



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fountainhead Montessori Goes Beyond Academics for Gifted Children

Offers Tri-Valley parents an alternative to academic-only gifted programs; providing the holistic approach proven to help students who develop asynchronously

Dublin, CA. March 13, 2018 – Fountainhead Montessori School announced today the roll-out of a new effort to provide gifted and talented children with the means of challenging their intellect and talents, as well as an age-appropriate environment that helps them connect with social peers. Given the few local resources available in the Tri-Valley area, this new effort affords parents an option other than public schools' GATE (Gifted And Talented Education) programs – which tend to limit their offerings to narrow, academic-focused subject areas, on a space available basis – or the less than ideal alternative of placing developmentally young children in higher grades.

Centered, for now, on their main, state-of-the-art Dublin Campus (for children 18 months to 12 years), this Montessori-based effort solves the dilemma for parents of ensuring that all aspects of their gifted child's asynchronous learning styles and abilities will be understood, embraced and nurtured (They are socially asynchronous, but have worries, concerns, and interests far beyond their years.). With the focus on teaching to the child, not the test, besides keeping these kids from getting bored, frustrated and/or disinterested in school, the idea is to also provide them with the support and life skills they need to succeed in life, in addition to academics.

“Since we refer quite a few students for gifted testing, especially older ones, it made sense for the school to formalize our role as local resource for gifted kids,” says Shandy Cole, Fountainhead's Executive Director. “And, from a personal perspective, as the parent of a gifted child, I know first-hand these are special kids, with specific needs not fully addressed by academic-only programs. I want the best for other local kids too.”

Based on individual assessment, the Montessori method in and of itself serves gifted kids well, as it does not force capping of the grade level work a child can do. Since gifted children can show asynchrony in their development (i.e., cognitive, emotional, and physical development are mismatched), Fountainhead's strict adherence to the Montessori methodology and philosophy allows these children to tackle advanced academic subjects, while staying with their same age group: It is not uncommon for some of their gifted students to excel in certain areas (e.g., math, language) and need more help in others (e.g., fine motor skills, socialization).

“If a teacher says a child needs middle school work, I just buy it,” continues Cole. “There is no bureaucracy keeping us from doing what makes sense for an individual child. And, it makes no sense to destroy their love of learning and keep them from taking part in age-appropriate social interaction, in the name of convenience or out of some misguided notion that all children are equally gifted.”

Unlike schools with rigid grade restrictions, gifted children attending Fountainhead will be assured of performing at their own level in a small class size, get individualized attention that fosters self-paced learning, engage in tacit, hard-to-master subjects (language, music, etc.) and have access to a dedicated Math & Language Specialist creating their individualized curriculum. Additional information on all of the programs (from Toddler through Elementary, Spanish/Mandarin Immersion Programs, etc.), can be found via [Fountainhead's Dublin Campus page](#).

About Fountainhead Montessori School

Headquartered in Dublin, CA, Fountainhead Montessori School is a private, non-denominational, fully licensed nonprofit school with four campuses in the San Francisco Bay Area (Danville, Dublin, Livermore and Orinda). Offering programs for children ages 18 months to 12 years, the school is also home to a dedicated, college-accredited Teacher Training Program ([Fountainhead Montessori Adult Education](#)). This closely held organization, established in 1972, is incorporated in California. For more information, please go to: www.FountainheadMontessori.org

Contact: Maria Gonzalez, [Gonzberg Agency](#)

Phone: 415.930.9103

maria.gonzalez@gonzbergagency.com

SOURCE Fountainhead Montessori School