

Special Education in the AMI Montessori Environment – Commitment to Inclusive Education

Through careful observation, thoughtful Montessori lessons designed to meet the developmental needs of each individual student and constant assessment by the AMI-accredited Montessori guides, Isthmus Montessori Academy Charter School will help all students with exceptionalities thrive within both the indoor and the outdoor prepared environments. This brain-based, scientific method of education provides sensorial support for different ways of learning and opportunities for students to make new discoveries for themselves. The multi-age classroom also supports peer mentoring and tutoring adding facets to the way students gain and retain knowledge.

As we make intentional planning and preparation for the fall of 2018 in partnership with MMSD, the following timeline has been developed to collaborate effectively with the Special Education staff members.

- **June 2017 – June 2018** – Recruitment and Staffing for Lead Montessori Guides, Special Education Teachers, and SEAs
- **December 2017** – Lottery for Enrollment
 - In order to solidify staffing numbers, identify children who will be enrolled through the lottery process who are already a part of the district who have IEPs.
 - Survey families new to the district who will be enrolled through the lottery process to gather information about IEP status
- **February 2018** – Initial allocation projections of Special Education Teachers, SEAs and related services
- **April 2018** – Information gathered from Lottery and Assessments to further guide staffing models
- **Spring/Summer 2018** –
 - Special Education Case Managers review individual IEPs and make any necessary adjustments
 - IEP meetings completed to ensure individual IEPs support individual student needs within the AMI model
 - Determine related services allocations based on student needs: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Speech and Language, Social Work, Nursing, etc.
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- **Summer 2018** – Professional Development Collaboration with IMACS staff and MMSD representatives with the purpose of a cohesive care and educational strategy for the school community as well as for each individual child.
 - This PD will include SPED information as well as best practices in the AMI Montessori Method of education
 - The PD will have the goal of inclusive education within the regular education classrooms and within the school community.
- **August 2018** – Whole IMACS Staff Orientation with AMI Montessori Method, Inclusion, and daily operations and procedures as focus

The projection changes for the Special Education Teacher and the SEAs. Our goal, in this structure, is to promote and allow for accessible inclusion. The children who have IEPs will be supported in their work within the regular education classroom to the maximum extent appropriate.

SEAs, Special Education Teachers, and other related services will work with the regular education teachers using constant and consistent communication in support of each child within the AMI Montessori framework. This cohesive strategy will aid in the support of the AMI Montessori Method of education as it works to guide each child to reach their highest and unique potential.