



MONTVIEW KINDERGARTEN FAQs

How does Montview Kindergarten differ from public school kindergarten?

- Small class size – 20 students or less
- Two Teachers and a Helping Parent in the classroom every day; more one-on-one teacher/child interactions for individualized learning
- A shorter school day to better accommodate the energy levels of young learners
- A healthy balance of both indoor and outdoor play, creative activities, critical thinking and problem-solving; academic learning that includes literacy, math and science; both fine and gross motor activity; and support for the development of social/emotional skills to help children develop positive relationships and navigate peer conflicts
- Hands-on, experiential learning – the way young children learn best!
- An alternative to overcrowded classrooms, a confusing choice system, and a rigid focus on academics and state testing

What is the age cut-off for Montview kindergarten?

Children must be 5 years of age by October 1st to apply for kindergarten. This is the state mandated date for kindergarten entrance in Colorado and in all Denver Public Schools.

How are academics taught in a play-based program?

There is a common (though false) perception that “academics are not taught in play-based programs.” Nothing could be further from the truth! Children explore the science of physics using ramps, spinning tops, and magnets. Children count and calculate throughout the day, creating number sentences (equations) while taking attendance and making comparisons while describing daily experiences (greater than, less than, longer, shorter, heavier, lighter). Children’s reading and writing is both relevant and meaningful to the child and includes labeling projects and possessions, as well as writing and illustrating their own books about their own chosen topics of interest.

Playful learning equals school success for the young child. Whereas worksheets, a focus on “whole group” learning versus individualized instruction, and sitting at desks for large blocks of time are not age appropriate for 5 year olds.

How well do kids transition from Montview Kindergarten to 1st Grade?

Montview is a true kindergarten. Alumni families and area teachers report that Montview Kindergarteners do very well in 1st grade. A few students may repeat kindergarten based on late summer birthdays or parent choice, but the vast majority of our students move on to 1st grade and experience school success.

Can my family afford private kindergarten tuition?

Montview has a healthy financial assistance program. A high percentage of our financial aid dollars go to kindergarten families and each year we typically have funds left over because no one asks for them! Even if you did not qualify for financial aid as a preschool family, you may very well qualify as a kindergarten family. The first step in applying for aid is to complete an online application and to upload last year’s tax returns and W2s at www.sssbynais.org. You may also contact our assistant director and financial aid liaison, Kathy Bruce, for additional information. Phone 303-322-7296.

What is the parent involvement commitment in Montview's Kindergarten?

Parent involvement is the cornerstone of our school philosophy and, according to research, is the number one indicator of school success. Helping Parents take turns in the Kindergarten classroom between the hours of 8:30 and 12:00 noon before returning to their regular work schedule or daily routines. In today's world we have a tendency to over-schedule both our own and our child's time. Parents at Montview describe their helping days as fun, relaxing, and mutually beneficial for both parent and child. If the parent involvement requirement seems daunting to you, please speak with our school director for ideas about how to make it work for your family.

Who can I talk with if I have other questions?

Our director, Linda Marrs, is happy to talk with families who have additional questions. She can be reached at linda@montviewpreschool.org, at 303-322-7296 during the work week, or just drop by her office when you are in the building (her door is usually open).

For additional information:

- Check out a recent Park Hill News article that takes a look at DPS kindergarten <http://greaterparkhill.org/2016/10/what-i-learned-in-kindergarten/>
- Crisis in the Kindergarten, a report from the Alliance for Childhood: http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/Kindergarten_8-page_summary.pdf