Our Mission, Our School

The mission of Wyoming Valley Montessori School is to provide a respectful Montessori environment that supports children’s natural desire to learn, guiding them to fulfill their potential for intellectual, social, and ethical development. The school, together with families, builds the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Wyoming Valley Montessori School welcomes children 18 months through 12 years to its Toddler, Primary, and Elementary Programs. We are an independent, non-profit co-educational day school in Kingston, Pennsylvania, fully accredited by the American Montessori Society and the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary Schools.

The school was founded in 1970 by a group of parents interested in the educational philosophies of Dr. Maria Montessori. It opened its doors to twenty students and one teacher. Today the staff numbers over twenty-five and the enrollment is one hundred twenty. We are located in the Wyoming Valley of Northeast Pennsylvania, just across the Susquehanna River from Wilkes-Barre.
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A Message from our Head of School

Our 44th year allowed us to continue our wonderful journey as a community anchored by the Montessori practice and philosophy. The Wyoming Valley Montessori School worked hard to develop the best practices to meet the challenge of the 21st century and develop the type of learner who will succeed in this New World. We challenged our WVMS students academically in a safe environment and encouraged them to develop a curiosity of that environment while building independence, self-confidence and leadership. This foundation, built on the teachings of Maria Montessori, will lead to a lifelong love of learning, an appreciation for the environment and a commitment to helping the school community.

To fulfill our mission of being a truly exceptional school, we as a community, worked together building a strong bond between the home and school, something essential for student success. We achieved our common goals and helped our children reach their fullest potential.

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank our families, old, new and future, for being a part of such an incredible educational experience. I trust that we can be a valued part of your family’s life, for your time here at Wyoming Valley Montessori School and beyond.

Sincerely,

Dennis Puhalla

Head of School
Why Children Love Montessori

Children Love To Learn Here
Children spend each day with enthusiastic fellow students and creative, dedicated teachers. Children learn at their own pace with lots of encouragement and engaging materials. Their classroom is a place of beauty, simplicity, and order. They know that we care about them and respect them, and they want to come to school.

Children Learn Actively Here
They’re excited about their work because Montessori gives them so many ways to discover and explore their world. Our curriculum is challenging to the most able student and flexible enough to address many learning styles. It encourages children to see connections in their knowledge, to ask questions, and create new ideas.

Children Join a Family Here
Students say they feel at home here. Our teachers have a lot to do with that. Trained to observe and respond to the intellectual, social, and emotional needs of the “whole child,” they foster the growth of their students’ sense of self-worth and confidence. They help children reason, cooperate, and care. We also recognize that parents, children’s most important teachers, are an integral part of the school community. Children benefit from strong home-school partnerships.

Children Build Their Futures Here
A Montessori education enables children to feel positive toward learning, toward themselves, and toward others. Our goal is the development of confident, motivated, lifelong learners. Our graduates make smooth transitions to other systems of education and do well in their academic careers. We are now welcoming our second generation of students, the children of our earliest graduates.
Our Organization

Board of Trustees
The Wyoming Valley Montessori School is governed by a Board of Trustees dedicated to the mission of the school. For 2013-2014, our Board consisted of:

Kim McNulty – President
Bryne Lewis
Patrick Endler – Vice President
Alicia Nordstrom
Joe Werner – Treasurer
Matt Rogers
Carol Hiscox – Secretary
Jennifer Thomas
Heather Critchosin
Sunny Weiland
Patrick DellaValle

Administration
The administrative team at WVMS is dedicated to ensuring efficient operations, promoting excellence in education and supporting faculty and families alike. Administrators for the school term were:

Dennis Puhalla – Head of School
Charlene Decker – Business Manager
Irene Stitzer – Administrative Assistant
Lynn Klein – Director of Admissions
Linda Zinga - Secretary

Faculty and Staff
Head Teachers are either certified through the American Montessori Society (AMS) or are working toward their certification. Primary and Elementary Program teachers also hold Private Academic School certification through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Toddler staff is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. WVMS was honored to have the following staff in 2013-2014:

TOODDLER
Lynn Benkowski – Head Teacher
Villana Geeban – Assistant
Kimberly Reinert – Assistant
Brian Palladino – Assistant and PE Specialist

