



John XXIII Montessori Children's Center

Front Royal, Virginia www.john23mcc.org

Three Morning Academic Program: An Overview

"The child is not a vessel to be filled, but a bud to be opened."

As an "aid to life," the Three Morning Academic program offered this fall at John XXIII is designed to assist homeschooling parents to meet the academic and spiritual needs of their children at both the Primary (3-6 years) and the Elementary (6-12 years) levels. Both the Three Morning Primary and Three Morning Elementary programs offered by John XXIII will provide a springboard for expanded learning options specifically tailored to suit the educational needs of the child at his or her particular developmental stage. Adhering to Montessori philosophy that education should be defined by "helping the child to help themselves," the Center at John XXIII will assist the family in a reciprocal relationship wherein children can realize their individual capacities. Our Directresses have been trained and certified by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and/or the National Association for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) as guides to the child's self-directed learning process.

**The John XXIII Primary and Elementary Programs offer a
Catholic Faith environment for building habits and
life skills that will serve the child's growth to adulthood by . . .**

- ❖ Presenting freely chosen areas of work which will help induce concentration, deep satisfaction and mastery of skills.
- ❖ Creating opportunities to work on self-regulation and spontaneous self-discipline.
- ❖ Providing a setting in which to work respectfully and collaboratively in community.
- ❖ Nurturing an abiding love of learning.
- ❖ Assisting the development of thinking and organizing abilities.
- ❖ Presenting occasions to solidify concepts learned and build confidence through shared teaching and learning.
- ❖ Offering a scope of potential learning which is endless . . .

Three Morning Primary Academic Program offers:*

- ✓ The expansion of language skills including vocabulary enrichment, phonics, reading, cursive writing, as well as development of the ability to articulate learned experiences and knowledge.
- ✓ Introduction to mathematical skills beginning with the basics of numbers and quantities, to the introduction of algebraic concepts through work with binomial and trinomial cubes.
- ✓ Physical, cultural as well as political Geography of our world.
- ✓ Religious education through the CGS Atrium program which includes but is not limited to: fostering personal understanding and relationship with God, Parables, Nomenclature of the Mass, geography of the Holy Land, and seasons and colors of the Liturgical year.
- ✓ Development of etiquette and courteous behavior through demonstrations and modeling.
- ✓ The opportunity for even the youngest child to begin to experience culture through art, music and traditions of the different countries of the world.
- ✓ Sensorial materials that offer the child an experience with key aspects of the physical world such as: sight, taste, touch, smell, dimension, weight, temperature, texture, pitch and tone.

Three Morning Elementary Academic Program offers:*

- ✓ “Cosmic” education to wonder – a study of the whole universe, the history of life from Creation to present, prehistoric ages, ancient cultures, customs, peoples, and inventions which will inspire research, writing and art projects, and field trips to collect more information.
- ✓ Study of the natural world of minerals, plants and animals through geology, biology and botany, and exploration of these sciences through experiments.
- ✓ Cultural and political world geography through map-making, biomes, countries and capitals, flags, landforms and waterways.
- ✓ Religion through the CGS Atrium program including moral formation through prayer and study of Jesus’ Maxims for living, Scripture study, First Confession/Communion meditations, New and Old Testament typology, history and customs of the Jewish people, Structure and content of the Mass, the Seven Sacraments, the Ten Commandments, geography of Israel with mountains, waterways and cities.
- ✓ Mathematical concepts as an aid to concrete thinking, visualized through hands-on materials including place value, long division, geometry, fractions, algebra and Pythagorean Theorem.
- ✓ Language areas of phonics, reading, grammar and parts of speech, and word study.

** A Montessori program is based on three year cycles for completion (3-6 years, 6-9 years and 9-12 years). Lessons pertaining to the subjects listed will be offered during the three year cycle. Our three morning format is meant to assist in presenting the child with a larger scope of work options while also augmenting, in particular, the work of homeschooling families. Children will be guided to work in all areas to reinforce as well as introduce opportunities for a well-rounded course of study within the context of the home and larger community of the child. In-home Math and English curricula are recommended at the Elementary level to ensure mastery of the scope of material expected of an Elementary child.*

Recognizing parents as the primary educators, we at John XXIIIMCC desire to assist our community of families in this exciting and dynamic work. Our task, in cooperation with parents, will be to help the child continue to help himself become the person he has been growing to be from the first moment of conception.