



RIVER VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL
“Montessori made public”
Ideals of the RVCS Culture

The mission of the River Valley Charter School is to provide a rigorous academic program based on the Montessori philosophy and rooted in the history, culture, and ecology of the Merrimack River Valley. Students will reach their full potential as scholars and become self-reliant, productive members of society. They will be adept at critical thinking and creative problem solving and will be fully prepared to succeed in future schools, careers, and civic life.

The River Valley Charter School community strives to understand, uphold, and perpetuate the school’s charter and mission. We endeavor to promote a school culture in which actions and decisions are guided by the following shared values:

Montessori Philosophy

- **Respect** for self, others, and the environment; fostering understanding of one’s place in the universe and responsibility toward it
- Development of the **whole child**, including cognitive, spiritual, emotional, social and physical aspects
- **Peace education** through kindness, grace and courtesy, tolerance, and positive conflict resolution
- **Multi-aged classrooms** with a focus on individual interests and progress, cooperative learning, and non-competitiveness in a prepared environment
- Development of **honesty and integrity, self-reliance, self-motivation, love of learning, critical thinking, and creativity**

Student Success

- **Academic progress** measured through internal and external assessments including daily teacher observations, individual learning plans, portfolios, and progress reports
- **Personal development** measured through teacher assessments of critical thinking, creative problem-solving, personal and social development, and community service

Community Outreach that creates relationships throughout the region

- **Curriculum partnerships** that connect learning to the local ecology, culture, and history
- **Community service** opportunities

Strong School Community

- A **Montessori culture** that encourages all members of the community to feel ownership and commitment to participate in the school’s mission
- A **welcoming** and inclusive environment
- A **culture of giving** through parent support as volunteers and financial donors
- **Parent education** opportunities
- **Excellence** as we pursue our mission, so that the children are supported and challenged to reach their full potential