

8.0 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

It is the goal of the Founding Board of Sherwood Montessori to develop a school that will offer an education based on the Montessori philosophy to any K-8 child who wishes to be educated in this manner without fear of discrimination or financial difficulty. The Montessori method was originally developed around fostering students of all abilities to achieve high academic goals. For over one hundred years, schools around the world employing this method have shown great success with a diverse student population. The Founding Board has striven to implement procedures that will result in a school that will attract a diverse population of students from the greater Chico area.

To fulfill this mission, Sherwood Montessori will be non-sectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. The school shall not charge tuition, and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, home language, ability, or disability. Admission shall be open to any resident of the State of California. No test or assessment shall be administered to students prior to acceptance and enrollment into the school. It will be expected that students wishing to attend Sherwood Montessori will be amenable to the use of the Montessori philosophy in the teaching of the curriculum. Information on the Montessori philosophy and how it is applied at the school will be widely available via written documentation at the school and electronic sources hosted on the school website to prospective parents and / or caregivers (see Application Process below).

8.1 Age Policy

The age policy for Sherwood Montessori will follow the majority of schools in the CUSD. In order to be eligible for Kindergarten in the fall, a child must be five years old on or before December 2 of that year. The December 2 date will be used for determining subsequent grade levels for admission purposes. However, exceptions to this rule may be made on a case-by-case basis to be decided among consultation between the Kindergarten Lead Teacher, Director, and parent. The Board of Directors reserves the right to alter this policy to mirror changes adopted or recommended by the CUSD.

8.2 Admission Requirements

Sherwood Montessori is open to any student in the greater Chico area and state of California. A public drawing will be held to select students and form a waiting list if the number of applications received exceeds the school's capacity.

8.3 Application Process and Preferences

As a public Montessori school, it is our goal to educate families of prospective students so they can make thoughtful decisions about the suitability of the program for their family and their commitment to the Montessori philosophy. At the time of open enrollment, the school will host several public informational meetings. Following the presentation, parents will be able to apply. These meetings will focus on the Montessori philosophy, the mission of Sherwood Montessori, the details of how our school functions, and charter schools in general. The information will also be posted on our website as a downloadable packet and available in hard copy at the school office. If necessary, members of the school may, at the request of parents, pay a home-visit to present this information. Parents who do not attend an informational meeting will be required to sign a statement that they understand the basic tenets of the Montessori philosophy and the mission of the school as provided in these materials. We will also strongly encourage parents to observe classes in session prior to completing an application packet.

The admissions process then comprises the following steps:

1. Submit the completed application forms in person by the published deadline. Verification of residence and date of birth are required (driver's license, lease or mortgage statement, utility bill, or bank statement for Residency; an original birth certificate, passport, or armed forces dependent's card for Date of Birth) for the application to be considered complete.
2. If enrollment or a waiting list position is offered, the parent/guardian must submit the completed materials by the date requested.
3. If enrollment is offered to someone on the waiting list, the parent/guardian must accept or decline within ~~three~~two (32) business days.

Should the number of students who wish to attend exceed the available capacity, a public lottery system shall be implemented ~~in April or May~~ the first week of February, concurrent with the majority of public schools located within the district or as requested by the Chico Unified School District. The lottery will be held by public random drawing. Students shall be placed on a waiting list in the order that they are drawn from the pool. The dates for both the admission window and lottery will be commensurate with the majority of schools in the district to provide for fair and equitable admission to all students. The waiting list will not carry over to the following school year. Parents who intend to continue at Sherwood Montessori must notify the school Director by ~~March~~ January of the current school year to remain as 'continuing students.' Children of current teaching staff and the Founding Board of Directors will be exempt from the public random drawing as long as those children do not exceed ten percent of all admissions in any one year, as required by federal law. However, it is not required that the children of the teaching staff or the Founding Board attend Sherwood Montessori. Siblings of currently

enrolled students will also be exempt as per accepted public school policy and federal law.

The exception to this policy shall encompass the first year where admission requests will be open at an earlier date to be determined by the Board of Directors upon approval of the charter. This date will be widely publicized in Chico and the surrounding areas via newspaper, internet, radio, and television outlets as well as informational flyers to be distributed at local libraries, open markets, and bulletin boards where potential parents might receive the information. The rationale for this early date is to allow the Board of Directors ample time to make any budgetary changes that might occur, including, but not limited to, staffing, material goods, and facilities. Furthermore, an additional open enrollment may be held the first year at the same time as the majority of schools in the district to accommodate additional open spaces and establish a waiting list if necessary.

The admissions process contained in this charter may be amended to conform to the funding requirements of the Federal Public Charter School Grant program and an amendment for this purpose shall not be deemed a material revision of the charter.