



Montessori Academy of Chicago Opportunity

About the Montessori Academy of Chicago Located in Chicago's downtown, fast-growing West Loop neighborhood, the Montessori Academy of Chicago (the Academy) serves 300 students each day and runs on a year-round model. The Academy is accredited by The American Montessori Society (AMS) to serve children from 6 weeks through 8th grade. It is owned privately and supported by a parent advisory and fundraising group, Friends of MAC. Approximately 90 staff and faculty are employed by the Academy. The school is rich in diversity and inclusivity, supported by an in-house program for students with special needs. Currently in its 10th year of existence, the Academy is planning for the next ten. The school has experienced rapid growth over the last decade and anticipates growth to continue over the next few years. Plans for a facility expansion including new building construction is underway.

Mission To provide authentic high fidelity Montessori education to the children of Chicago.

Organizational Purpose The Academy provides a nurturing, authentic Montessori education and parent community, enriching the lives of Chicago's modern families and students.

Academy Belief Statements

- We believe that Montessori classrooms are based on the principle of respect: respect for the child, respect between children and adults.
- We believe children develop best when they are active participants in their own learning and are expected to work to their full potential both academically and socially.
- We believe all children are in the process of becoming moral beings that are responsible and accountable for their own actions.
- We believe Academy students are confident and competent learners who are academically prepared, independent, intrinsically-motivated, and autonomous, who benefit from creative thinking and the ability to problem solve.
- We believe the child benefits most from a positive relationship between parents and the school and we serve to foster their development at every turn.
- We believe the faculty and staff at the Academy are active participants in role modeling for students both in and outside of the classroom. Parents and guardians are partners in this role at home and in the outside world.

Academy Vision for the Educational Program The Academy, in partnership with faculty, parents and community, is committed to providing an authentic high-quality Montessori program for students of diverse abilities and economic and cultural backgrounds in a way that:

- Provides both individual lessons and group experiences;
- Integrates learning across all subjects and makes connections with real-world application of knowledge;
- Promotes respect for all children;
- Develops a sense of community;
- Ensures academic excellence and preparation for transition to high-quality high schools;
- Prepare students to be world citizens and critical thinkers, and;
- Complies with the high standards set by Dr. Maria Montessori and upheld by the American Montessori Society. For more information about the Academy and Montessori education, visit the Montessori School of Chicago website.

Head of School Profile

The next Head of School of the Montessori Academy of Chicago will lead the school's Montessori program to a higher level of excellence. The ideal candidate has experience managing a complex school with a multi-million dollar budget and has worked successfully with an active leadership team, veteran faculty, and engaged parents.

Inspirational Leader ● Champion ● Communicator ● Advocate

1. An inspirational leader, adept at developing the talent, knowledge and abilities of every adult in the community.

- **Visioning** the future of education and the role that the Academy should play both in the school's programs, in the greater Chicago educational and Montessori community, and the national Montessori and educational community.
- **Aligning** school priorities and the work of staff and administration.

2. A champion who promotes high fidelity Montessori within the school and the power of Montessori within the greater community.

- **Tracking** the educational landscape in general, and the federal, state, and local legislative activities that will impact the Academy in terms of practicing authentic Montessori.
- **Interpreting** Montessori methodology and child development in order to help parents understand the unique aspects of Montessori education and how to best support it in their child's life.

3. A communicator who reaches out to current staff, administration, and parents to bring them together in support of the Academy and Montessori.

- **Creating** a nurturing and inclusive environment where children and adults feel encouraged and welcomed to engage, participate and express themselves.
- **Connecting** with a high degree of emotional intelligence, diplomacy and tact, while respecting and strengthening organizational culture.

4. An advocate who will build on networks already in place, will lead efforts to protect the Academy and its interests, and find opportunities to move the school forward.

- **Presenting** as the public face of the Academy to current and prospective families and to the community.
- **Marketing** to promote and grow the Academy and enhance the school's stature across the city.

Opportunity The next Head of School will be crafting a position in a school already strong in both leadership and Montessori practice. They will be able to take all the threads of the community - incredible Montessori teachers, passionate parents, beautiful Montessori prepared classrooms, strong organizational leadership, and weave them into a new tapestry that reveals the strength of this educational experience for the whole community to see. The Head of School will report directly to the CEO, who has brought the school to where it is today, to continue to enhance the strength and awareness of the program. The child-care market is rich with alternatives, but none that provide the powerful educational experience that is Montessori from infant through 8th grade.

Requirements

- Knowledge and experience in the education field with training and/or deep familiarity with Montessori precepts and pedagogy is **required**.
- Three to five years of leadership experience.
- B.A. at a minimum with a strong preference for advanced degrees in education or a related field.