Mission Statement and Core Values

The mission of the California Montessori Project is to offer a quality, tuition-free Montessori education to every child in the state of California.

California Montessori Project (CMP) offers an environment which has the tools, programs, resources and support to enable students to become educated to high international academic standards and to develop themselves to their fullest capacity as competent, happy, productive individuals, family members, workers, and contributors to a better society and a peaceful world.

This is achieved through a commitment from the community: parents, teachers, community groups, the legislature and, most importantly, the individual child.

The California Montessori Project provides a Montessori curriculum, integrated with the California state standards, for students ranging from Kindergarten through eighth grade. ***The California Montessori Project is committed to serving the best interest of the student.*** Parental participation is a requirement and highly valued in terms of the contribution it makes to the child's education and the school community.

Internationally high academic standards and expectations of achievement, with emphasis on core subjects, are maintained through adherence to these values:

- Small total school populations and low student/teacher ratios
- Creative, passionate, progressive teachers who are committed to Montessori philosophy
- Responsibility, accountability, and freedom for individual student progress within the academic framework
- Challenges to develop critical reasoning, openness to encourage creativity, and opportunities to facilitate service
- High, unwavering standards of conduct, emphasizing respect for self and others, honesty, responsibility, and courtesy
- Emphasis on collaboration, peer governance, problem-solving, and goal-setting according to developmental readiness
- High parental involvement and collaboration in education and governance

revised 1-26-08 kaa

The California Montessori Project Core Beliefs

Dr. Montessori's fundamental goal was to prepare the child for the "real world" and recognized that each student is a unique individual with unique personal, social, and educational needs. As a result, interactions with individual students may be unique in nature. In response to this, CMP has chosen to adopt a "principles-based" approach to professional conduct and school-wide behavior management. Under such an approach, CMP staff members have met and agreed upon a common set of principles, which shall serve as the basis for all interactions and decisions that may arise within the school community.

Empirical research has shown us that people learn in two ways: Through experience and by modeling. Recognizing that each person comes to our community with a different personality and a different set of life experiences, it is almost impossible to achieve total consistency of beliefs and actions within a staff. As we strive to acknowledge the unique nature of each student and staff member, consistency is achieved when social, academic and professional decisions are handled in a manner consistent with an agreed set of principles. Thus staff members are encouraged to approach situations and decisions with the understanding that the coaching, counseling, and/or consequence implemented shall be consistent with the set of values and principles agreed upon by the staff as a whole.

The following list of core beliefs outlines the professional attitudes and actions of all staff members of this school:

1. Our professional attitude is a mindset with a core belief that our actions and our words should always maintain the dignity and respect of both child and adult.

2. Adults will model appropriate and respectful behavior for students and will guide students to solve their own problems in any way that does not create a problem for others.

3. Students will be given opportunities to make decisions and live with the consequences, both positive and negative. These experiences shall serve as valuable learning opportunities for our students.

4. Students will be given the opportunity to make decisions about issues that affect themselves. Outcome of choices, including misbehavior, will be handled with natural and/or logical consequences instead of punishment, whenever possible.

5. Outcomes of choices and misbehavior will be viewed as opportunities for individual problem solving and preparation for the real world. Staff acknowledge that misbehaviors are not necessarily a personal attack on school or staff and acknowledge that other underlying personal or emotional issues may need to be considered.

6. In the event a consequence appears to be unfair, students are encouraged to request an opportunity to fully communicate their viewpoints and any additional facts regarding a situation with which they were involved.

7. School problems will be handled by school personnel. Criminal activity will be referred to the proper authorities.