

Dear Potential LMMS Family,

Thank you for your interest in Lakeland Montessori Middle School. Lakeland Montessori Middle School (LMMS) is a publicly funded, privately run charter school. The school is governed by a board of directors and is located at the Polk Museum of Art.

This packet contains the Student Snapshot guidelines and forms required for the 2017-2018 school year.

1. LMMS Frequently Asked Questions
2. LMMS Student Snapshot Guidelines and Rubric
3. LMMS Community Agreement
4. LMMS Parent Volunteer Agreement

LMMS 2017-2018 open enrollment is from November 8, 2016 through January 9, 2017. In order to be considered for open enrollment, an online application (available on our website, <http://lakelandmontessori.com/admissions/forms/middle-app/>) must be submitted and the Student Snapshot with forms must be postmarked or received in our office by January 9, 2017.

Please mail or drop off your Student Snapshot to the address below.

Lakeland Montessori Schoolhouse
1124 N. Lake Parker Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33805

Applications and Student Snapshots will not be accepted for open enrollment before November 8, 2016 or after January 9, 2017. After January 9, 2017, students may still apply for any available spaces or for a position on our waiting list, but they will not be within the open enrollment period.

At LMMS, students will embark on a personal educational journey where the only limit is the student's curiosity and wonder. The Lakeland community will be a better place because of Lakeland Montessori Middle School, and we appreciate your interest and support.

Heather Manrow Principal
Lakeland Montessori Schoolhouse/Middle School
hmanrow@lakelandmontessori.com
863-413-0003
www.lakelandmontessori.com

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Montessori and how is it different?

Montessori methodology focuses on “following the child,” a concept that has at its core an abiding belief that children and adolescents have an innate drive to seek out knowledge. Montessori schools are founded on the presupposition that children and adolescents are intensely curious about the world around them and desire to make that world a better place in which to live. Montessori classrooms are different than traditional classrooms in that they are multi-age, multi-level communities where students learn through innovative methods and service learning projects.

Will my student do well there?

Lakeland Montessori Middle School believes that all students can succeed in the right educational program. Students who demonstrate curiosity about the world, empathy for others, research skills, self-direction, and other similar qualities are most likely to feel that a Montessori classroom is their ideal learning community.

How do we apply?

The LMMS online application is available on our website: <http://lakelandmontessori.com/admissions/forms/middle-app/> In addition to the online application, eligibility for admission is contingent upon the submission of a “Student Snapshot” that highlights a student’s personality and skill set. The details of the Student Snapshot are included in this packet.

Do Montessori students take the state required assessments?

Yes, LMMS students participate in the state’s assessment tests. Because LMMS uses the Florida Standards and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards as the *minimum* for student achievement, we expect that our students will be well prepared for the state assessment.

What is service--learning?

Service--Learning is an integral part of authentic learning in a Montessori classroom. Students learn through engagement in community service planning, action, reflection, and demonstration. Students will choose the projects in which they engage and share their results with the community. LMMS feels service learning allows the adolescent to learn and develop skills that will make them better citizens in a local and global community.

Why is my 7th grader in the same class as an 8th grader?

LMMS has a diverse classroom in which students at all levels of proficiency are working collaboratively. This type of classroom allows students to find both academic and social peers, as well as providing the venue for peer teaching and mentorship.

What is a Florida charter school?

Florida charter schools are public schools of choice. Essentially, they are privately run, publicly funded schools. Because they are public schools, charter school families are not required to pay tuition.

What electives do LMMS students take?

LMMS will offer speech, physical education, health and research as standard electives. In addition, LMMS will have “specialists” who come to the school for seminars in various disciplines like photography, graphic design, and music. The opportunities for learning are bound only by the students’ curiosity and wonder.

What extracurricular activities does LMMS offer?

While LMMS does not currently have plans to offer competitive sports programs, we anticipate that student interest and curiosity will result in various extracurricular opportunities. In the past, Montessori students have been involved in music lessons, chess club, Math Counts.

Are there any famous people who went to Montessori?

Many dynamic and influential people attended Montessori schools as children. Julia Childs, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Anne Frank, and the founders of Amazon, Wikipedia and Google are all Montessori graduates. Additionally, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize nominee is a Montessori graduate, the youngest Rhodes Scholar is a Montessori graduate, and the youngest artist to exhibit at the United Nations is a Montessori graduate.

LMMS Student Snapshot Guidelines

As part of the application process, LMMS requires that potential students participate in the creation of a Student Snapshot. LMMS feels that the inclusion of a Student Snapshot is important to identify those students who “meet reasonable academic standards” that would indicate a good match between the Montessori method and the student.

