

St. Pius X School is proud to announce... its new educational initiative ---

a Montessori Primary Program beginning in the 2011-2012 school year.

St. Pius X School is pleased to be working closely with Loyola University to introduce the highly sought after Montessori primary program. Loyola has one of the premier Montessori graduate programs in the country and its Center for Montessori Education houses the oldest Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)-accredited training center in North America.

What is Montessori?

The Montessori program, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a comprehensive educational approach that allows children to proceed at their own pace and focuses on all aspects of human development -- intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual.

- Montessori classes place children in three-year age groupings: Primary (ages 3-6), and Elementary (ages 6-9 and 9-12). Thus, a primary classroom would have children ages three, four and five, each developing their own skills but working together during occasional group activities or spontaneously where, for example, a five year old might assist a three year old in an activity.
- A certified Montessori teacher, assisted by a trained teacher assistant, is there to observe and present new activities as children demonstrate their need and readiness.
- The Catholic faith formation component of the Montessori program, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, allows children, assisted by a trained catechist, to learn about signs of the Catholic liturgy and Holy Scripture.

When will this program begin at St. Pius X School?

The first classes of the primary Montessori program at St. Pius X School will occur in the 2011-2012 school year. Between now and the fall of 2011, preparations will be made to ensure this program is implemented effectively, including preparing environment, staffing, and school integration.

What age children will be in the program?

In the first year the program will include three- and four-year olds. In the second and subsequent years, the program will include students who are age three, four, and five. These are students that would traditionally be in PK3, PK4 and Kindergarten. This is a full day program. Children must be toilet trained before the first day of school.

How do I find out more information regarding this program?

An informational meeting will be held in the fall of 2010 where parents can learn more about the Montessori program. The application process and other information about St. Pius X School will also be discussed.

How do I express interest or apply for this program?

After the Montessori program meeting (fall 2010), interest forms/application forms will be available. The application process and timeline will also be available at this time. Please sign up to receive an email notification about the date and time of this meeting, by sending an email to: mdates@archbalt.org. You may also complete the Interest Form available on the school website: www.school.stpius10.org.

Why is St. Pius moving to this program?

St. Pius X School is excited about being selected by the Archdiocese of Baltimore as the site for this innovative program. This program will provide parents the opportunity to enroll their child in a program that focuses on all aspects of human development, offers excellent academics as well as continues our strong tradition of Catholic religious education. This program places St. Pius X School in a unique position as the only Catholic Montessori School in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, makes us more competitive in the educational market place and adds value to our educational standing in the community.

What will the tuition be for this program? Will there be application and/or registration fees?

At this time, we anticipate that tuition and fees will be similar to the current fee structure. Specific tuition and fees are set by the School Board each year and announced during Catholic Schools Week (January 2011)

Is it first-come, first-serve? Will there be an entrance test?

Students in the Pre-K3 program at St. Pius X for the 2010-2011 school year will receive automatic acceptance to the Montessori program for the 2011-2012 school year. Other four year olds will be accepted as space allows. Three year olds (in 2011) will also be accepted. No, there is no entrance test. All new families must meet with the administration before acceptance can be finalized.

Is there before and after care?

St. Pius X School has an established before and after care program, with a separate fee, that students in the Montessori program are able to sign up for, as space is available.

What happens when they finish the three-year primary program?

It is our hope that this program will be well received by the school community because of the strong benefits to all the students who are enrolled. We will be investigating the possibility of adding a Montessori program for ages 6-9.

What about children who will be in Kindergarten in Fall, 2011?

The Kindergarten program for Fall 2011 will be a traditional program.

Is tuition assistance available?

St. Pius X School considers application for tuition assistance on a case-by-case basis.

Who will the teachers be for this new program?

Teachers will have an American Montessori International (AMI) diploma; teacher assistants must have an AMI Assistants Certificate.

What will the teacher/child ratio be?

The recommended class size is approximately 30 students per classroom with a teacher and an assistant.

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I am a Montessori teacher--will you have job openings? How do I apply?

We would welcome your interest in these positions. There will be a meeting on Thursday, June 10 at 7p.m. at St. Pius X School where we will be talking about our staffing needs and the application process. Please join us at this meeting. Note: ***this meeting is open to teachers only***. To attend this meeting, please RSVP to mdates@archbalt.org. Thank you.

I am interested in teaching but don't have Montessori training; may I still apply?

We would be interested in having you apply. This is a very different approach to education and so we want to make sure that each person who is interested has a clear understanding of the Montessori program and the certification needed. Please attend the meeting on Thursday, June 10 at 7p.m. at St. Pius X School for a presentation on the primary Montessori program and to learn more about our staffing needs and the application process. To attend this meeting, please RSVP to mdates@archbalt.org

St. Pius X School is a Catholic school located at 6432 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212

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