



Sunny Hollow
M O N T E S S O R I

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH
FOR JULY 2023



Mission

Believing that all children hold infinite potential, Sunny Hollow's shared purpose is to cultivate life-long learners and to empower every child to create a more just and harmonious world.

Vision

Sunny Hollow is committed to being a thriving, authentic Montessori teaching and learning community that stands against racism and bias and exemplifies a culture of inclusivity and social justice.

Values

In order to create an environment at Sunny Hollow in which each child can be nurtured and educated to that child's fullest potential, all members of the community must have a shared understanding of the values influencing and guiding Sunny Hollow's actions:

- Kindness
- Respect
- Diligence and Craftsmanship
- Appreciation of Diversity

History

Sunny Hollow Montessori was founded in 1981 by Mary Sue Dobbin, a Montessori teacher and early childhood advocate. The school's name comes from Mary Sue's childhood experience in her own backyard. As a blind child, she loved to spend time in a special spot where she would feel the sun on her face and felt safe and nurtured. She called that backyard place her "sunny hollow." She named her school for the same feelings of security and welcome she wanted for her students.

Sunny Hollow is celebrating nearly 40 years of serving children in the Twin Cities area. The school is a non-profit organization and is directed by a volunteer Board of Trustees. The school achieved Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) accreditation in 2005.

Originally founded as a Montessori preschool and kindergarten, Sunny Hollow now serves children ages 16 months through Junior High. There is one Toddler Community (ages 16 to 33 months), three classrooms for children ages 33 months to 6 years, two Lower Elementary classrooms for children ages 6 to 9, two Upper Elementary classrooms for children ages 9 to 12. In 2019, the school added a Junior High program that serves adolescents in grades 7 and 8 (ages 12 to 14).



Sunny Hollow Montessori Programs

Sunny Hollow offers authentic Montessori education for children ages 16 months to Junior High. Classrooms follow the international, high-quality standards of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).

Toddler Community

In a beautifully prepared environment, AMI-trained guides connect children to a learning experience that encourages exploration and purposeful activities. Furniture and learning materials are specifically crafted to suit the developmental needs of this age group, to support the intellectual, sensorial, social and physical development. The toddler community offers activities to promote independence, self-confidence and a positive attitude towards learning.

Casa | Preschool and Kindergarten

The Casa program provides children with a rich, multi-sensory environment and hands-on learning activities that honor children's developmental needs and help them become confident, responsible, independent learners. There are three classrooms, each with 24 to 28 students, a lead AMI guide (teacher), a trained assistant, and an aide.

Elementary

The Elementary program gives children a wealth of experiences, activities, and social connections that inspire and challenge students to be their best selves. There are two lower elementary (grades 1 to 3) classrooms and two upper elementary (grades 4 to 6) classroom, each with about 25 students, a lead AMI guide (teacher) and a trained assistant.

Junior High

The Junior High at Sunny Hollow provides a challenging and rewarding environment for young adolescents. The interdisciplinary curriculum engages students to solve meaningful problems and develop higher-order thinking skills. Through creative expression, community service, microeconomy, occupations, experiential learning trips, and physical expression, students explore their roles in community, find their voices, and strengthen their sense of belonging.

There is one Junior High community that offers mixed-aged classes for students in grades 7 and 8, with classes led by two guides who cover the range of academic subjects.



Before and After School Care

Sunny Hollow Montessori provides before and after school care options for currently enrolled students through the Extended Day programs. Care is available from 7:30 to 8:30 am and from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

Extracurriculars

Toddlers: Language

Casa: Language and yoga

Elementary: Language, yoga, and sports

Junior High: Language and sports

Equity & Inclusion Statement

Sunny Hollow acknowledges that racism and privilege exist in our own lives, the school, and society. The school is committed to becoming aware of and dismantling these systems. This work is a long journey and the work has begun.

