



Boarding Program

At Home with Hershey

Hershey Montessori School's boarding program is not your typical residential experience. It has nurtured students' lives around the globe for more than 20 years. Adolescents are able to build relationships and memories with peers of diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. They are prepared for transition to college and career as they build independence and competence and are equipped for leadership in a global society.

Regional, national, and international students are attracted to Hershey's boarding program for its beautiful environment, caring faculty, and the independence they develop alongside our warm and welcoming staff. Our world-renowned Montessori home-away-from-home awaits you!



You Belong Here

Life at Hershey Montessori School includes intentional focus on meeting the student's fundamental need of belonging to a genuine community. This includes special emphasis on social-emotional development, including Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB).



Our culture is one that embraces diversity, collaboration, and human connection. As a result, every student feels they belong and is an important contributing member of the Adolescent Community.

Testimonials

"We see the children continue to grow and mature in every stage of their personal and education process. They recognize the values and principles promoted at Hershey; applying their acquired leadership skills, sensitivity to the environment, and the natural, enjoyable way of learning incorporated in their day to day life."

Pasaret Family, Mexico



"Hershey Montessori School is an excellent environment that feels homey and welcoming." **Hershey Boarding Student**



"It was one of the best educational experiences of my life. I loved the freedom to grow, the international student body, the practicality of the classes that took place on the farm, and the guides. I couldn't imagine a better place to have middle school."

Hershey Upper School Student

Education for Life

As a holistic approach to education, Montessori education calls for adolescents to live, study and work in an environment that supports both intellectual growth and practical work. Practical skills accompany students' intellectual activities, including scientific laboratory work, computer program operations, use of tools and equipment on the farm and in our commercial kitchen, and use of technology to generate marketing materials, etc.

In addition, every student contributes to the operation of the farm and its businesses; every student cooks and serves meals; every student supports the maintenance of the buildings and the grounds. As a result, every student feels they belong and is an important contributing member to the school community. Hershey is intentionally set up as a microcosm of society so that our students more easily assimilate into community living and contribution when they leave Hershey Montessori School.

RESIDENTIAL STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Community work
- Business activities outside of school hours
- Cleaning & maintenance of residential spaces
- Cooking & serving meals
- Doing personal & community laundry
- Care and feeding of animals
- Group meetings & decision-making

MONTESSORI EDUCATION OUTCOMES

- Agency and voice
- Leadership skills
- Self-motivation & self-direction
- Self-awareness & assessment
- Growth mindset
- Problem-solving capacities
- Contributions to family/community/world
- Healthy habits & healthy personal choices



Why Montessori?

Named after Dr. Maria Montessori, the Montessori approach to education is scientifically geared toward the psychological stages of the student at every phase of their natural development. This allows the student to discover their strengths and master challenging concepts based upon their own personal growth and inspired interest. Students continually earn expanding freedom of choice, with increasing responsibility, in an intentionally sized community of diverse learners and international cultures.



Dr. Maria Montessori

Montessori education promotes hands-on, self-paced, collaborative learning with authentic problem solving that responds to the needs of the student's environment and community. It encourages students to follow their innate interests, engage in deep intellectual inquiry, and reach academic mastery.

Expanding awareness of their own potential allows students to confidently shape themselves and their future as individuals. They learn to use their voice to freely express their perspectives. Study and practical experience develop empathy and a deep understanding of human interdependence — which results in their formation as active peacemakers and problem-solvers. Montessori cultivates leadership, responsibility, independence, adaptability, resilience, curiosity, and a passion for lifelong learning.

Why Hershey?

The specific conditions necessary for adolescents to work and learn independently on the land are outlined in Dr. Maria Montessori's book, *From Childhood to Adolescence*. Hershey's Adolescent Community is the first of its kind to fully implement this philosophy for adolescent education, which takes place on a working farm, and includes a boarding option. Dr. Montessori understood that adolescence is a time of intense preparation for adult life, and as such, it requires focused study on how humans live and work together.

Students in Hershey's 7th-12th Adolescent Community come from all over the world and represent a range of socio-economic backgrounds and cultures. This unique program is tailored to the developmental needs of each individual, allowing all students to thrive as they live and work in community.

As a result, Hershey students are well prepared for life's challenges and for what comes after high school.

