



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is CDBM a private school?

Yes. CDBM is a private Montessori school for ages 8 weeks to age 6 that requires enrollment and registration. Our programs operate on a monthly tuition basis.

2. What are your school hours?

We are open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Before care begins at 7:30 a.m., with breakfast served from 7:30 to 8:00. Regular drop-off is from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m., and the school day ends at 3:00 p.m. Aftercare is available from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m. A catered lunch is provided for all full-day students, and breakfast and aftercare snacks are included.

3. What is the teacher-to-student ratio and what levels does your school serve?

We currently serve ages 8 weeks to age 6. Our Nido Infant class has a 1:4 ratio; Toddler classes have a 1:5 ratio; Primary classes have a 1:10 ratio; Elementary rooms have a 1:20 ratio, when applicable.

4. Are you an authentic Montessori School?

YES. We have our membership with the American Montessori Society (AMS). We are also a proud member of the Association of Independent Montessori Schools (AIMS). Our lead teachers have Montessori training, and our staff meet all requirements by DCFS. More information can be found at www.amshq.org and <https://ilmontessori.org/>. CDBM recognizes Whole Child Development.

5. Do you have uniforms?

Yes. For ages 3 and up (Primary and Elementary levels), uniforms are required. Girls wear a logo polo with a skirt or khaki bottoms, and boys wear a logo polo with khaki shorts or pants. Uniforms are worn Monday through Thursday, while Fridays are Casa Spirit Days—students may wear comfortable play clothes.

For our Toddler program, uniforms are optional, though appropriate attire is still required. All students wear indoor shoes during class and change into outdoor shoes for playground time and departure.

6. Do you have Fine Arts at CDBM?

YES. Our Fine Arts team rotates a schedule so that Primary classes have transitions to Music, Art, Media, and PE every week. Infants and Toddlers enjoy Music class each week.

7. Do you have Enrichment at CDBM?

YES. We offer optional classes to all students 2–6 years old, after school hours typically from 3–4 pm (which may vary from year to year). For example, we have had Martial Arts, LEGO/STEM, Art, Music/Movement, Tumbling, Dance, Chess, Soccer, etc.

8. Do you give rewards or have treasure boxes?

NO. Montessori environments are non-competitive and peaceful settings where all children are honored and expectations are met through the joy of learning, not through extrinsic rewards. Students are neither rewarded nor shamed for their behavior — rather it is a learning opportunity to try again, correctly.

9. How do teachers handle discipline issues?

We treat all students with dignity and respect in a confidential manner, without humiliation. We often use tactics found in “Conscious Discipline” where we can redirect children’s behavior in a positive manner. At times, students may even do a self-reflection activity that allows them to gain the tools to help them make better decisions in the future.

10. What is the health policy at CDBM?

We are licensed through DCFS, which means we uphold standards that require our students and staff to be healthy with appropriate records and documentation. If communicable illnesses arise at school, the parent will be notified; the student shall be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning. We will notify your emergency contact if we cannot reach a parent. Health and safety are our priorities. A Covid-19 Risk/Health Management action plan is in place, and we are mask-optional as of October 2022.

11. Do you use an App for daily check-in and check-out / reports?

YES. We use the app called Procare to check in and out students. Only toddlers and infants will get daily reporting using this app. Primary uses Procare for attendance and pictures, and email parents weekly newsletters. All students receive progress reports 3 times a year. In June and July, we offer summer camp, which is optional to attend and prorated by weeks of attendance.