

# FAQs

## **What is a charter school?**

Charter schools are publicly funded and are not private schools. They are committed to improving public education, demonstrating a record of student achievement, and having specific educational missions. MWMA's focus is on providing students with a tuition-free Montessori program.

Charter schools allow parents a choice for their child within an environment centered on the needs of students in a single school, rather than a district.

## **Do teachers have to be certified?**

MWMA's teachers will be licensed, certified teachers or will be qualified to teach under the Utah State Office of Education's ARL Program, or otherwise authorized through the Utah State Office of Education.

## **Is pay comparable to the District?**

MWMA will compensate employees competitively, commensurate with experience. Full-time employees may earn a salary and benefit dollars, which can be used towards a full benefits package or taken as additional income.

## **Do charter schools follow the core curriculum and testing requirements?**

Yes, charter schools are public schools and have the same requirements as all Utah public schools in regards to following the Utah Core Curriculum and student testing. Montessori schools offer a rigorous academic program, including traditional subject areas such as math, science, language, history, and geography. The curriculum is presented in an integrated approach to help students understand the inter-relatedness of all subjects and promote depth of concept and critical thinking skills.

## **What employment opportunities will be available?**

MWMA will hire licensed and qualified staff to teach grades K-9. In addition to teaching staff, MWMA will be recruiting for paraprofessionals, office staff, and other support positions.

## **How do I apply?**

Employment openings will be listed on the school website. Job postings and applications for employment opportunities at MWMA will be posted online at [www.teachers-teachers.com](http://www.teachers-teachers.com).



Mountain West Montessori Academy

South Jordan, Utah  
(801) 566-6962  
[www.MWMAcademy.org](http://www.MWMAcademy.org)



**MOUNTAIN WEST  
Montessori Academy**

*Employment Opportunities*  
ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS  
**MWMAcademy.org**



The *secret* of good teaching is to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown to grow under the heat of flaming *imagination*. - Dr. Maria Montessori

## WHAT IS MONTESSORI?

The Montessori philosophy of education was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, the first female physician in Italy. It emphasizes respect for each child's natural development and is designed to foster student independence and intellectual curiosity. The Montessori classroom is characterized by an abundance of educational materials with a focus on hands-on learning and freedom within limits. Lessons are individual or small group to allow students to work at their own pace, and students are given uninterrupted blocks of work time to foster concentration. Montessori classrooms are mixed-age, allowing for a wider range of social interaction and mentoring opportunities. Montessori education also emphasizes conflict resolution and communication skills.

### Student-Centered

Dr. Maria Montessori believed that teachers should focus on the child as a person, respecting each student's individuality. Montessori teachers strive to lead children to ask questions, think for themselves, explore, investigate, and discover. Their ultimate objective is to help their students to learn independently and retain the curiosity, creativity, and intelligence with which they were born. Montessori teachers don't simply present lessons; they are facilitators, mentors, coaches, and guides.

### Hands-On

Montessori education includes extensive use of hands-on materials for student learning. Each classroom contains manipulatives, or "works", that students use to learn and master concepts. New materials are presented in individual or small group lessons, so students can progress at their own pace. Montessori students do much of their learning by *doing*; concrete exploration forms the basis for abstract learning.

### Nurturing Curiosity

Montessori education includes learning how to learn: observing, listening, looking for patterns, making connections, and reflecting on how things fit together and how they work. The incorporation of art, music, dance, drama, and writing throughout the curriculum fosters curiosity and creativity as children explore how the natural world works, visualize other cultures and civilizations, and search for creative solutions to real-life problems.

### Respect and Peace

The Montessori philosophy of education embraces the cultivation of each student's sense of independence, self-respect, love of peace, passion for self-chosen work done well, and the ability to respect and celebrate people of all ages and the value of all life. Montessori education incorporates conflict resolution and communication skills in the classroom, including the "peace table" and student leadership.

## GAIN A CAREER

Mountain West Montessori Academy (MWMA) is a tuition-free public charter school serving elementary and middle school students. MWMA is South Jordan's first public Montessori school and provides an educational choice for families.

MWMA believes that teachers are the key to a quality education. MWMA is committed to offering a positive work environment that will provide value to our employees, students, and the Montessori community. In addition to a competitive salary, MWMA provides a full benefits package to salaried employees.

Employment benefits may include:

- Medical
- Dental
- Vision
- Life
- Disability
- Flexible Spending Accounts
- Access to Supplemental Insurance

Preference may be given to applicants that are Montessori Certified and Highly Qualified by the NCLB standards in addition to being qualified by the Utah State Office of Education (USOE). Information on teacher credentialing and licensing is available on the USOE website.

### Montessori Training

Teachers hired at MWMA who do not have prior Montessori credentials will work toward certification in the area in which they want to work. Teacher certifications include Primary (ages 3-6) and Elementary (ages 6-12).

MWMA can work with you in choosing a certification program. Training programs generally include instructional time, classroom observations and supervised teaching, creating and utilizing Montessori materials in a variety of subject areas, completing a teaching practicum, and learning about the interdisciplinary methods of Montessori teaching.

APPLY ONLINE AT

[www.Teachers-Teachers.com](http://www.Teachers-Teachers.com)