use writing conventions.
- I can write a 5 paragraph essays that includes:
 - Introduction paragraph with a hook sentence and a thesis statement.
 - Three supporting paragraphs that explain the thesis statement.
 - A concluding paragraph that wraps up the essay & restates the thesis statement in a different way.
- I can write 1 page in a notebook about a given topic; giving details and thoughts, expanding on statements to give more depth to their writing.
- I can write long passages with stamina.
- By the end of 6th grade: I can read **160** words per minute.
- By 6th grade: I can type my writing assignments.

Note taking becomes a bigger part of school in E2, so these skills of accuracy, legibility, and stamina are important.

Language Arts at Home

- For a full list of Language Arts activities for at home view the Homeschool Guide.



First Grade Readiness

- I can identify all letters of the alphabet – upper and lower case
- I know the sounds of all the letters.
- I can read CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words with the short vowel sound (cat, dog, rug, tip, bet) .
- I can read 20 + basic sight words, including: a, an, and, are, the, is, it, on, of, to, said, you.
- I can read simple sentences with a combination of CVC words and sight words.
 - The cat is on the bed.
 - Examples: Bob Books, Primary Phonics Books, The Good and the Beautiful

Reading in E1: Learning to Read

1. Use a systematic and phonetic reading curriculum.

- It incorporates the 5 essential components of the Science of Reading:
 - Phonemic Awareness: the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds, or phonemes, in spoken words
 - Phonics: is a reading technique that teaches children to match the sounds of spoken English to letters or letter groups
 - Fluency: the ability to read with accuracy, speed, and expression.
 - Comprehension: the ability to understand the meaning of written text by processing it and integrating it with what the reader already knows.
 - Vocabulary and Sight Words
- It has a set scope and sequence that builds on previously taught skills.

2. Teach reading consistently.

3. Daily reading lessons.

- Goal: child reads aloud a minimum of 20 minutes to an adult 5 days a week
- Reading aloud can include word lists, short CVC books such as Bob books, or literature at your child's reading level.

Reading in E2: Reading to Learn

In E1 students are learning to read. In E2, students are reading to learn. However, it is still important that you are working on some essential reading skills with your E2 students at home.

1. Literary Devices:

- Example: idioms, metaphors, similes, personification
- What are these and where can you find examples of them in literature?

2. Genres of Literature:

- Examples: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, fantasy, fable, historical fiction, science fiction, biography
- Encourage your child to read a wide array of literature genres

3. Elements of Literature:

- Examples: character, setting, plot, conflict/resolution, point of view, theme
- In every book your child reads, have him/her identify each of these elements

4. Comprehension skills:

- Examples: sequencing, summarizing, predicting, inferencing



CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Reading

- [UFLI \(University of Florida Literacy Institute\) Reading Program](#)
 - Reading and spelling
- [Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons by Siegfried Englemann and Phyllis Haddox](#)
- [The Ordinary Parent's Guide to Teaching Reading by Jesse Wise](#)
- [Logic of English](#)
- [Alpha Phonics](#) by Samuel Blumenfeld
- List of [Sight Words](#)
- [Honey for a Child's Heart](#)

Writing

- [Institute for Excellence in Writing](#)

Overall Language Arts

- [Good and the Beautiful](#)

Handwriting

- [Handwriting Without Tears](#) by Learning Without Tears: [K](#), [1st](#), [2nd](#), [3rd](#), [4th](#), [5th](#)
- [The Good and the Beautiful](#)

Spelling

- [Spelling Power](#) by Beverly L. Adams-Gordon
- [Spelling Plus](#) by Susan C. Anthony

Math

- [IXL](#) (for practice/reinforcement of concepts mastered at school) [K](#), [1st](#), [2nd](#), [3rd](#), [4th](#), [5th](#), [6th](#), [7th](#), [8th](#), & [posters](#)
- [Super Teacher Worksheets](#) (for practice/reinforcement of concepts mastered at school)
- Games, activities, or workbooks on the topics of [Time](#), Money, Measurement

Science

Home topics include physical science, earth science/geography, meteorology, and astronomy.

- [The Good and the Beautiful](#)
- [Apologia](#) - Physical Science, [General Science](#)

Questions about Curriculum Recommendations?

