



McGuffey Montessori High School FAQ

What does the Montessori approach look like in high school?

Our culture is informal, where students and teachers share a deep mutual respect and everyone is on a first name basis. Our classes are filled with rigorous discussion. Oftentimes, students prepare for classes by learning material on their own. When they come to class each day, they are ready to dig in and discuss the content with their teachers and peers.

Our class schedule resembles a typical school day with courses such as Algebra, Biology, Spanish, World History, ELA, etc. Yet in addition, we have extra time built in for opportunities to work with our hands on skills like gardening, engine building, simple carpentry, and more as interest and necessity dictate. We set time aside for a weekly discussion course called Seminar, where we examine and discuss current and historic events, philosophy, fiction, and film. Students learn how to form questions and have an engaged sharing and exploration of ideas.

Montessori education for adolescents is deeply rooted in the place where it happens. We expect our students to learn about the geology, hydrology, ecology, and human history of our local area. Alongside our students, we have a long view of history and work to see ourselves as part of the ongoing human story that is unfolding every minute.

Can my child still play sports?

Yes! While McGuffey does not organize teams of its own, students who live in the Talawanda school district may participate in after school sports. We accommodate students' schedules for afternoon practices and games as much as possible. Students from other districts would need to inquire in their home district athletic office about the possibility of inclusion in team sports.

Will my child meet all state requirements for graduation?

Absolutely! We pay careful attention to the Ohio Department of Education's guidelines for the number of instructional hours, credits, and other graduation requirements as we craft our course schedule and each student's path to graduation.

What kind of testing does McGuffey do?

Each teacher includes some testing as a regular tool of assessment throughout the year. However, we believe in offering our students a variety of ways to show mastery. Testing is only one method among others, such as class presentations, writing assignments, and original projects. In addition, our students take all state required End of Course (EOC) exams, the PSAT, and the ACT.

What are the start and end times of the day?

McGuffey High school opens for drop off each morning at 7:45. Morning meeting begins at 7:55 followed by the first class at 8:05. Afternoon dismissal is at 3:30.

What is the cost?

For the 2021-2022 school year, tuition is \$12,000. Some financial aid is available. See the admissions tab on our website for more information.

What special trips or experiences take place at the high school level?

We head out to explore our local resources on a regular basis, such as the Oxford Museum Association's historic sites, the various museums of Miami University, and the Smith Library of Regional History. Post COVID, we expect to take a yearly outing to sites in our wider region, including Dayton, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. Our trips all depend heavily on student input and planning. Above and beyond that, we intend to take a class trip each year to a further destination that would enhance topics of study, such as visiting historic sites in the US, our national parks, and even countries outside the US.

How will McGuffey prepare my child for college or other post-secondary paths?

Montessori education is centered around the concept of Education for Life, meaning that the purpose of education is to help people develop to their fullest potential, realizing their truest gifts, and living their most engaged existence. We strive to help students understand the interdependence of all living creatures, their ecosystems, and the harmonic balance of the planet. To this end, we hope that our graduates will leave our program with a sense of purpose, self-awareness, and a life-long curiosity to guide them wherever they go.

McGuffey has a partnership with Estrela Consulting which is a post-secondary, college, and career consulting firm. Throughout their four years at McGuffey, students will receive individualized counseling from a licensed guidance counselor at Estrela. They use career assessment tools, learn about summer programs, college entrance requirements and more. Together, with their counselor, students will chart a plan for post-secondary options and define the steps necessary during high school to help them prepare for and achieve their goals.