Student characteristics that might indicate a good match include

- the ability to independently research;
- self--motivation;
- creativity in work and thought;
- the ability to work collaboratively and independently;
- curiosity of the world around them;
- commitment to peaceable interaction;
- compassion and empathy for others;
- willingness to invest effort in projects; and/or
- volunteerism or the completion of service to the community.

In order to determine eligibility for LMMS admission, students will complete a Snapshot that highlights the students’ successes in the following areas:

Academics: Students should provide the admission committee with examples of work in several subjects. If a student is particularly proud of his or her work in writing, he or she might include an essay. If the student has worked exceptionally hard in mathematics, he or she might include a mathematical project. Additionally, any work that demonstrates the ability to research independently would be appreciated. If a student has conducted personal research on a topic, he or she might include that research or the project that culminated from the research.

Special Note: The committee is not looking for good grades, but rather the student’s attempt and willingness to complete work that is challenging to them.

Service to Community: Students should provide evidence of engagement in Service--Learning and/or community service. This may take the form of a Service--Learning project, a summation of such work, or a letter from a community leader explaining the service to community. If a child has never engaged in service to community, perhaps he or she would like to reflect upon that and express whether or not he or she is interested in community service.

Self-Awareness: For this section, students should compile the timeline of their life to date. This can take any form the student wishes and need not be in a written format.

Individuality and Interests: The student should provide the committee with any information that would allow them to see the child’s unique perspective and personality. For example, if the student is actively involved in horseback riding, perhaps they wish to give the committee photos of their horse accompanied by an explanation. LMMS is reluctant to place restrictions on this section. Anything goes!

Presentation of Information: Information should be presented in an interesting and creative manner when possible. Lakeland Montessori Middle School views the use of a Student Snapshot as an alternative means of assessment; the Student Snapshot provides the school with comparable, but much more detailed, information as a GPA, which some schools focus on for admission. Montessori education is focused on the whole child, not just one aspect of a student’s past performance. The LMMS admissions committee will evaluate the Snapshot using the rubric included in this packet. Students who score 50 points out of 100 points will be eligible for the random lottery for admission.

Parents should resist the urge to restrict their child’s creativity or innovation in order for this project to fit into these guidelines. LMMS is looking for inventive projects that give the admissions committee a good representation of the student’s skill set and abilities.

STUDENT SNAPSHOT RUBRIC FOR :

student name

<i>Standards</i>	<i>Criteria</i>			
Areas of Assessment	Exceptional	Average	Marginal	Needs Work
Academics				
Ability to work independently	Student's Snapshot has many examples of independent work, spanning across disciplines (5pts)	Student's Snapshot has a less than four examples of independent work, in a few disciplines (4pts)	Student's Snapshot has less than three examples of independent work (3 pts)	Student's Snapshot has no examples of independent work (2 pts)
Ability to research and think critically	Student's example work indicates that the student is comfortable with independent research and can readily apply such research to his or her academics. (5pts)	Student's example work demonstrates an ability to perform independent research, but is perhaps lacking in critical thought or purpose. (4 pts)	Student's example work does not demonstrate the ability to perform quality independent research, or is completely lacking in critical thought about the research or purpose. (3 pts)	Student has no example work, or the student's example work is without independent research. (2 pts)
Ability to complete tasks	Student's Snapshot is present (5pts)			Student's Snapshot is absent (0 pts)
Evidence of self-motivation	Snapshot completed on time (5pts)	Snapshot incomplete but on time (4pts)	Snapshot incomplete and not on time (3pts)	Snapshot not completed (2pts)
Service to community	Compelling evidence of community service (20 pts)	Some evidence of community service (15 pts)	Little evidence of community service (10 pts)	No evidence of community service (5 pts)
Autobiography	Student's autobiography or timeline is detailed, creative, thorough and complete (20 pts)	Student's autobiography is complete but lacks creativity or details associated with great work habits (15 pts)	Student's autobiography or timeline is incomplete but present in the Snapshot (10 pts)	Student's autobiography or timeline is missing from the Snapshot (5 pts)
Individuality & Interests				
Evidence of personality	Snapshot gives a thorough example of the student's personality (5 pts)	Snapshot gives a very good example of the student's personality (4 pts)	Snapshot gives an marginal example of the student's personality (3 pts)	Student's Snapshot given an inadequate example of the student's personality (2 pts)
Demonstrates personal interests	Student's Snapshot gives thorough examples of the student's interests (5pts)	Student's Snapshot gives very good examples of student interests (4 pts)	Student's Snapshot gives very few examples of student interests (3 pts)	Student's Snapshot gives inadequate information about the student's interests (2 pts)
Demonstrates Curiosity about the world	Student's Snapshot demonstrates a exceptional curiosity about the world and its inhabitants (5 pts)	Student's Snapshot demonstrates much curiosity about the world (4pts)	Snapshot demonstrates some curiosity about the world (3 pts)	Snapshot demonstrates little curiosity about the world (2 pts)
Demonstrates creativity in work and thought	Student clearly demonstrated exceptional creativity in work and thought (5 pts)	Student exhibited very good creativity in work and thought (4 pts)	Student exhibited marginal creativity in work and thought (3 pts)	Student exhibited little creativity in work and thought (2 pts)
Presentation				
Written elements	Student demonstrated masterful use of language (5 pts)	Student demonstrated very good use of language (4 pts)	Student demonstrated adequate use of language (3 pts)	Student demonstrated poor use of language (2 pts)
Student effort	Student demonstrated exceptional effort (5 pts)	Student demonstrated a very good effort (4 pts)	Student demonstrated marginal effort (3 pts)	Student demonstrated poor effort (2 pts)
Content	Student fully completed the Snapshot requirements (5 pts)	Student almost completed the requirements (4 pts)	Student omitted much of the requirements (3 pts)	Student's Snapshot was lacking in content (2 pts)
Visual elements	Snapshot was visually appealing and creative; it contained numerous artistic details (5 pts)	Snapshot was visually appealing but lacking in creativity; contained some artistic details (4 pts)	Snapshot was not visually appealing, or was lacking in creativity; contained few artistic details (3 pts)	Snapshot was not visually appealing and lacking in creativity (2 pts)

