

A TRADITIONAL* SCHOOL	HILL VIEW MONTESSORI		A TRADITIONAL* SCHOOL
<p><i>Students...</i></p> <p>...learn in same-grade classes; work in same-ability groups and/or keep pace with the needs of the larger group.</p>	<p><i>Students...</i></p> <p>...learn in mixed-age classes at their own level and pace; students often coach and learn from each other.</p>	<p><i>Teachers...</i></p> <p>...carefully prepare the learning environment and serve as guide, consultant and facilitator for individual learning.</p>	<p><i>Teachers...</i></p> <p>...prepare daily lessons and serve as director and deliverer of whole group instruction.</p>
<p>....stay seated at their desks most of the time and attend to the teacher's lesson or class discussion.</p>	<p>.... work in various places in the room as needed for individual and partner learning.</p>	<p>...work with a full time assistant in classrooms of approximately 25 students (for a 1:13 maximum ratio).</p>	<p>...work usually on their own or with a part-time aide in classes of 20-30 students (for a 1:30 maximum ratio).</p>
<p>....learn with textbooks, worksheets and some manipulative, generally in response to the textbook contents and MA Curriculum Frameworks.</p>	<p>...learn with engaging, hands-on Montessori materials in response to a Montessori curriculum that has been aligned with MA Curriculum Frameworks.</p>	<p>...work with individuals and small groups; provide explanation and demonstration; request self-assessment, self-direction and goal setting from students.</p>	<p>...provide lecture/group teaching and explanation; request attention to directions and completion of tasks.</p>
<p>....work for 45 minute periods throughout the day according to the teacher's schedule for the large group.</p>	<p>...work independently for 1-3 hour blocks, according to weekly Work Plans devised by teachers and students. Students receive individual and small group lessons during this time.</p>	<p>...use curriculum that is interdisciplinary, at times thematic and project-based, showing connections across disciplines.</p>	<p>...use curriculum that may be thematic or, more commonly, separated by discipline. Curriculum is usually fairly compartmentalized.</p>
<p>....typically pass in papers for teacher correction and receive grades or percentile scores as feedback. Errors are seen as wrong answers that result in lower grades.</p>	<p>... spot and learn from their own errors through feedback from the Montessori materials and work with partners to self-check and discuss. Errors are seen as important to the learning process.</p>	<p>...communicate student progress through 2-4 parent-teacher conferences per year with discussion of student work samples, and progress reports..</p>	<p>...communicate student progress through quarterly report cards and letter grades. Some schools also provide 1 or 2 parent-teacher conferences.</p>
<p>....demonstrate their learning through class quizzes and tests, worksheets, standardized achievement tests, MCAS tests and sometimes portfolios.</p>	<p>...demonstrate their learning through ongoing classroom-based assessments, student work samples, standardized achievement tests, MCAS tests and teacher check-in.</p>	<p>...expect and teach grace, courtesy, respect and responsibility at all times to create a peaceful atmosphere throughout the school.</p>	<p>...expect respectful conduct at all times; may not be consistent with behavior issues from one classroom to another.</p>
<p>...attend school for 6 hours per day (except for half day kindergarten); instruction includes all core academic subjects, art, music and physical education.</p>	<p>....attend school for 7 hours per day (including full day kindergarten); instruction includes all core academic subjects, art, music, and fitness.</p>	<p>...work with colleagues during the school day twice a week and on pres-scheduled professional development days to collaboratively study student work samples, develop new curriculum and engage in continuous improvement.</p>	<p>...works with colleagues sporadically; usually develop curriculum activities individually for his/her classroom.</p>

* Please note that "traditional" refers to a model that is currently being used in many schools, both public and private, although there are certainly exceptions within individual schools and classrooms.