

Independent Study Statement

Community Montessori (CM) is an independent study charter school. Although students may attend a resource center for up to 80% of their learning plan, it is not a site-based school. As a student-based program, our focus is each individual student in relation to his/her abilities, learning styles, available resources, and goals. Our Educational Facilitators (EFs) partner with parents and students to develop and monitor a personalized learning plan.

The process for enrollment at CM includes attending an informational meeting before you apply. At this meeting, it is explained how CM works as an independent study school. At the orientation meeting in March, parents are provided the opportunity to share their desires for how the child's learning plan will be carried out (if/how much time at a Center, which EF, materials, etc.). We take that as well as other information into consideration in determining the EF and learning plan for each child. That plan is presented to the parent at the initial meeting in August.

CM Centers are not schools; they are one of several curricular options we offer to support a student's learning plan. We begin with the child's dispositions, preferred modalities, interests, talents, and preferred environment to determine appropriate academic objectives, methods of study, resources, and methods of evaluation. Not all students thrive in a social learning environment, and we are not of the mindset that they must. Our aim is self-directed, independent learning, and we view the parent as the student's primary mentor. Our approach is based on the Montessori philosophy of which the key principles are:

- Multi-age groupings to foster peer learning
- Uninterrupted blocks of work time
- Guided choice of work activity
- A prepared environment for independent learning

While the parent is the primary mentor, children in our program are expected to have several mentors. Mentors can be family members, friends, specialized instructors, EFs, etc. The mentor is an observer whose ultimate goal is to intervene less as the child develops. The mentor's first objective is to prepare and organize the learning environment to meet the needs and interests of the child as well as promote independence.

I understand that Community Montessori is a public school of choice and feel the independent study approach to the Montessori philosophy is an appropriate placement for my child's skills and learning objectives. I look forward to partnering with an EF to develop and carry out a learning plan.

Parent

Signature

Date

Student Name(s)