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An AMI/USA School

LOCAL SCHOOL ACHIEVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

December 3, 2009 (CHANTILLY, Va.) — [Association Montessori International](http://www.ami-international.org) has designated [Montessori School of South Riding](http://www.montessorisouthernriding.com) as an Association Montessori International school.

There are only 180 schools across the United States that meet AMI's standards for Montessori education and thus are able to claim the AMI school designation. Montessori School of South Riding is one of only seven AMI Montessori Schools in Northern Virginia.

The AMI school recognition program was started in the United States to assist parents in making choices about Montessori schools and classrooms. An AMI Certificate of Recognition indicates the school upholds the highest standards in Montessori education: Standards that are directly aligned with Maria Montessori's original principles and practices. It provides credibility to a school's status within the Montessori and larger educational community and confirms that the school is faithfully putting Dr. Montessori's principles and practices in effect.

“Unfortunately, anyone can call their school ‘Montessori’ but there are only a few in the country that meet the strict standards set forth by Maria Montessori herself and those schools are designated as AMI Montessori Schools,” said Virginia McHugh Goodwin, executive director, AMI-USA.

MSSR was recognized by AMI for meeting the following standards of excellence as defined by Maria Montessori:

- One teacher for each class to support a child's desire for activity but enable independence as well so that the teacher may never be an obstacle between the child and his/her experience;
- 3-year mixed aged groups to facilitate communication, harmony and enthusiasm for learning between age groups;
- Class sizes between 28-35 students so that differences of character show themselves more clearly and wider experiences can be gained;
- Three hours of uninterrupted work enabling the child to freely enjoy tasks without interruption;
- One set of materials for each class to teach respect for each object and patience. The idea of respecting others and waiting one's turn becomes a habitual part of life which always grows more mature.

A complete listing of AMI Montessori Schools in the nation can be found at <http://www.montessori-ami.org/amiusa/schools.lasso>.

“We are thrilled to be recognized nationally as an AMI school that adheres to the true Montessori philosophy,” said Carmen Arenas, directress at MSSR. “We offer a bilingual experience and are committed to offering students in the Loudoun, Fairfax and Prince William Counties areas a true Montessori environment,” she added.

Montessori School of South Riding is a bilingual AMI Montessori School located in Chantilly, Virginia which seeks and celebrates cultural diversity. MSSR does not discriminate in any manner with regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability. Visits are welcome and can be arranged by calling 703-953-3771. For more information visit www.montessorisouthriding.com.

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