



Rededication to Philanthropy 2023-2024

THE GOLDBERG MONTESSORI ADVANTAGE

Goldberg Montessori School takes immense pride in being the sole and oldest Jewish Montessori Early Childhood/Kindergarten program in Houston, Texas. For 46 years and counting, Goldberg Montessori School has established a legacy deeply rooted in our commitment to blend Jewish values and learning with the educational and developmental principles of Montessori.

At Goldberg Montessori School, we “honor the path of the child” by preparing an environment that encourages the child’s innate desire for discovery and connects them to their rich Jewish heritage. While building their sensorial, language, math and other academic skills through hands-on Montessori work, children also learn the stories of the Torah and about all the Jewish holidays, as well as ritual and conversational Hebrew.

Through our unique, integrated Montessori-Judaics approach, children at Goldberg Montessori School build a comprehensive academic foundation and participate in Jewish life in meaningful ways, fostering a love for learning and Judaism that lasts a lifetime.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Financial Milestones: Since the start of this academic year in August 2023, we have achieved success in raising close to \$20,000 to date thanks to the generosity of donors, grant writing efforts, PTO-led fundraisers, 80% staff participation in giving, and our first online auction. These funds play a crucial role in sustaining the excellent educational environments we provide to our children and go toward the purchase of traditional Montessori materials, the “in-house” creation of unique, Judaic-themed, Montessori materials, and the support of teachers’ professional development.

In the summer of 2023, the receipt of several “in-kind” donations of materials and labor significantly subsidized the complete remodeling of our classroom environments, improving their layout and functionality. A Sensory Room was created, as well as a dedicated Art Room.

Within the past five years, through a major donor’s support, we created a small toddler playground and significantly upgraded the primary playground. These outdoor spaces provide much needed, recreational opportunities for “big body play” and the development of important gross and fine motor skills, as well as creating opportunities for practicing social skills.

EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE

We are proud to announce that 4 of our 12 dedicated teachers have earned their Montessori certification through the American Montessori Society while working at Goldberg Montessori School, with 1 more teacher currently in training. Our Director of Education is also in the process of earning the Montessori Administrator credential, and our goal is for all teachers to be Montessori certified by 2029.

All the training is paid for by Goldberg Montessori School. This achievement underscores our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of excellence and fidelity in Montessori education for our children. It also underscores our commitment to, and investment in, our teachers and our desire to maintain a consistent, dedicated, long-term teaching staff who share a common learning experience and pedagogical approach.





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AT-A-GLANCE

Situated within Congregation Brith Shalom, GMS offers education for children 18 months through 6 years. Each classroom has a Montessori-certified (AMS) teacher and a Judaics teacher working together to provide an harmonious secular and religious learning experience. In addition, we have a dedicated Art teacher and robust Extended Day and Enrichment programs that continue building academic and fine- and gross-motor skills, as well as creativity and collaboration. Currently, we have three toddler classrooms (for children 18 months - 3 years) and three primary classrooms (for children 3 years - 6 years).

The mixed-age classroom is unique to the Montessori approach. Dr. Maria Montessori observed that mixed-age classrooms enhance learning and create a dynamic environment where children of different ages collaborate; older students become mentors and role models, while those younger benefit from peer guidance. In a Montessori environment, children learn not only from the teacher but also from one another. The diverse interactions encourage social skills, communication, and a natural progression in academic and emotional development.

We also have the advantage of a multi-lingual community at Goldberg Montessori School. Hebrew, Spanish, Russian, French, and Hindi are among the languages spoken by our teachers and staff members. Regarding our families, over half of our children speak a language other than English as their first language at home, with Hebrew or Spanish being the two most common. Children of bi-lingual households have the benefit of teachers and peers who share their home language,

Goldberg Montessori School form a vibrant community of eager, young learners, dedicated teachers and emerging educators, compassionate staff, imaginative and seasoned education and administrative leaders, enthusiastic board members, Congregation Brith Shalom partners, and loving parents, families, and friends.

OUR CURRENT NUMBERS

- ✦ 78 children are currently enrolled at Goldberg Montessori School.
- ✦ The ratio of toddler teachers to children is 6:1. Toddler classes are capped at 12.
- ✦ The ratio of primary teachers to children is 8:1. Primary classes are currently capped at 16.
- ✦ We have 2 Directors: Director of Education and Director of Administration, with 2 integral administrative support staff.
- ✦ We have a dedicated Arts teacher and Hebrew teacher.

REDEDICATION

In Judaism, rededication is the act of restoring something back to its original holiness. In this same spirit, GMS pledges to rededicate itself educationally and spiritually this academic year. Our pledge is to return to the foundational roots of Goldberg Montessori School and to reinvigorate the synergy between the Montessori curriculum and the vibrancy of Judaism, ensuring an holistic and enriching educational experience for our children, our educators, and our community.





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THE NEED

To continue our mission and enhance our educational offerings, we have identified specific needs that your philanthropic support can help address, as well as special levels of giving, although all contributions are welcomed and appreciated.

EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Philanthropy has the power to break down barriers. We are dedicated to ensuring that our unique blend of Montessori education and Jewish values remains accessible to all children, regardless of financial constraints. Your support will directly contribute to our financial aid fund, allowing families in need to benefit from the transformative, Jewish Montessori education we offer.

Approximately one-fourth of our families receive some form of financial aid, although just under half our families request, and document the need for, some level of financial assistance.

An ongoing, monthly donation of \$180 would have the power to support a family's pursuit of a Jewish Montessori education by reducing their tuition cost by nearly 12%.

SEVEN-YEAR GOAL

Start a financial aid endowment fund in 2024.

By 2031, reach an endowment amount of \$540,000, so that a Jewish Montessori education remains within reach for all families well into the future.

TEACHER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

A dedicated and skilled faculty is at the heart of our educational, cultural, and spiritual success. Your philanthropic contributions will support ongoing training programs for our teachers, as well as support our current, and future, emerging educators in earning their Montessori credential.

In addition, we are working with Gulf Coast Montessori to create a customized Judaic Montessori credentialing cohort program. The program will focus on the development of unique, Judaic Montessori work materials and how to prepare and introduce Judaic lessons through a Montessori lens.

Your contribution to our credentialing efforts and Judaic Montessori cohort initiative will ensure that Goldberg Montessori School continues to provide the highest quality, integrated Montessori/Judaic education to our children.

In 2023, the financial investment for a single teacher to receive their Montessori credential is \$7,200, and an 18-month time commitment. A commitment of \$7,200 - either solely or in a matching commitment with another family - will establish a scholarship for teacher training in your name(s).

FIVE YEAR GOAL

To have 100% of our teachers Montessori credentialed by 2029.





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ENHANCED SECURITY

Given the current events, we seek to implement enhanced security measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Your support can help us maintain a second, full-time security guard or purchase an ID scanner that provides automatic background checks for visitors to campus.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We recognize the power of a connected community. Our rededication involves expanding our outreach programs to create a network of support in terms of parent education and community events for our students and their families, and to bring more children and families into our community.

Through your philanthropic efforts, we can strengthen the bonds that tie us together.

How Your Philanthropy Can Make a Difference — Join Us!

We invite you to be a crucial part of our rededication to philanthropy. Your philanthropic contributions, no matter the size, will make a lasting impact on the lives of our students and contribute to the enduring legacy of Goldberg Montessori School as a beacon of innovation, educational excellence, and community support. Together, let us keep the stories, practices, and culture of the Jewish people enlivened through the practices of Montessori for generations to come.

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