



DISCOVER the DIFFERENCE

MONTVIEW KINDERGARTEN FAQS

How does Montview Kindergarten differ from public school kindergarten?

- Small class size – 24 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 indoor and outdoor play, creative activities, critical thinking and problem-solving; academic learning through play and direct instruction including literacy, math and science; fine and gross motor activity; and a school wide focus on social/emotional skills to help children build positive relationships and navigate peer conflicts.
- Hands-on, experiential learning – the way young children learn best!

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.

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!

Although both public schools and Montview Kindergarten follow Colorado State Standards for Kindergarten education, our approach, one that honors and works with where children are developmentally, is one we are most proud of. We focus on individual and group instruction, offering creative and fun activities that all children learn skills from, along with lots of physical movement within and outside the classroom. Our focus on age-appropriate instruction guarantees learning and growth for all students.

For example, 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, journaling, and writing and illustrating their own books about chosen topics of interest. Playful learning equals school success for the young child.

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

Our students transition extremely well to their next schooling experience. 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 and experience success in 1st grade. Our students thrive socially and academically in kindergarten and beyond because of our age-appropriate approach to education.

Can my family afford private kindergarten tuition?

Montview has a healthy financial assistance program. We encourage families to apply for financial aid even if they didn't qualify in previous years. 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.sssandtadsfa.force.com. You may also contact our assistant director and financial aid liaison, Kathy Bruce, for additional information at kathy@montviewpreschool.org, and at 303-322-7296 during the week.

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 lasting school success. Parents take turns in the kindergarten classroom between the hours of 8:30 and 12:00 noon.

Parents at Montview describe their helping days as fun, enjoyable, educational, 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. Families of all backgrounds have found ways to successfully balance home, work, and parent involvement here at Montview.

Who can I talk with if I have other questions?

Our director, Kim Siffring, is happy to talk with families who have additional questions. She can be reached at kim@montviewpreschool.org, and 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/>