Montessori education was founded on the ideals of equity, peace and justice. Sunny Hollow's mission, vision and values reflect these ideals. The school seeks to provide a learning community that supports all students to reach their full potential as they embody equity, peace, and justice – locally, nationally, and globally.

The school community is committed to:

- Integrating anti-bias, anti-racist education at all levels of the school
- Becoming aware of how implicit bias is pervasive in our own lives, school, and society.
- Respecting the contributions and protect the rights of all people no matter their identities (race, gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, ability, and sexual orientation)
- Working to notice, appreciate, and honor differences in our children, families, and staff
- Applying a lens of equity and inclusion to strengthen all programs, policies, and practices



Board of Trustees

Board members include parents and grandparents of current and alumni students, school staff and external community members. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance of the school, insuring that the financial resources and strategic direction support the school today and in the future.

Parent Association

In partnership with the school, the Parent Association organizes community-building events, provides a forum for parent-to-parent communication and socialization, and implements activities to enhance the student and community experience at Sunny Hollow. In addition, the Parent Association organizes the Parent Liaison program and helps raise money to support the programs at Sunny Hollow.



At A Glance

Founded: 1981

Students and classrooms:

- 1 Toddler classroom (16 to 36 months)
- 3 Casa classrooms (3-to-6-year-olds)
- 2 lower elementary classrooms (6-to-9-year-olds)
- 2 upper elementary classroom (9-to-12-year olds)
- 1 Junior High community (7th and 8th graders)

Classroom sizes and teacher ratios:

- Toddler: 12 students, 3 adults
- Casa: 28 students, 3 adults
- Elementary: 25 students, 2 adults
- Junior High: capacity for 30 students, 2 adults

Tuition:

Toddler Half Day/Full Day (12 months):

\$13,211/\$19,252

Casa Half Day/Full Day per school year:

\$8,777/\$12,776

Elementary per school year: \$13,354

Junior High per school year: \$17,567

Financial aid and sibling discounts is available.

Accredited by AMI

Summer Programs available



Future Leadership

Sunny Hollow offers a unique and exciting set of opportunities for its next Head of School. Educating 180 children from Toddlers to Junior High age, Sunny Hollow has a deep and rich history in the region. Accredited by AMI, the Montessori philosophy and practice are fully embraced by all constituents. The faculty and staff are highly valued and deeply committed to helping each child reach their full potential. A thoughtfully designed Strategic Plan demonstrates the Board and community clear intentions to continuing to move Sunny Hollow forward in critical educational and social causes. The next leader of Sunny Hollow will not only embrace but will also enhance the values and practices that will ensure a strong future and pre-eminent position among Montessori schools.

Traits Desired

- A friendly and visible educator with a clear understanding and deep appreciation of the value of Montessori education who can clearly articulate the value of the Toddler through Junior High experience to the development of each child
- A leader with experience in matters of budget, finance, financial strategy, and Human Resources in the independent school setting
- A leader with experience in matters of fundraising, tuition-development, grants, and funding options applicable to an independent school
- An effective communicator who is responsive to families, the Board, and faculty/staff in a prompt, clear and personal manner
- A leader with the ability to convey the benefit of a Sunny Hollow education to the broader community and to attract, hire, and retain the faculty and staff essential to the Sunny Hollow mission
- An experienced and visionary leader, skilled in institutional assessment both pedagogically and operationally
- A bold leader who works collaboratively to bring the goals of the Strategic Plan to fruition.
- A leader who understands the necessity of accountability for student learning and is familiar with the use of data to assess student learning
- A leader with cross-cultural competency who will ensure that all members of Sunny Hollow's diverse community feel a genuine sense of belonging



Application Process

Interested candidates should submit the following documents in a single merged pdf to Mary Seppala, Partner, Educators Collaborative.

- EC Candidate Summary
- Letter of interest to the Sunny Hollow Montessori Search Committee
- Current resume
- Statement of leadership philosophy
- List of five references with e-mail addresses and telephone contact

Contact Information:

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