

Characteristics of a School Accredited by AMS

It is devoted to a mission. This school cares enough about what it does to seek validation of its mission and educational philosophy.

It knows itself. This school operates from an examined vision of service to students, family, and community.

It keeps its promises. AMS accreditation verifies that the school is what it says it is and does what it says it does.

It accepts objective evaluation. This school invites validation from experienced educators who have no involvement with the school other than to provide scheduled evaluations.

It is recognized. This school is accredited by AMS, a member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation, and is listed as an accredited school at ncpsa.org and amshq.org.

It is self-correcting. AMS accreditation begins with self-evaluation which influences a strategic plan that fosters continuing school improvement.

It is student-centered. This school's philosophy of education expresses what it does for the whole student.

It plans for its future. This school has plans that include continuous strategies and goals toward even higher levels of quality and school improvement.

It examines performance. This school continuously obtains and analyzes objective evidence on student achievement and growth.

It participates in the responsibilities of the academic profession. This AMS-accredited school participates in the self-renewing activity of evaluation and accreditation.



AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY®
education that transforms lives

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This is an
AMS-Accredited
Montessori School
What You Need to Know



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How This School Became Accredited by the American Montessori Society – A Nationally-Recognized Accrediting Agency

1. Self-Study

Students benefit from being in a school that knows itself thoroughly.

AMS school accreditation is a voluntary process undertaken by schools that are committed to continuous improvement. The first step is a rigorous self study and documentation process that begins with the

articulation of a philosophy of education and an analysis

and description of the school community. This is followed by an appraisal of the school's organization, personnel practices, finances, and instruction.

The process is one of

discovery and attainment of knowledge necessary for planning with confidence, and results in a strategic plan that fosters continuous school improvement.

2. Objective Evaluation

Students benefit when their school undergoes objective evaluation.

Having completed an accepted self-study, the school is visited and evaluated by a team of experienced educators selected by AMS. These validators verify the findings of the self-study and offer evaluative judgments, both recommendations and commendations, to the school community.

3. Strategic Planning

Students benefit from being in a school that constantly strives for improvement.

Accredited schools are required to provide a plan for further development and improvement. A plan becomes strategic when it includes timelines, resources (both human and financial), and tools to measure success.

4. Accreditation

Students benefit if their school continues to be actively involved with other quality schools—both to improve itself and to participate in the national movement to improve education.

AMS accreditation is granted for 5 – 10 years if the self-study, evaluation, and planning reports reveal that the school meets the standards for accreditation. During this time, accredited schools work toward improvement through networking with other quality schools, periodic progress reporting, and participation in other events.

5. Continuous Evaluation

Students benefit when a school is committed to continuous improvement.

AMS-accredited schools submit an annual report to AMS, which documents continuing compliance with AMS standards and reports on the status of the school's implementation of the strategic plan.

This AMS-Accredited School Has Met Standards for...

- ◆ defining appropriate educational goals and providing educational programs to achieve them
- ◆ maintaining a qualified faculty and an effective school organization
- ◆ assessing outcomes of school experiences and controlling the quality of educational programs
- ◆ responding to concerns of parents and needs of the school community
- ◆ providing for the continuity of its programs and planning for their future
- ◆ describing with accuracy the content of its services and programs
- ◆ developing plans and activities for continuous school improvement

The American Montessori Society has established the standards for accrediting this school. These standards have been formally recognized and approved by the National Council for Private School Accreditation.

NCPSA participates with regional accrediting associations as a member of The International Alliance of Regional Accreditors. Through NCPSA recognition and agreements, cooperative accreditation and transferability of credits and/or grade placement are possible for students attending schools accredited by NCPSA-