Contact Stephanie Wehman, Provost,
at s.wehman@hihcm.org
or Jean Schmidt, CMFE Director,
at j.schmidt@hihcm.org



CREO HOMESCHOOL ACADEMY

What WE Teach...

CORE SUBJECTS:

Faith:

- Apologetics Class
- Discipleship Groups
- Chapel

Math:

- College Prep Math Curriculum
- Pre-Algebra through PSEO Math

Language Arts:

- Literature
- Writing
- Grammar
- Communications

Science:

- Life Science
- Physical Science
- Chemistry
- Physics

History/Geography:

- American History
- World History
- Civics and American Government
- Human Geography
- Philosophy
- Economics

What YOU Teach...

ELECTIVES, SUCH AS:

- Music
- Art
- Theater
- Career Exploration
- Social Sciences
- Foreign Language
- Typing, Technology, & Programming
- Occupations
- Health & Phy-Ed

*1.5 credits needed between 9-12th grade for State of MN standards

Additional Areas:

- Delight-directed subjects
- Therapies - Tutors
- HIHCM Homework
- Areas needing support
- Communication & Speech
- Personal Finance



Our 3-day program provides instruction in the core areas of apologetics, math, science, history, and language arts. A 4th and/or 5th day may be added .

Subject	7th – 8th Grade	9th – 10th Grade	11th – 12th Grade
Faith	The whole Bible in 16 Verses	What in the World is the Bible?	Applied Ministry & Discipleship
	*James 1 – Inductive Study	*Faith in the Secular World	
Language: Literature *Book choices are examples of what has been used in the past and are subject to change.	Book Study: -A Single Shard -A Wrinkle in Time -Call of the Wild -I Juan de Pareja	Book Study: -The Lord of the Flies -A Christmas Carol -Hamlet -Animal Farm	World literature OR Literary Analysis
	*Book Study: -Carry on, Mr. Bowdith -The Hobbit -The Giver -Code Talkers	*Book Study: -Our Town -The Old Man & the Sea -To Kill a Mockingbird -Shane	American Literature
Language: Writing	Writing Skills: -Note Taking & Outlines -Narrative Stories -Creative Writing -Oral Presentation -Poetry -Literary Analysis -Research Writing	Writing Skills: -Note Taking -Short Story -News Analysis -Poetry -Research Paper -Literary Analysis -Grammar	Writing & Research
	*Writing Skills: -Note Taking & Outlines -Poetry -Creative Writing -Oral Presentation -Literary Analysis -Research Writing	*Writing Skills: -Creative Screenplay -Researched Biography -Biblical Story Analysis & Retelling -Poetry -Persuasive & Reflective Journaling	Public Communications
History	World History: Anthropology & Human Geography Prehistory thru Present	World Government & Citizenship	World Civilizations and/or Intro to Human Geography
	*United States History: History & Cultures 1492 - Present	*United States Civics & Constitutional Studies	Topics in US History and/or American Government
Science	Apologia: Life Science	Apologia: Physical Science & Intro to Chemistry	Physics or Chemistry
	*Apologia: Earth & Physical Science	*Apologia: Biology	*Foundations of Biology
Math	College Prep: Pre-Algebra, Algebra	College Prep: Geometry, Algebra II, Calculus	



CREO: TRANSCRIPTS, GRADUATION, DIPLOMAS & PSEO

Not All Campuses Have High School Programming/PSEO

Transcripts

It is the responsibility of the parent to complete the homeschool student's official transcript. HIHCM will provide parents with a report that will help them in determining the student's grade. Here are some helpful resources when creating a transcript. Paid transcript services are also available for parents who desire extra assistance.

- [SAMPLE TRANSCRIPT](#)
- [EDITABLE HS TRANSCRIPT](#)
- [TRANSCRIPT GPA CALCULATOR](#)
- [TRANSCRIPT SERVICES](#)



Graduation & Diploma

HIHCM holds a yearly graduation ceremony for all CREO students who have met the graduation requirements. Homeschool students who fulfill all of the HIHCM CREO requirements will receive a HIHCM diploma signed by a HIHCM representative, as well as the homeschool parent. If students do not fulfill the HIHCM requirements, only the parent will sign the diploma. Hand in Hand will provide the diploma, graduation cap, and gown to all seniors.

PSEO Options

PSEO, Post-Secondary Enrollment Option, is not an expectation, but an option that the State of MN offers to junior and seniors in high school. PSEO students take college classes that are paid for by the government.

