



## Frequently Asked Questions about Montessori at Leschi

### **What is Montessori education?**

Montessori offers an alternative learning environment with a continued emphasis on conceptual and experiential learning. A Montessori education helps children learn to be independent, self-directed learners equipped with the tools needed to accomplish their academic and personal goals. The Montessori classroom is a "prepared environment" designed to facilitate maximum independent learning and exploration by the child. Children of different ages work independently, in small groups and with the entire class. Special Montessori materials help the child to solve problems by themselves, building independence, analytical thinking and the satisfaction that comes from true accomplishment.

### **How will Leschi be different with Montessori education?**

The new Montessori program will serve K-4 students in 2009-10, adding fifth grade the following year. Leschi will continue its focus on student achievement and commitment to provide teachers ongoing training to help all children meet and exceed academic standards. Leschi will also continue its Spectrum program for academically gifted students. Together these different programs will strengthen the school as a whole and enhance Leschi's commitment to personalized learning and high achievement for all students.

### **Who will lead the Montessori program?**

Jo Lute-Ervin will continue as Leschi's principal and oversee the successful integration of the Montessori program into the Leschi school community.

### **Will the Montessori charge a fee?**

Fee for full-day Montessori Kindergarten at Leschi is under consideration for 2009-10; please call the school for more information. If any fee is instituted, it will be waived for students eligible for free/reduced price meals. There is no fee for Leschi's regular full-day K.

### **Can interested Leschi families tour the TT Minor Montessori program?**

Yes. Tours of TT Minor's Montessori classes will be available in late February and/or early March. Tour dates and scheduling information are noted below and are also available at both Leschi and TT Minor as well as on-line at [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org).

#### **Leschi ~ 135 32nd Avenue**

Tours: February 10, 24 and March 3, 10, 17, 24 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
Contact: (206) 252-2950

#### **TT Minor ~ 1700 East Union Street**

Tours: February 12, 26 and March 5 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.  
Contact: Katie Snyder at [braveuly@gmail.com](mailto:braveuly@gmail.com) or 206-328-4443

### **How do current Leschi students apply for participation in the Montessori program?**

Any students interested in participating in the Montessori program at Leschi (or either of the other district-sponsored Montessori programs) must apply through the regular enrollment process. This year the Open Enrollment process runs from March 2-31, 2009.

### **How will the Montessori program be supported?**

The school district has made a commitment to ensure that the Montessori classrooms have the materials and support they need. The district is also working to better leverage the work of the more established Montessori programs at Daniel Bagley and Graham Hill elementary schools. Shared professional development can help ensure consistent approaches to Montessori education across the district and reduce duplicate spending on similar training opportunities.