

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Montessori School in California to Receive Accreditation

Livermore, California, December 6, 2005

Valley Montessori School of Livermore is the first Montessori school in California to be recommended for full accreditation by the American Montessori Society. This will be in addition to the full accreditation of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for preschool through eighth grade received earlier this year. For the first time in California history, a Montessori school has been dually accredited by WASC and AMS.

Valley Montessori School is a non-profit organization, which has been serving families of the Livermore Valley for nearly thirty years. The school implements the philosophy and curriculum of Maria Montessori. It opened in 1976 with six children in a rented space. And now, at a new facility located at 1273 N. Livermore, educates over 480 children from infant through middle school.

The American Montessori Society accreditation is a voluntary process undertaken by schools that are committed to continuous school improvement. Through a self-study and documentation process, a school defines itself in terms of strengths and areas of needed improvement. "The self-study process is one of discovery and empowerment." (AMS) The school uses the Standards for American Montessori Schools and the six essential qualities of Montessori education established by research and consensus as the essence of the accreditation process.

Today's announcement followed the visitation and report of a five-member AMS accrediting team. The team made its determination after four days of intensive observation concluding on December 2.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mary Ellen Kordas
Director
Valley Montessori School
1273 N. Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94551

925-455-8021 X211
m.kordas@valleymontessorischool.com