

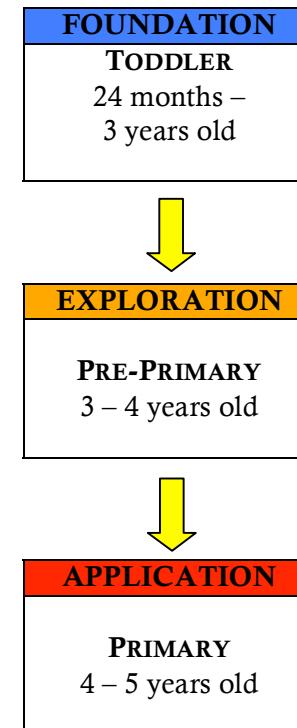
KEY BENEFITS OF THE CAPSTONE YEAR FOR YOUR CHILD (4 AND 5-YEAR OLDS)

- **Maximize foundational learning.** Given the opportunity to explore, cooperate, and learn in this Montessori environment creates secure, confident children. The full benefit of the educational program accrues in the third year. The program and the educational experience for the younger students benefit from the gift of the leadership, mentoring, and instruction from the older children who have completed the first two years of the Montessori 3 year cycle.
- **Strengthen community.** The 3-year cycle provides a close community and the opportunity for younger children to observe and learn from older students. Mixed ages and the three-year cycle give depth to the program and to each child. Imagine the comfort of a 3-year old surrounded by older friends, the pride of a 4-year old celebrated by peers, and the confidence of a 5-year old who, with her peers, leads the young while repeating and strengthening important foundation building lessons.
- **Invaluable teacher student relationship.** Having three years with each child enables teachers to effectively leverage your child's strengths to create a baseline of success, instead of focusing on weaknesses which children view as failure. Since children do not progress at the same pace, being with a child for three years allows teachers to focus on where each child is regardless of where the whole class is. This creates an environment where your child receives individualized lessons.
- **Credentialed educators.** Consider our faculty: teachers are college educated, have Montessori training, and are required to participate in training specific to Montessori methodology and application. Such vigorous professional development requirements keep our curriculum, techniques and materials competitive and relevant. Not only does this provide more education than most preschool teachers, our teachers have a stronger understanding of this developmental stage.



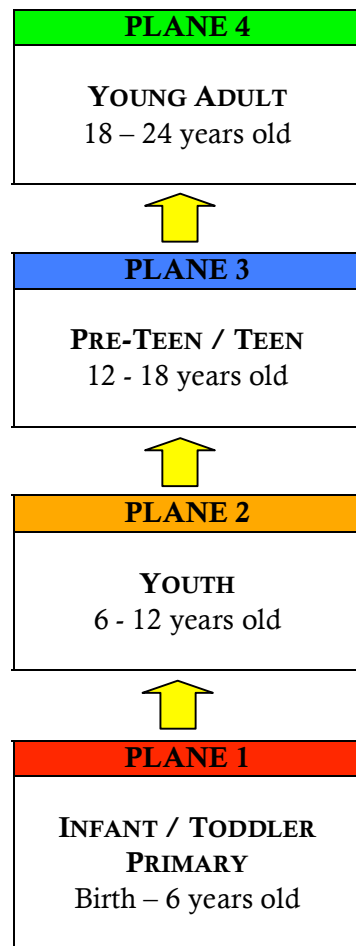
A private school dedicated
to multi-dimensional learning
for the whole child

MAXIMIZE YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION: THE THREE-YEAR DEVELOPMENTAL CYCLE



UNIQUELY MONTESSORI

Dr. Maria Montessori saw the growth of an individual from birth to age 24 in four "planes of development". Since humans have unique needs and characteristics during every stage of development, she created a methodology and materials to respond to the evolving individual. Each developmental plane is divided into three-year cycles. The third year in each sequence, a capstone year, is a culminating experience academically, emotionally, socially, and developmentally. At Northeast Stars, the capstone year applies to our 4 and 5-year old students.



THE NORTHEAST STARS EXPERIENCE

The first developmental plane is at the very heart of the educational experience for Northeast Stars students. Age 3 is preparation for the academic and intellectual explosion children experience at ages 4 and 5. Unless the social and emotional growth is addressed directly and effectively, academic growth could slow and suffer during the traditional kindergarten year (ages 5 and 6). Rather than fighting the social and emotional growth of the children in the third year of this learning sequence, Northeast Stars encourages it. *How?*

- *Foster leadership.* Instead of making students in their transitional years the youngest of the children in a sequence, we make them the oldest and most mature in their group. We give them age-appropriate responsibility. We make them educational and civic leaders in this community.
- *Develop role models.* The leadership of the older children has remarkable impact on the health of the three-year community they help lead, and it allows the oldest children in each cycle to stand tall with confidence by sharing their knowledge and expertise of academic work with the younger students. They become role models for the younger students, who long to reach their level of academic accomplishment and community responsibility.
- *Student mentors.* Giving lessons to the younger students in the group requires that the oldest children reduce complex concepts to their simplest elements and then convey them with clarity and understanding. If they cannot, it is clear that they need a lesson before going on! Thus, without fully realizing what they are accomplishing, our capstone students internalize and consolidate the academic skills they have garnered for two years before exploding into the next three-year cycle.
- *Cultivate boundless energy and curiosity.* Our classrooms encourage exploration with sensorial materials—objects to touch, hold, move, spin, and smell—and everything is sized to fit the child's hand. The curriculum is rich and includes practical life skills, language, math, geography, science, nature, art, and music. And every lesson stresses the use of grace and courtesy.