



CREEKSIDE MONTESSORI DIFFERENCE

Aspect	Traditional Preschool	Montessori Preschool	Creekside Montessori PLUS + STEAM and Elementary Readiness Skills
Educational Philosophy	Teacher-directed, focuses on group learning and standardized curriculum	Child-centered, focuses on individual learning and development	Our teachers introduce activities to children and then allow them to pursue their own interests, all while carefully observing and supporting their progress, integrating STEAM elements throughout the curriculum.
Focus on Independence	Focus on following instructions and working in teams.	Strong emphasis on independence, self-care, and responsibility	We emphasize helping children develop independence, responsibility, accountability, and community interdependence by varying the classroom learning process to include structured instruction and teamwork, preparing them for both Montessori and traditional elementary environments.
Role of the Teacher	Mainly group instruction	Mainly individual instruction	Teachers both provides whole classroom instructions and works closely with children, both individually and in small groups, to ensure they fully grasp tasks and concepts, fostering a deep understanding and encouraging self-directed learning.
Curriculum Structure	Structured, separate subjects, teacher-directed activities	Prepared environment with specific Montessori materials that promote hands-on learning.	Montessori-specific areas of exploration designed to teach specific concepts, encouraging exploration. At Creekside, we integrate age-appropriate STEAM activities to foster a well-rounded education and preparation for success in the 21st century.
Age Grouping	Same-age grouping	Mixed-age grouping, encouraging learning at different experience levels	In our mixed-age environment, older children share their knowledge with younger peers, fostering positive exchanges and enhancing learning through collaborative and interactive activities.
Learning Reinforcement	Learning is reinforced externally by repetition and rewards	Child reinforces learning through repetition and feelings of success	The more a child engages with a particular task or activity, the more confident and competent they become, with a strong emphasis on self-motivation and personal accomplishment.
Behavior Management	Use of rewards and punishments	Emphasis on intrinsic motivation and self-discipline, fostering self-regulation	Creekside Montessori focuses on holistic development, incorporating wellness practices such as yoga and deep breathing exercises to support emotional well-being and self-regulation.
Extracurricular Activities	Scheduled separately, may include arts, sports, etc.	Integrated into daily learning, often includes practical life skills like cooking and cleaning	Creekside offers a range of extracurricular activities, seamlessly integrated into the daily curriculum, including nature projects, arts, practical life skills, and more to enrich the overall learning experience.
Student Assessment	Periodic tests and summative assessments	Continuous observation and formative assessment tailored to individual progress	Our teachers are trained to observe and support each child's individual journey, ensuring they feel seen, heard, and appreciated for their unique strengths and challenges. Each Student has an Individual Portfolio with detailed records of their progress.
Parental Involvement	Varies, often includes scheduled conferences and updates	High level of involvement and communication, fostering a strong school community	We maintain a high level of parental involvement and communication, building a strong school community and ensuring that parents are partners in their child's educational experience.
Overall Goal	Academic readiness and social skills development	Develop the whole child (cognitive, emotional, social, physical) to foster lifelong learning and adaptability	At Creekside, our goal is to develop the whole child—cognitively, emotionally, socially, and physically—fostering lifelong learning and adaptability, with an added focus on preparing them for success in both Montessori and traditional elementary school settings.