PRIMARY
Jeremy Connor – Head Teacher
Jonelle Kime - Assistant
Maria Godfrey – Head Teacher
Donna Kneal – Assistant
Julia Pickarski – Head Teacher
Nancy Fino – Assistant

ELEMENTARY
Kara Taylor – Lower Elementary Head
Kim Dolhon – Lower Elementary Assistant
Danny Klein – Upper Elementary Head
Amy Weinschenk – Upper Elementary Head

SPECIALS
Joseph Baranoski – Music
Paula Bolton – Library
Angela Casey – Chinese
Cathy Laskaris – Art
Lauren Seelye - Spanish
Parents’ Association

The WVMS Parents’ Association furthers the school’s vision through volunteer work, fund raising, education, and special events. All parents and guardians of children enrolled in Wyoming Valley Montessori School are members of the Parents’ Association. Meetings are held monthly, open to all, and no dues are collected. By getting involved in P.A. activities, parents can make the most of this opportunity to get to know other Montessori families and become an active part of the school community. There are P.A. committees that place volunteers in the classroom and library, coordinate community outreach, and organize school fellowship events as well as fund raising projects.

P.A. officers are elected to serve two-year terms. The P.A. Co-Presidents for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years are Maria Parra and Corrin Stella.

Organizing Outreach Programs, such as food drives for the local Al Beech Food Pantry, are an integral part of the Parents’ Association efforts. Teaching our children to share and be compassionate towards others is a vital component of a well-rounded WVMS education.

The support and loyalty of our parent volunteers benefits the entire school and promotes the reputation of WVMS within the local community.
Fiscal Year 2014 Financials
With a Board committed to 851 West Market Street as home for WVMS, a site study was conducted for the property. The results of the study boiled down to “our building is architecturally beautiful but needs some TLC”! With that in mind, strong emphasis was placed on finding any potential cost savings in expenditures, employing cash management strategies to produce the best rate of return and trying to build reserves to pay for maintenance projects on the horizon. Our efforts proved to be successful. We added a small amount to the bottom line and should be in good position to secure financing as we delve into making renovations at WVMS.

WYOMING VALLEY MONTESSORI ASSOCIATION, INC.
D/B/A WYOMING VALLEY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Statement of Activities
For the year ended June 30, 2014
Per Independent Accountants’ Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support and revenue:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund raising events</td>
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<td>Investment income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total support and revenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses:
- Program services            | 873,002  |
- Supporting services:         |
  - Management and general     | 297,967  |
  - Fund raising                | 22,932   |
  - Total expenses              | 693,901  |

Increase in net assets        | 26,452   |
Net assets, beginning         | 153,945  |
Net assets, ending            | $180,397 |
At WVMS, our primary source of income is tuition. Timely payments by our families help ensure a smooth cash flow and assist in meeting the monetary demands of running the facility. With our strategic plan calling for approximately 15% of gross tuition made available in financial aid discounts, we solicited grants and relied strongly on two main fundraisers to supplement income: the Annual Campaign and our Spring Gala.

As with most businesses, one of our largest expenses is the payroll category. Wages, taxes and benefits take up the large majority of our operating budget. Standard operational expenses such as building maintenance and repairs, utilities and insurance consume a large portion of funds as well.
A Word on the Annual Campaign

On behalf of the entire WVMS Board of Trustees, I would like to extend our thanks for your support of the Annual Fund campaign. I find myself overwhelmed with the generosity shown towards this vital fundraiser.

Your contributions and volunteerism have enabled us to achieve new highs in our efforts. At WVMS, annual fund gifts go towards mission critical expenses including faculty salaries, professional development, utilities, facility upgrades, field trips, maintenance, school supplies, student programs and financial aid.

The results we achieved this past year are only possible when all members of our family (students, parents, faculty, alumni, friends, benefactors, staff and board) work together toward achieving a common goal. That goal is to use our precious resources in the most efficient and effective manner to provide the best educational experience possible to our students and to offer financial aid to those who need our help to attain this experience.

