



## Montessori TESTIMONIALS from College Faculty

"My husband and I feel strongly that decisions about education are among the most critical choices we will make as parents. Wyoming Valley Montessori School has been a wonderful choice for our three children for a number of reasons. WVMS honors the philosophy of Maria Montessori. In particular, the school accomplishes freedom within limits, emphasizes active discovery over passive learning, and stresses conceptual understanding over mindless skill and drill. WVMS teachers express a genuine enthusiasm for learning and a respect for each child as an individual.

Over the past several years, we have been able to observe many of the specific benefits that our school selection has afforded our children. Because of Montessori's strong sense of individualism and choice, our children have been consistently challenged to work to their full ability. Students are not limited to work that is consistent with their grade level or with the progress of their peers. This inspires a sense of responsibility and independence within the child that inspires self-sufficiency in many other areas of life as well. Additionally, the community atmosphere of the school promotes frequent, meaningful communication between teachers and parents. Teachers and parents work collaboratively to encourage both academic and social growth for each child.

On the whole, our goal as parents is to cultivate resourcefulness, respectfulness, and responsibility in our children. Wyoming Valley Montessori plays an integral role in this endeavor."

**Dr. Adrienne Asbury**

Developmental Education Specialist



"We chose WVMS for two main reasons. The first is that we believe strongly in the Montessori method -- my husband went to Montessori until grade 6 as well! It's easy to see how the student-directed, hands-on learning methods allow children to discover their talents and interests, as well as to delve deeply into subjects and really develop a love of learning. The Montessori method also gives students exposure to sophisticated concepts much earlier than most traditional education settings. Montessori students are encouraged to be independent critical thinkers, which we think will help make our son a happy and productive adult.

The second reason we chose WVMS is for the school itself: the small, close-knit community and its wonderful teachers. The teachers are highly knowledgeable about the Montessori method and child development, and also clearly care deeply about their students and the school as a whole. The small student:teacher ratio helps us feel like our son is known and understood as an individual and helped to see himself as a community member. The social growth he has experienced in his years here has been wonderful. He has been given explicit social teaching with an emphasis on peaceful interaction and dispute resolution that we really treasure. And we feel grateful to have been connected with an amazing parent network as well."

**Dr. Kerri Tobin Lentz**

Assistant Professor of Education



**Marywood**  
UNIVERSITY

"My husband and I decided to start our oldest son in the toddler program at 18 months because we both work and we wanted the best possible environment for him, given that he couldn't be with us during the day. Several of my colleagues highly recommended WVMS, and it seemed like the best option in the area for such a young child. However, now that we're here, we see and understand the value of Montessori education for children of all ages.

Here's what we like:

1) The practice of following the child. Maria Montessori believed that children want to learn and that adults enable learning by providing a variety of age appropriate opportunities that the child explores independently at his own pace. I think that this practice, which treats each child as a valued individual, is the main reason that WVMS's classrooms are calm environments full of children engaged in what they are learning, even at the toddler level.

2) Beautiful classrooms with lots of space for moving around. Children do their work at tables or on work mats on the floor and are not confined to desks throughout the day. Now that I have seen Montessori classrooms, the idea of children sitting in desks all day to learn no longer makes sense to me. My son is very active, and I believe that he will learn better in an environment that respects his need to move.

3) Teachers who love what they do and are free to do it. All head teachers are certified by the American Montessori Society and they are committed and passionate about teaching, which, in a Montessori context, means nurturing children's natural curiosity and paying careful attention to when each child is ready to move on to a more advanced work. Small classes make it possible for teachers to work individually with each child and understand the learning style best suited to each."

**Dr. Melanie Shepherd**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy



"Our daughter, Amelia, was a daycare child, going while my husband and I worked full time. This arrangement was fine, she loved her friends and caregivers, until we started noticing that she was showing interest in learning more, and she was also becoming frustrated when trying new things. My husband who was raised in the Montessori philosophy (his mother is a Montessori teacher), suggested we send her to a Montessori school. I was thrilled to see that WVMS was so close to where I worked, and we started Amelia when she turned 3 yrs. old. Within a short amount of time, we noticed that Amelia was less frustrated and becoming more independent. She is now 4 yrs. old, and exudes confidence and curiosity. She loves helping us cook and clean, knows how to read, and teaches her little brother all that she can. Amelia loves going to Montessori, and I love the quality education that she receives. Many thanks to all of the teachers at WVMS!"

**Dr. Julie M. Belanger**  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry



"Montessori is more than a school—it is a family. The teachers, principal and staff know my child and value him for who he is as a person. They know how to cultivate his strengths and grow in areas that are challenging. The school lives its mission of teaching children how to be mindful and active citizens who appreciate cultural differences.

Montessori is the definition of an individualized education because my son works at his own level in every academic domain. It is a beautiful learning environment that I wish all children and families could experience."

**Dr. Alicia Nordstrom**  
Associate Professor of Psychology



"As a developmental psychologist and educator, the Wyoming Valley Montessori School was the obvious choice for my children. The Montessori approach aligns with what we know about how children learn and the types of stimulation rapidly developing minds need. Educational materials are geared toward children's own interests, which help cultivate a lifelong love of learning and curiosity about the world. As a parent, the caring and highly responsive nature of the teachers and staff spoke most strongly to me. The teachers create a joy-filled atmosphere. They also take the time to know my children. It's clear they understand each child's unique strengths and weaknesses. As such, they provide individualized instruction that fosters the developmental needs and interests of each child. Since my children have been at WVMS, they have become more independent, confident, and intellectually curious. The teachers have helped shape my children into the creative, caring individuals they are today. I enthusiastically recommend WVMS."

**Dr. Jennifer J. Thomas**  
Associate Professor of Psychology



Making, Preparing and Feeding the Homeless at a Local Shelter ▶



Upper Elementary Student ▲  
Using Technology to Skype with his Grandpa in Germany during Grandparent's Day



Upper Elementary Community Projects 2013-14

WBRE On Air Experiences with Judge Munley & on PA Live promoting our Community Wide Veteran's Day Event ▼



◀ W.V.M.S. Elementary Students Reading over 100 Poems and Essays Received from Local Schools and the Community to the Veterans at the VA Medical Center in W-B