

Mission Statement

Denali Montessori promotes mindful activity within a compassionate, diverse community to develop socially responsible life-long learners.

Core Values

Development of Lifelong Learners

Our multi-age learning environment stimulates the child's natural curiosity; foster personal discoveries; and creates socially responsible citizens of the World.

Respect

Our community cultivates a climate of respect- for self, other and environment.

Peace

Denali students, staff and families work and learn together to create solutions peacefully, and promote harmony in our community, nation and world.

Diversity/Cultural Awareness

We celebrate our different ethnicities, backgrounds, and experiences.

The Authentic Child

Our Montessori practices support each child's unique nature and development through compassionate communications and constructive responses.

Community

Denali Montessori promotes character development that nurtures community awareness and global respect.

What is the Montessori Program at Denali?

The program at Denali is Kindergarten through 6th grade; we are both a neighborhood and a lottery school. All of our students are instructed using the Montessori Method. We are located on 9th and Cordova in downtown Anchorage. Opening in 1985 as a school within a school program we are now one of the largest optional programs in the Anchorage School District.

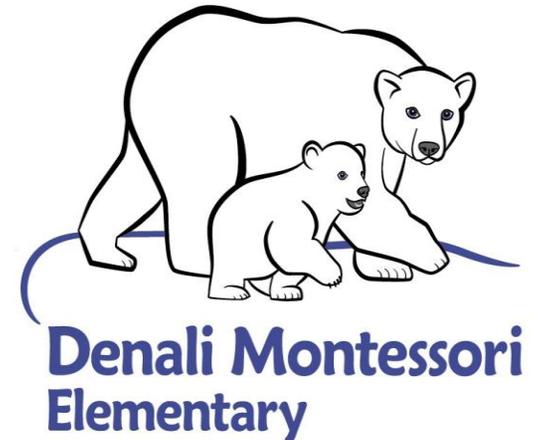
Children from all over and outlying areas attend the Montessori program at Denali. Students, who do not live in our neighborhood, enter the program through the Anchorage School District's lottery system.

The best way to understand how a Montessori classroom differs from other classrooms is to visit one. Tours are conducted in the spring. If you cannot attend a tour, pick up a Montessori Handbook at the school office or visit our website to read about the program and details on the Montessori philosophy.

For information call 742-4500 or visit the web at www.asdk12.org/schools/denali

"I love that my children and teacher are able to bond so deeply by remaining in the same class for three years. The hands-on materials have allowed my children to see how the world works, which fosters their connection to nature. The best part is having two very different children, who are excelling at their own pace in an environment that supports their diversity as learners"

-Mother of two Denali Students



Denali Montessori Elementary

**952 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-742-4500**

What is the Montessori Philosophy?

Based on Dr. Maria Montessori's years of patient observations and her study of children and their developmental needs for freedom within limits and in a carefully prepared environment, which guarantees experience with designated materials. Her educational methods contain certain guiding principles:

Respect for the Child

Respect breeds Respect, and creates an atmosphere within which learning is tremendously facilitated. It is based on a profound respect for the child's personality. The child is allowed a large measure of liberty (not license), which requires learning how to contribute responsibly. Children are encouraged to cooperate with others, to develop self-discipline, and independence. They are taught to take pride in doing things for themselves with care and duty.

Education for Peace

The Montessori classroom is designed to courage peaceful existence among children through environmental and social awareness. Through a strong emphasis on the child's connection to the natural world and other cultures, sciences and social and social sciences are integrated into the curriculum.

"The Montessori experience at an early age prepares children at a later age to be able to isolate, classify, discriminate, analyze, and use critical thinking skills. It is a basis for creative learning an intellectual curiosity."

Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952)

Montessori Classrooms at Denali



Denali Montessori adheres to the same standards as all the programs in the Anchorage School District. It is the way children learn in a Montessori classroom that is different. Montessori is based on self-directed, non-competitive activities.

Montessori classrooms have:

- An academically prepared environment
- Step-by-step sequence guiding the child to independence
- Environment and method that encourages internal self-discipline
- Multi-age grouping to facilitate cooperation, respect, and appreciation for the next learning step and to allow children to learn at various paces.
- The child is an active participant in learning
- Children are encouraged to teach, collaborate, and help each other
- Teacher trained in the Montessori Method

Does the Teacher have Specialized Training?

The teacher in your child's classroom is trained in the Montessori Method. This means he or she has been trained to be an observer and facilitator of learning and serves as a guide for the children as well as an instructor.

In addition to district and state requirements for all teachers, the Montessori teacher has a certificate for teaching received from either the Association Montessori International or the American Montessori Society.

Are There Additional Expenses for my Child to Attend Denali Montessori?

Any additional expenses incurred during the year are optional and vary depending on the types of outing and follow the district guidelines.

"I like the fact that there is a lot of parent involvement. It encourages total involvement in the philosophy of the school. There are different types of learners, and the Montessori program has worked out well for both of my children. It allows them to move at their own pace. The kids are with the same teacher for three years, which is really great. It means a teacher can really track the growth and development of the students."

-Mother of two children at Denali Montessori