Please know that by continuing to support our school you are truly making a difference in the lives of many children. We welcome and invite you to visit the school whenever you may have the opportunity. Wonderful things have been happening at WVMS – and it’s thanks to your help.

Regards,

Kim McNulty
President, Board of Trustees
Thank you for supporting the 2013-2014 WVMS Annual Campaign and for “Joining the Club”

With everyone’s generous support, our Campaign raised nearly $23,000, beating our goal and allowing us to supplement our tuition income. Our giving "clubs" recognize individuals, families and businesses voluntarily promoting Montessori education through participation in the Annual Campaign.

The club names come from classic Montessori materials, many designed by Dr. Maria Montessori herself.

**Pink Tower Club - $2,000 and up**
Mr. and Mrs. Dierk Wessel
The Bergman Foundation

**Thousand Chain Club - $1,000 to $1,999**
Ms. Carol Hiscox
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hiscox
Dr. Jarrett Kaminsky and Dr. Jamie Knight
Mr. Bill Seiden and Ms. Tanya Dobash

**Golden Bead Club - $500 to $999**
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick DellaValle
Mr. and Mrs. William Flood
Mr. and Mrs. LP Frieder
Dan and Susan Moyer

**Moveable Alphabet Club - $200 to $499**
ANONYMOUS
Mr. and Mrs. Mauricio Campos
Heather Critchosin
Mr. and Mrs. Brett Decker
Frank and Josie Dominick
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffery Kile
Mr. and Dr. Ted Kristeller
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Nordstrom
Melissa and Leigh Obmann
Mr. Dennis Puhalla
Mr. Matthew Rogers and Dr. Melanie Shepherd
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Walting
Mr. and Dr. Joseph Werner
Mr. Wesley Woo and Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Practical Life Club - $100 to $199

ANONYMOUS
ANONYMOUS
Mr. and Mrs. James Boccardo
Mrs. Paula Bolton
Mrs. Julia Byriel
Ms. Susie Dobash
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Endler
Dr. and Mrs. Kurt Field
Mr. and Mrs. James Fino
Duane Fisher and Corrin Stella
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Frieder
Mrs. Villana Geeban
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Godfrey
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hughes
Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Kaminsky
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Klein
Ms. Donna Kneal
Mr. Stephen and Dr. Kerri Tobin Lentz
Mrs. Lorraine Mortimer
Ms. Mariellen Mosca
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pallassino
Mr. Andrew Pe tonak and Dr. Robin Field
PJ and Lisa Pribula
Theresa Rallo
Karen and Wayne Rozen
Mr. and Mrs. William Russ
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stella
Dr. and Dr. Scott Weiland
Mr. Joel Wilkinson
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Woo
Mrs. Bonnie Ziegler

Red Rods Club - Up to $99

ANONYMOUS
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Asbury
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ashton
Mr. Joseph Baranoski
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barletta
Mr. and Mrs. David Carpenter
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cohen
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Connor
Mr. and Mrs. Al Decker
Mrs. Kim Dolhon
Ms. Gina Gianetto
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Del Grosso
Mr. Salvatore Deluca and Ms. Valeria Sartor
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hennigan
Ms. Suzanne Herstek
Mr. and Mrs. William Kettrick
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery Kile
Dr. and Mrs. John Kline
Mrs. Ruth Monroy
Mr. and Mrs. William Norwig
Ms. Mary Anne Obmann
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parra
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Piavis
Robert and Patricia Piavis
Mrs. Julia Pickarski
Mrs. Angela Pignataro
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Prada

2013-2014 Annual Campaign

Wyoming Valley Montessori School

$22,786

Thank you for helping us surpass our $20,000 Goal!
Spring Gala

The Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs was the venue for the WVMS 2014 Spring Gala. The event included dinner and dancing. It featured a wine tasting, as well as silent and live auctions. The evening allowed the community to come together for fun and fellowship while providing an opportunity to support our school. Thanks to the generous contributions of our sponsors, donors and attendees, WVMS was able to net nearly $24,000 at the Gala.

