



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Oneonta Montessori family! We recognize that you place great value on your child's education, and we're overjoyed that you have chosen to partner with us in a journey of discovery and achievement. We share the same high expectations, hopes, and dreams that you have for your child's future. Oneonta Montessori is a stepping stone; not only to educating the mind but to inspiring the spirit. It is our philosophy that learning, and the acquisition of knowledge are most successful when children are given the freedom and opportunity to explore and create using all their senses. The gentle unfolding of every future leader, innovator, world influencer and amazing human being is rooted in a foundation nurtured with love, support, and acknowledgement of each individual's specific needs for growth and success.

We are honored that you have placed your trust in us; we are committed to building a strong line of communication with you and look forward to working effectively alongside you by inviting parents to join our class DOJO app. This method allows parents and teachers to communicate daily, sharing thoughts, ideas, pictures, and getting to know each family on a personal level.

For over 30 years Oneonta has been dedicated to providing an enriching environment achieved by staying true to the Montessori philosophy. The child is always the central figure in the classroom; respect for the child is a tenet of the Montessori Method and is uncompromised at Oneonta. Our lead teachers are trained and certified in the Montessori Method of teaching. They motivate and encourage growth by insightfully following the child's lead. The child is encouraged to set and reach goals in his/her learning process, which in turn promotes a strong sense of self. The Montessori Materials that were designed by Dr. Maria Montessori ignite a spark of creativity in a child while developing his/her senses. The self-teaching and self-correcting materials lessen the intrusiveness of the teacher and allow imaginative exploration. Dr. Maria Montessori placed great emphasis on multi-age groupings; they are intrinsic to the Montessori classroom and enhance the learning experience; younger children are stimulated by the activities of the older children & older children reinforce their own knowledge by 'teaching' younger children. Through the integral Montessori principle of

multi-age groupings; leadership, strong friendships and a profound sense of belonging is cultivated at Oneonta Montessori.

Our preschool is a high-quality early childhood education program; it raises the standard by continually evolving to meet the needs of each individual child. All our teachers are Montessori Certified, committed, early childhood educators. Our goal is to instill a sense of awareness and responsiveness in a happy and safe environment for all our students.

Our elementary classrooms stay true to the Montessori philosophy of preparing every child for success. Our curriculum includes Language, Literature & Mathematics as well as incorporating Montessori Cultural Arts subjects such as History, Geography, Botany, Zoology & Geometry. These subjects allow our students to be curious, ask questions and truly understand the world around them. It is essential that we prepare our students for transitioning into a traditional school setting by incorporating textbooks, seat work, weekly quizzes, spelling tests and a grading system. The proficiency results of the National Standardized testing (Terra Nova Next 2025 edition) are a testament to our high expectations and the hard work of our students. Special subjects such as Social Studies, Science, PE, Music, Art, Spanish & the STEM program are also incorporated into the grade level curriculums.

Inviting professionals on our campus to conduct extracurricular activities after school allows families to spend more time together. Dance, Tennis, Hapkido, Basketball and Soccer are very popular and will continue this school year.

We look forward to working with you in setting a foundation on which to build lifelong principles in learning as well as wonderful memories to last a lifetime. Your ideas and questions are valuable to us; they help us to grow and to continue to set the bar high in providing an engaging and empowering school program. We anticipate a very successful and dynamic experience for all our students as we begin the 2025/2026 School Year! We stand fast in our commitment to our families, thank you for the trust placed on us.

‘Happiness’ is the culture of our school; we invite all of you to join in and experience it too! Welcome aboard!

Yours truly  
Fiona Emersley  
Director