

Downtown Montessori Academy:

I have been going to Montessori schools for ten years. In those ten years, I have learned many things. But not just your ordinary stuff like math, science, and literature. I've also learned a lot about myself, and the changes that I go through in my personality. I learned to voice my opinion, make friends, and have confidence. TRUST me, those were lessons I wouldn't have learned quite as well as if I were in a huge school. I learned them better in a smaller school, because, for one thing, it's Montessori. To most, that spells out "good school". That's because Montessori has the BEST materials around, and because there aren't a lot of kids, the teachers can have one-on-ones with the students; find out how each individual student learns. Thanks to all that, I was able to change in many good ways.

I am thankful for the big change that I went through; learning how to make myself heard. I used to be quiet as a church mouse! In fact, in my first year at school, I spoke to the teacher three times a day. And that was on a GOOD day! However, once I settled in, and got to know everyone, I found my speech (and that's still true to this very day.) Actually, if it weren't for this school, I would've fainted three minutes ago.

I am also grateful because I learned how to make friends very quickly. I'm not saying that I don't get a little nervous when meeting new people, but I don't hide under the nearest table, either. Actually, I was *horrible* at making friends when I was little. While others had the whole, "You had me at hello," attitude, I had more of the, "Please don't hurt me," thing. Then I learned that people AVOID that attitude. What a surprise. Anyhow, I got over that, and made a ton of friends (and still have them).

Yes, I am thoroughly grateful to Downtown Montessori, and the teachers that helped me grow into the person I am today. To all who helped me grow and learn, thank you. I couldn't have done it without you.

Written by Flannery Sharp

First Eighth Grader to Graduate from DMA