

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 will be located at the Polk Museum of Art.

This packet contains the application material required for the 2014-2015 school year.

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

LMMS 2014-2015 open enrollment is from January 21, 2014 through February 18, 2014. In order to be considered for open enrollment, all forms and the Student Snapshot must be postmarked by February 18, 2014.

Please mail your application to the address below. If the Student Snapshot precludes delivery by traditional mail, please make arrangements with LMMS administration for delivery of the Snapshot before February 18, 2014. Applications will not be accepted for open enrollment before January 21, 2014 or after February 18, 2014. After February 18, 2014, 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. Please mail the completed application to the address below.

Lakeland Montessori Middle School  
1124 N. Lake Parker Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33805

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  
863-413-0003  
[www.lakelandmontessorimiddle.com](http://www.lakelandmontessorimiddle.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?**

All the information you may need to apply for admission to our school can be found on our website, [www.lakelandmontessori.com/admissions](http://www.lakelandmontessori.com/admissions). In addition to a standard application, eligibility for admission is contingent upon the submission of a “Student Snapshot” that highlights a student’s personality and skill set. Parents will also be required to sign a Parent Involvement Form that outlines the responsibilities of LMMS parents.

### **Do Montessori students take the FCAT?**

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

### **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. 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 7<sup>th</sup> grader in the same class as an 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 Application Requirements and Checklist**

The following are required to for an application to be considered complete. A complete application is necessary for a student to be eligible to attend LMMS.

<b>Item</b>	<b>LMMS representative signature when received</b>	<b>Date</b>
Enrollment Application		
Community Agreement		
Volunteer Agreement		
Student Snap Shot		

## LMMS Community Agreement for:

studentname

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent'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

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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 Action Committee (PAC) meetings, classroom support, community awareness projects, grounds work, instructional support, "specialist" teaching, and/or volunteering at Polk Museum of Art (PMoA).

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 2014-2015 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

## LMMS STUDENT SNAPSHOT

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.

# LAKELAND MONTESSORI MIDDLE SCHOOL

## STUDENT SNAPSHOT RUBRIC FOR:

student name

<i>Standards</i>	<i>Criteria</i>			
Areas of Assessment	Exceptional	Average	Marginal	Needs Work
<b>Academics</b>				
<b>Ability to work independently</b>	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)
<b>Ability to research and think critically</b>	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)
<b>Ability to complete tasks</b>	Student's Snapshot is present (5pts)			Student's Snapshot is absent (0 pts)
<b>Evidence of self-motivation</b>	Snapshot completed on time (5pts)	Snapshot incomplete but on time (4pts)	Snapshot incomplete and not on time (3pts)	Snapshot not completed (2pts)
<b>Service to community</b>	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)
<b>Autobiography</b>	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)
<b>Individuality &amp; Interests</b>				
<b>Evidence of personality</b>	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)
<b>Demonstrates personal interests</b>	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)
<b>Demonstrates Curiosity about the world</b>	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)
<b>Demonstrates creativity in work and thought</b>	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)
<b>Presentation</b>				
<b>Written elements</b>	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)
<b>Student effort</b>	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)
<b>Content</b>	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)
<b>Visual elements</b>	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)
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>				