

Santa Cruz Montessori School ***Diversity Vision Statement***

Santa Cruz Montessori embraces diversity and recognizes the richness, complexity and depth of all people's race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family constellation, socioeconomic status, age, religion, or physical and mental abilities. Diversity is a core value, central and indivisible from our mission to guide and nurture the natural development of the whole person. We recognize that the benefits of diversity are not attained from, or directed at a special group of people. Diversity comes from us all, challenges us all, and benefits us all. Making progress on diversity is more than social responsibility, it is necessary if we are to meet our mission.

We believe that knowledge of the rich human experience will prepare our children to care for themselves, others, and the earth. Together, we will create a school community:

1. Where the differences among us are explored in a context of Montessori's fundamental needs of humankind through extensions of our curriculum.
2. That acknowledges and celebrates our many differences and similarities.
3. Where identities are not imposed and each person is allowed to grow without fear or shame.
4. Where tolerance and respect are taught as a way to achieve social, moral and ethical understanding.
5. That is committed to maintaining an environment of respect for one another, inclusive of our differences.
6. That assures every individual the opportunity to reach her or his full potential.
7. Where the learning environment is prepared and resources are available to students, staff and families so that interactions about diversity can be sensitive, healthy and productive.
8. Where we cultivate in one another the grace, courtesy and skill to discuss complex issues, about which we may deeply disagree, while maintaining an environment of dignity and respect for all.
9. Where healthy discussions about differences are recognized as a necessary part of a balanced community.
10. That embraces the values in this statement and commits to making this vision a day-to-day reality.

Our mission is to guide and nurture the natural development of the whole person in a Montessori learning community, where students develop a respect for nature and the global family. Our students will grow with a healthy spirit, a clear intellect, and a strong character so they may realize their unique contributions as they work for a noble and peaceful world.