Crown College offers PSEO to qualified students at Hand In Hand-CREO. This program permits students to earn college credit for free without leaving CREO. When you apply to Crown College, submit your homeschool transcript, but list CREO as the site you will be taking PSEO in-person courses at.

Click here for additional information about: [PSEO at CROWN](#)



Family Education Support & Resources

Parent Support Groups/Events

Parent collaboration is one of the top values at HIHCM. That is why we've designed unique family-focused educational offerings, support groups, and special events that address the wholistic needs of families- educationally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Click on the links below to learn more about how to get involved in one or more of our unique parent collaborative opportunities.

Family Education Support Programs

- Christian Montessori Family Preschool (Central)
- Bright Beginnings Family Musik Time (Highcroft)
- Coffee Connect (all campuses)
- Moms Circle Connect (Central)
- Dads of Destiny (Central)
- Weekly Online Prayer (all campuses)
- One-on-one Moms Mentoring sessions- Sign Up (all campuses)
- Special events: Educational Nights, Mom's Soul Care Day and Wellness Fair (Central), and more



Family Engagement Through Time, Talents & Treasures

Part of why HIHCM is such a special place, is because of the deep heritage of family engagement. Families who are invested, thrive! Proverbs 11:25 declares this truth, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." As each campus grows, more volunteer opportunities arise for families to help support teachers, staff, activities, and events throughout the year.

Sign up now for your family volunteer commitment or financial gift:

[ENGAGE @ CENTRAL](#)

[ENGAGE @ HIGHCROFT](#)

Lab School volunteers can e-mail officesouth@hihcm.org.

[TREASURES](#)



Questions? Contact Jean

JEAN SCHMIDT, CMFE Director

✉ j.schmidt@hihcm.org

☎ 651.784.7988 (ext. 1012)



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Family Education Support & Resources

We look forward to connecting with you!

Check out the recent Parent Connect Flyers at your campus by clicking on the logo below.



Dads of Destiny



**Moms Circle
Connect**



Coffee Connect



Moms Mentoring



HOMESCHOOL HELPS/ EXTRA RESOURCES

We are here to help!

Below are some resources that will support and enrich students and parents on their educational journey:

- **HIHCM Partner Programs and Extra Curricular Activities** that include: Check out your campus' website for a complete list of opportunities!
- Montessori Supplies and Learning Aids: [For Small Hands](#) & [Montessori Services](#)
- Infant/Toddler Resources: [The Montessori Notebook](#), [The Parents' Guide to Montessori](#)
- Parenting/Discipleship Resources: [Discipline That Connects With Your Child's Heart, Connected Families](#)
- Sites to Buy Homeschool Curriculum: [Amazon](#), [Heppner's Legacy](#), [Christian Book](#), [Rainbow Resource](#), [YWAM Publishing](#)

Parent Orientations - Homeschool How-to

At the start of each year, homeschool families are invited to live parent education events and orientations. We invite you to join us!

Campus Directors

Campus leadership is always here to help!



Sue Shields
Central Campus Director



Christine Bredemus
Lab School Campus Director



Christie Anne Cheng
Highcroft Campus Director



MARIA MONTESSORI

"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Born in Ancona, Italy, in 1870, Maria Montessori displayed an early penchant for bucking conventional wisdom. In conservative bastions like 19th-century Italy, Montessori refused to follow traditional women's roles and instead pursued a science education and became Italy's first female physician. She became an early advocate for women's rights, child labor laws, and humanistic advances throughout Europe.

Teaching at the University of Rome, Montessori encountered the children of Rome's working class and destitute at the university's free clinics. In her work there, she realized that talent was universal, but opportunity was not. These children, she discovered, came into the world with the same intelligence and potential as the children of the upper classes. They just needed a learning environment that would foster that potential in a way that was generally unavailable to such children. In 1901, she was appointed the director of a school for mentally challenged children in what had been an insane asylum.

As a scientist, Montessori based her program on observation and experimentation. She realized quickly that there were methods for teaching children who had been considered unteachable. The results startled her but reinforced the notion that children, regardless of their environment, were like sponges eager to absorb everything and learn.

