



montessori made public

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River Valley Charter School • 2 Perry Way • Newburyport, MA 01950 • [www.rivervalleycharter.org](http://www.rivervalleycharter.org)

## FACT SHEET

### **Who We Are**

- Public, tuition-free Montessori school for grades K-8 located in Newburyport, Massachusetts
- Serving 288 students from Amesbury, Newbury, Newburyport, Salisbury, and West Newbury
- Open to all Massachusetts residents with preference to children within the region and their siblings, with admission by lottery
- The first Montessori charter school in Massachusetts, founded in 1999
- Governed by a board of 15-25 trustees
- Directly accountable to the Massachusetts Board of Education for performance
- Charter renewable every 5 years, currently chartered through June of 2014

### **Education Philosophy and Practice**

- Based on the world-renowned work of Dr. Maria Montessori in Italy in the early 1900's
- Academically rigorous program emphasizes individualized learning, respect for self and others, self-motivation, civic responsibility, and environmental stewardship
- Curriculum addresses academic, social, and emotional development of the whole child
- Montessori-certified teachers prepare a rich environment that is developmentally appropriate for each child
- Classrooms are multi-age with overall student-teacher ratio of 12:1
- Substantial learning time outside the classroom, with studies of the history, culture, and ecology of the Merrimack river Valley region

### **Funding**

- Funded primarily through tax dollars
- Tuition revenue based on a per-pupil spending in the sending districts, not including most facilities costs
- River Valley makes up this difference through private contributions and grants

### **Community Connections**

- Local civic, cultural, and scientific organizations are active curriculum partners
- Students required to contribute at least 50 hours of community service by graduation
- School provides many opportunities for parent education and volunteering