

Who We Are

Welcome to Immaculata, the Boise Diocese's first-ever Catholic Montessori.

While most people are familiar with Dr. Maria Montessori and her lasting contributions to our understanding of early childhood development, few are aware of her deep Catholic roots and how her truly Catholic sensibility is at the heart of the Montessori experience. Among Dr. Montessori's many admirers were Pope St. Pius X, Pope St. John XXIII and Pope St. Paul VI who noted about her message and method, "Teaching is no longer a matter of purely and simply transmitting conceptual data; rather it is an initiation to life, through the means of living example."

For over a century, thousands around the world have benefited greatly from the insights of Maria Montessori's work and method.

Immaculata, along with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd that is already in place in our parish, will serve to fulfill within the Montessori approach Catholicism's proper place and scope in the early years of childhood formation, namely the 3-6 year old child. Montessori wrote, "True respect for the child recognizes an ideal which God wishes to make actual in him."

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It is possible to see a clear analogy between the mission of the Shepherd in the Church and that of the prudent and generous educator in the Montessori method, who with tenderness, with love and with a wise evaluation of gifts, knows how to discover and bring to light the most hidden virtues and capacities of the child

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Pope St. John XXIII from The Vita Dell' Infanzia

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IMMACULATA

CATHOLIC MONTESSORI EST. 2020



"True respect for the child recognizes an ideal which God wishes to make actual in him."

Dr. Maria Montessori

About ICM

Immaculata Catholic Montessori opens in fall 2020 to provide authentic Montessori education in a small group setting for children ages 3-6. ICM provides an interesting, enjoyable and faith-filled preschool experience for young children that will benefit them for years to come as they incorporate the Catholic faith into daily activities.

CURRICULUM FOR AGES 3-6

Practical life activities in the classroom, kitchen and in the garden help your child develop increased muscular coordination, concentration and physical independence.

Sensorial materials help build the foundation for intellectual development and later academics, particularly in math. Through hands-on experience, children develop and refine their senses, and form clear concepts of contrasts and gradations.

Language curriculum begins with an emphasis on vocabulary and phonological awareness. Pre-reading is hands-on and interesting to young children. Emergent readers and writers gain fluency through a step-by-step program that is consistent with the latest research in literacy development.

Early preparation of the mathematical mind is achieved through use of manipulative materials which present mathematical concepts in concrete form. While gaining experience with arithmetic operations and certain aspects of geometry, your child is laying a foundation for higher math in later years.

Music education with the Montessori bells, rhythm instruments and singing are daily activities your child will enjoy, along with weekly participation at daily mass.

Cultural subjects of religion, geography, history, art and the sciences are introduced and developed throughout the three-year program. Flower beds and organic vegetable gardens will provide a rich education in the cycle of life.

THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Within the lovely indoor and outdoor environments, your child is free to engage in constructive activities with expert guidance from a certified Montessori teacher. Inside there is a full complement of authentic Montessori materials with plenty of space to move about, work, rest, and be with friends. The safe, fully fenced yard provides room for running games; the garden and natural playscapes will offer interest and learning opportunities throughout the year. Indoors and out, Immaculata Catholic Montessori children participate in and learn to take responsibility for real life that is rooted in Christ.

NICOLE FRACHISEUR

ICM Lead Teacher Nicole Frachiseur was raised in Boise and is a graduate of Centennial High School. She holds a degree in Elementary Education from Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota,, and an MFA in Design from West Virginia University. Nicole has over a decade of experience in the Montessori community, including Northview Montessori (Boise) and The Children's House (Aberdeen). Nicole is Montessori-certified for ages 2-1/2 to 6 from Caspari Montessori Institute, holds a certificate of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for ages 3-6 and has begun formation for ages 6-9. Nicole was part of a team that started CGS at Sacred Heart Parish in Aberdeen, SD and was a catechist there for 3 years. She has been at Lakewood Montessori (Boise) for the past four years.

TERESA WITTRY

Teresa Wittry is the Director of Religious Education / Immaculata Catholic Montessori for St. John's Cathedral. A native of Texas, she holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English and Literature from Flagler College and Texas State University (respectively).

She's been DRE for five years and is certified Level 1 CGS catechist for children 3-6 and currently taking Level 2 certification classes for children 6-9. Having completed the academic portion of Montessori certification through Caspari Montessori Institute, she will intern at ICM this year.