Integrated Academics

Hershey's 7th-12th Adolescent Program has a work and study process that emerges from integrated, project-based classes and community contribution. These projects lead students to a study of science, land management, ecological stewardship, biology, chemistry, mathematics, environmental issues, and the study of humanities. The curriculum and instructional design are developed so that each student is exposed to and well-versed in knowledge and skills common to pre-collegiate curricula. The thread of social sciences woven throughout the program contributes to the bigger picture of human activity in the context of current societal issues and opportunities of today.



Curriculum

- Sciences/Occupations
- History/Humanities
- Mathematics
- Language Arts
- World Languages
- Creative Expression: Music, Drama, Fine Arts
- Physical Expressions: Sports and Physical activity

Campus Culture

Life at Hershey includes intentional focus on meeting the adolescent's fundamental need of belonging to a genuine community. This includes special emphasis on the student's social-emotional development, including Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB).

Our culture is one that embraces individuality, collaboration, diversity, and human connection. As a result, every student feels they belong and is an important contributing member of the Adolescent Community and Hershey's whole school community.



A Day in the Life

Like all aspects of the Montessori prepared environment, the daily student schedule is designed for consistency, safety, and social development, while also allowing flexibility, leaving room for individualization.

A basic weekday schedule looks like this:

7:15 a.m.

On a rotating basis, boarders wake up and begin morning chores, such as feeding animals, collecting eggs, shoveling walkways, or preparing breakfast.

7:30-8:15 a.m.

Breakfast is served.

8:50 a.m.-3:40 p.m.

Advisory, classes, lunch, community meeting, Humanities/Occupation projects, and community cleaning.

4:30 p.m.

Depending on the day, room cleaning, study hall, creative or physical expression, and students scheduled for dinner prep arrive at the kitchen ready to work. Students may also be taken into town to shop, visit a coffee shop, library, and more.



6:00 p.m.

Dinner followed by evening chores.

7:00 p.m.

Weeknight study hall. In addition to working on academics, students are free to pursue intellectual and/or sporting activities, such as reading, journaling, soccer, skiing, sketching, off-campus activities, and more.

10:00 p.m.

Bedtime.

10:30 p.m.

Lights out.

Weekends

Students enjoy group activities and extracurriculars based on individual interest. Outings to local museums, music festivals, cultural and local sporting events, restaurants, and activity centers are planned with students and supported by residential staff.

Day students are also welcome to join the boarding community and stay overnight for academic, project-related, or social activities to enhance peer connection and relationship building.



Next Steps

Step 1: Visit

In-person visits are the perfect step to take in evaluation of your adolescent's academic journey and options. Attending one of Hershey's regularly-scheduled Visitors' Days is ideal as it provides you with relevant information and a tour of the campus so that you better understand our approach to academics and get a feel for the culture of our community. Information sessions are also periodically offered as are virtual tours, which can be viewed on our website.

Step 2: Apply

Application forms are available online. Applications received by October 31 for the following school year are prioritized; those received after are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Step 3: Interviews & Visits

We want to get to know you during this process, and we want you to get to know us. Students will interview with staff in person, by phone, or via video if distance is an issue. We welcome this opportunity to connect with one another.

Step 4: Apply for Scholarship/Financial Aid

Applications are available on our website for families who want to apply.

Step 5: Await Decision

Once the interview is completed and the entire application file is reviewed, we will notify your family of the admission decision, typically within two weeks.

FAQ's



Where is Hershey located?

Our 97-acre 7th-12th Huntsburg Campus is nestled in beautiful Northeast Ohio. It is located one hour from Akron and Cleveland, two hours from Pittsburgh, PA, and three hours from Columbus, OH. Students take advantage of Cleveland's museums, Northeast Ohio's parks and recreation system, Lake Erie, sporting events, and more.

Is Hershey a big school?

The size of our school provides proven social benefits of a close-knit learning community while pursuing rigorous and developmentally appropriate academic programs. The Middle School and Upper School has an enrollment capacity of 120. Residential students come from all over the nation and the globe. Students hail from Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Peru, Switzerland, France, Mexico, Germany, District of Columbia, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, and more.

How much does it cost?

Tuition rates vary by grade/program level and by the number of days a student will be boarding. These rates can be found on our website or by contacting the school. Hershey Montessori School also offers financial aid opportunities for qualifying families.

What is Hershey's college matriculation?

Our graduation rate is one hundred percent. Additionally, one hundred percent of graduates pursuing higher education are accepted into their college or university of choice.

Can parents visit?

Yes, we welcome family visits throughout the school year and even have a student-run Bed and Breakfast on campus that can be rented for family visits.



Need more information? Contact us!

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