Sponsors

The evening would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. Their contributions to the event were instrumental in making the night a huge success. Thank you to:

- Eastern Insurance Group
- Eye Care Specialists
- Mericle Construction
- Misericordia University
- MMI Preparatory School
- Mohegan Sun
- Phillips Supply
- Ryan and Katherine Flood
- Ryan Ness and Stacy Herb
- Safelite Auto Glass
- Tommy’s Pizza Corner
- Villana Geeban

Bidding on the Classroom Projects was an exciting part of the event.

The live auction featured amazing items.
### Donors

Thank you to the following for donating to the WVMS Spring Gala 2014 auctions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alissa Bows</td>
<td>Montage Mountain</td>
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<td>Alpine Deli</td>
<td>Nancy Fino</td>
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<td>Arts N Vino</td>
<td>New Laundry</td>
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<td>Baby Vogue</td>
<td>Old Tioga Farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballet Theater of Wilkes Barre</td>
<td>Over the Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be Our Guest Party Planning</td>
<td>Philadelphia Eagles</td>
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<td>Beer Deli</td>
<td>Pretty Pickles Boutique</td>
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<td>Bistro on the Ave</td>
<td>Professional Chiropractic Associates</td>
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<td>Black Dog Bakery</td>
<td>River Grille</td>
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<td>Boden Outlets</td>
<td>Robas</td>
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<td>Canteen 900</td>
<td>Rock and Roll Gymnastics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chackos</td>
<td>Rodano’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duane Fisher and Corrin Stella</td>
<td>Rustic Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engle Eyewear</td>
<td>Ryan and Heather Horsley</td>
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<td>Gabella’s Bowtique</td>
<td>S.W.E.A.T.</td>
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<td>Genoa Wholesale Foods</td>
<td>Sabatini’s Pizza</td>
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<td>Gina Gianetto</td>
<td>Sakari Salon</td>
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<td>Grico’s</td>
<td>Sanderson State Street Salon</td>
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<td>Hillside Farms</td>
<td>Sanitary Bakery</td>
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<td>Hops and Barleys</td>
<td>Scott and Amy Weinschenk</td>
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<td>Jamie and Stephanie Orfanella</td>
<td>Scranton Trolley</td>
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<td>JD Sneaker King</td>
<td>Shooting Starz Gymnastics</td>
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<td>Justin Incredible</td>
<td>Shooze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith and Maria Godfrey</td>
<td>Southside Bowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin’s Restaurant</td>
<td>Speech/Language Center at Misericordia</td>
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<td>Kim Dolhon</td>
<td>Sports Page</td>
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<td>Kindred Souls Photography</td>
<td>Stone Hedge Country Club</td>
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<td>Knoebels</td>
<td>Studio M Designs</td>
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<td>Leverage</td>
<td>Talbots</td>
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<td>Linda Zinga</td>
<td>Taylor Ultra Storage</td>
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<td>Luigi’s Restaurant</td>
<td>Tomasino’s Original Italian Pizza</td>
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<td>Lynn Benkowski</td>
<td>Treat</td>
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<td>Main Bike World</td>
<td>Two Boys and a Girly Girl</td>
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<td>Mariotti Builders</td>
<td>Two Chic Salon</td>
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<td>Mark and Patty Olmstead</td>
<td>Vive</td>
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<td>Matt and Joann Stitzer</td>
<td>Wegman’s</td>
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<td>Matterns</td>
<td>Wilkes Barre Scranton Yankees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metz</td>
<td>Wyoming Valley Country Club</td>
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</tbody>
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EITC and Scholarship Donors
The Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) allows businesses to make donations to our scholarship program in return for a PA State tax credit of 90% of the donation. Currently, students and families eligible to receive EITC funds must have an annual household income of less than $75,000 with an allowance of $15,000 for each additional dependent. WVMS partners with Penn-Mont Academy of Hollidaysburg, PA to participate as an eligible recipient organization for the EITC Program.

WVMS extends a heartfelt thank you to the organizations that support our scholarship funding efforts both through and outside of the EITC Program. These generous donors include: First National Community Bank; Pennstar, a division of NBT Bank; PNC Bank and The United Way of Wyoming Valley. The donations WVMS receives from these organizations make our educational experience available to the most capable students regardless of their financial circumstances.

Accreditations and Licenses

“Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence.”
— Maria Montessori