From these early experiences, Montessori set to work on creating teaching methods that would redefine the whole idea of education. In 1907, blocked by Italy's Ministry of Education from trying her methods on normal children, Montessori set up her Casa dei Bambini (Children's House) as a forerunner to today's daycare centers. For these young children of working-class Italians, Montessori provided a warm, stable environment focused on learning academic subjects, as well as practical life skills. The children, many of whom entered the classroom wild and disruptive, quickly embraced Montessori's methods, begging to be taught more and more.

Her reputation spread quickly, and Montessori's methods were studied by leading lights like Jean Piaget, Erik Erikson, Bruno Bettelheim, and Anna Freud. She brought her ideas to the United States in the early 20th century and was embraced by Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell. Edison founded a Montessori school, and Bell, along with his wife, founded the Montessori Education Association in 1913. But the educational establishment in the U.S., fiercely dedicated to the factory model for education, mounted a vocal campaign denouncing Montessori and essentially drove her out of the country. Though her methods flourished across Europe and other parts of the world, Montessori schools reappeared in the U.S. in the 1960s, when a new generation of advocates spearheaded the effort.

Among the fundamental tenets of the Montessori Method:

- Montessori teachers act as coaches and facilitators for the children.
- Teachers have a deep respect for the children, and the children are taught to share that respect among themselves.
- Children are taught to be kind and peaceful.
- Classrooms are diverse and include multiple age groups.
- Students are taught to help younger children.
- Montessori assumes that children are born with native intelligence. Each learns in his or her own way and at the individual's pace. Students progress as they master new skills, moving ahead when ready.
- There are few texts, no homework, no tests, and no grades.
- Rote memorization and drilling are eliminated in favor of helping children genuinely understand a subject.
- Children learn that failure is acceptable and mistakes are simply learning experiences.



Montessori Lingo

Classrooms Defined

HIHCM Classrooms (Not all classrooms are at every campus)

- NIDO- infant/toddler
- CASA-preschool/kindergarten
- E1- Elementary 1 (1st-3rd)
- E2- Elementary 2 (4th-6th)
- CREO (7th –PSEO)

Key Montessori Terms

- **Constructivist-** Constructivism is a learning theory that suggests people construct knowledge through their experiences rather than just passively taking in information. In constructivist classrooms, students explore, discover, and solve problems independently. They can pursue their interests and take ownership of their education. This type of education utilizes hands-on, experiential learning, and the teacher's role is to facilitate learning rather than direct it.
- **Developmental Planes-** Development stages that provide insight into any child's developmental milestones. These planes include:
 - The First Plane: Birth to Age 6 (Early Childhood/Infancy) “The Absorbent Mind”- NIDO/CASA
 - The Second Plane: Ages 6–12 (Childhood) “Conscious Imagination”- E1 & 2
 - The Third Plane: Ages 12–18 (Adolescence) “New Identity”- CREO
 - The Fourth Plane: Ages 18–24 (Maturity) “Maturity”- Post Secondary
 - Education/Trades/Entrepreneurships



OUR BELIEFS

WE BELIEVE...

>>> that we are in the Lord's hands. He created us with His HANDS and loves each of us. He has written all our names in His Book of Life if we believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

>>> Jesus took children seriously and called them to Himself, placed His HAND on them and blessed them, and said the Kingdom of Heaven belonged to those who were like children.

>>> that true learning occurs when the child can do things for himself/herself and have the activities in HAND along with freedom, boundaries, and an open work cycle.

>>> that parents are an essential part of education and should be encouraged, educated and embraced with a HAND-shake style partnership.

>>> that all of life is better HAND-IN-HAND, as parent to child, parent to instructor, instructor to child, child to child, parent to parent, and all to God.

FOUNDATION

Hand In Hand Christian Montessori is a Judeo-Christian educational institution where we nurture the whole child through body, mind, and spirit. We proclaim that Jesus is the only way, the truth and the life. Therefore, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ will be encouraged for the students, and modeled by our faculty and staff.

We believe in the Bible, cover to cover.

We hold Essential:

>>> Creation

>>> Salvation and Restoration

>>> Marriage and Sexuality

> We believe that marriage is a legal and committed relationship between one man and one woman and that God's design for sexual intimacy is only within the bounds of marriage.

>>> Family

>>> Sacred Identity and Gender

> We believe our identity and gender are sacred, designed by God, in his image - male and female, and are based on biological sex at birth.

> A person's biology and body match the bathroom they use.



In essentials, unity
in non-essentials, liberty;
in all things charity."
Saint Augustine