

## HARBORLIGHT MONTESSORI SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

*“The school is professionally run and with the highest of standards in a congenial and informal, family-type atmosphere of living, laughing and learning together.”*

*Susan E. Egan, R.N., M.Ed., Founding Head of School*

### **Leading**

*Committed to educational progress, Harborlight is regarded as a leader in educational advancement on both sides of teaching and learning. With a commitment to excellence, Harborlight strives to challenge assumptions and seeks better ways to improve teaching methods and student outcomes.*

- Harborlight Montessori School was founded in 1973 as a non-profit, independent, coeducational, Montessori day school for the purpose of educating students from the age of six months to fourteen years old.
- Harborlight Montessori School conducts a Parent Education Program, which provides instruction in the Montessori Method and Philosophy of Education; child development and effective and positive parenting.
- Harborlight Montessori School operates a graduate level Montessori teacher education program leading to Montessori Teacher Certification and a Master’s Degree in Education: The National Center for Montessori Education-New England (NCME-NE).

### **Learning**

*Recognizing ongoing neuro-scientific research, Harborlight endeavors to provide a highly stimulating, scientifically prepared environment and curriculum to meet the developmental needs of the whole child and graduate responsible, productive citizens of the world.*

- Harborlight Montessori School aspires to provide a uniquely rich academic environment for students from a broad compass of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds who possess above average intellectual and personal potential.
- Harborlight uniquely blends the best practices for teaching and learning, with the Montessori curriculum and state and national standards in a framework that responds to the specific needs of each student by means of an adjusted, individualized curriculum and differentiated instruction. Small-group and collaborative instruction supports experiential and hands-on learning. This innovative practice helps students master the multi-dimensional abilities and skills required of them to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Unlike the traditional school model, the Harborlight curriculum is open ended allowing students and teachers to apply lessons and knowledge creatively and explore all possibilities, thus forming a foundation for creative intelligence and original thinking.
- Harborlight faculty members recognize their responsibility to provide an atmosphere that engenders courtesy, respect, and genuine regard for others. In order to maximize the quality and effectiveness of students’ learning experiences, all interactions among faculty, Montessori interns, students and parents are collegial and conducted in a manner that reflects high personal and professional standards.

### **Living**

*Reflecting the Founding Head of School’s commitment to the pursuit of lifelong learning in a safe and nurturing environment, Harborlight actively promotes: mutual respect for all people; integrity; individuality; responsibility; compassion; optimism; confidence; courage; service; and kindness.*

- Harborlight embraces the process of learning being as important as the objectives of learning. Toward this end, Harborlight fosters a love of learning and teaching and the mastery of such in both the students and teachers.
- Every Harborlight student is exposed to the creative arts, physical education, and world languages. With an emphasis on effort and ingenuity, Harborlight students learn more than the basics of creative arts, world languages, and movement—they gain confidence and self-esteem that affects all other areas of study. School performances and exhibitions ensure that all students have frequent opportunities to share their accomplishments and to admire the achievements of their classmates.
- Harborlight exudes a warm, caring and supportive environment for its entire community as well as any and all visitors to its campus. The faculty, parents and children work together to create harmony and a supportive atmosphere with understanding and appreciation, humor and wisdom, confidence and courage.
- Students are provided practical service work experiences that align with their studies of world cultures, environmental science, and global economics, which develops local and global awareness, engenders a social conscience, and promotes environmental stewardship.