TOTAL POINTS:				
Date Received:				

LMMS Community Agreement for:

student name

This agreement outlines the expectations for the Lakeland Montessori Middle School community. LMMS is a unique school, and the balance between school, parent, and student is important for cohesion and peace in our community. Within a peaceful community, lives can change and grow, and LMMS is committed to this behavior. This agreement outlines the expectations for all members of the community and will serve as guidelines for interaction. LMMS presupposes that adolescents will respond respectfully when treated respectfully.

With this in mind, LMMS expects that its students will

- treat themselves, each other, the classroom, Polk Museum of Art, its grounds, and all staff with respect;
- abide by the community standards for conflict resolution;
- engage in productive and challenging work; and
- participate in Service--Learning and Intersessions.

LMMS believes that parents are an important part of their child’s education. We expect that parents will

- volunteer at least 20 hours per family per school year;
- allow and encourage your child to participate in all Intersessions and Service-Learning trips;
- be in agreement with LMMS’s mission and vision;
- encourage their child’s peaceable interaction at home;
- respect the community standards for conflict resolution; and
- be committed to peaceable interaction with other parents, other students, and all staff.

LMMS staff are as unique as all the other aspects of the school. We expect that the staff will

- be flexible, aware and available to students, parents, and other staff;
- observe, guide and facilitate student education through “following the child”;
- collaborate with staff and “specialists” as needed;
- abide by community standards for conflict resolution; and
- maintain a safe and prepared environment.

By signing this we are agreeing to abide by the terms listed above and to do our best to encourage all members of the community to uphold these standards. We agree that this community agreement is important to the LMMS community, and we are committed to all of the details listed above.

Parents’s signature

Date

Student’s signature

Date

Principal’s signature

Date

Teacher’s signature

Date

Teacher’s signature

Date

LMMS PARENT VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT FOR : _____ *student name*

Lakeland Montessori Middle School is extraordinarily committed to your child’s education. We fully expect parents to be active partners with LMMS in their child’s education. To this end, LMMS requires parents to commit to a minimum of 20 hours of volunteerism per family per school year.

Volunteer opportunities are expected to be plentiful during the school year and may include services such as parent Class meetings, classroom support, community awareness projects, grounds work, instructional support, and/or “specialist” teaching.

Volunteer opportunities present themselves during school hours, after school, before school, on weekends, on campus and at home. LMMS will strive to make your 20 hours of volunteer time available during the time that fits you best.

I, _____ agree to commit 20 hours during the 2017-2018 school year to volunteering at Lakeland Montessori Middle School. I understand that failure to adhere to this policy could result in my child’s dismissal from the program. I understand that if there are extenuating circumstances that preclude our family from participating in the volunteer process that it is my responsibility to speak to the Executive Director.

Student name

Parent’s signature

Date

Parent’s Printed Name

Principal’s signature

Date