About Free Horizon Montessori PK-8

Who We Are & What We Value
FHM MISSION

Through the Montessori philosophy, we inspire every child to learn and grow as a responsible global citizen in a collaborative, peaceful, and safe environment.

FHM VISION

We seek to transform our community by developing students who pursue their full potential, understand their global responsibilities, and respect others, self, and the environment.

Montessori for the 21st Century: A Place to Learn, A Place to Belong.
About Our School

• Opened in 2002 as a Charter Public School
• Moved to 581 Conference Place in 2006
• Conversion to Jeffco Option School of Innovation in 2018
  • 1st School of Innovation in Jeffco
  • 1st Charter School Conversion to School of Innovation in Colorado
• Relocated to Current Location in August 2018
• American Montessori Society Full Member School – Accreditation Pathway Level 6 of 10
Commitment to Diversity, Endeavoring for Equity

THIS SCHOOL WELCOMES...

students of all races, ethnicities and nationalities
students with diverse abilities
students who are LGBT
students of all family structures
students who are English language learners
students of all religions and no religion
students from all socio-economic backgrounds
students regardless of their immigration status

...YOU
What Does it Mean to be a Jeffco Option School of Innovation?

- We are a district Option School: we do not have an assigned boundary area for attendance, all students **choice enroll** through the district lottery system.

- Innovation Status permits a school to seek **waivers** and provide alternative replacement plans for state and district policies in order to deliver an innovative educational model (Montessori for us)

- By design, schools with Innovation Status are **exempt from district master agreements**, which allows freedom and autonomy to provide their own program and curriculum

- In addition to our Innovation Plan, we also have a **Governance Agreement** that outlines roles, responsibilities, and remedies as related to our operations and finances

- Although we have a **high degree of autonomy**, it comes with oversight from the district. **District leadership may intervene in cases of mismanagement, fiscal malfeasance, and/or illegal activity.**
| Option School of Innovation: It Takes Both to Work |

**OPTION SCHOOL**

- Facility provided and maintained by the district
- Staff access to district’s full benefits plan and employer contributions
- Access to additional district resources: Bus Service, Food Service
- Support from district central leadership and offices

**SCHOOL OF INNOVATION**

- All waivers from our charter are included under Innovation
- Maintain a high degree of autonomy
  - Board of Directors
  - BOD maintains hiring & supervision of Principal
  - Principal controls all other hiring (only facilities & kitchen staff are assigned by Jeffco)
  - Control over curriculum, instruction, and all that goes with it
- Maintain high degree of financial autonomy under modified SBB
How Does an Innovation School Function?
We serve a diverse student population!

- 415 Students in Preschool through 8th Grade
- 21% Economic Diversity
- 22% Ethnic Diversity
- 14% Special Needs / IEP
- 6% Section 504
- 9% High Potential / GT / ALP
- 3% English Language Learners
- 4% Student Health Plans
About Our Teachers

• Vibrant Professional Staff
  • 100% Highly Qualified Teachers
  • 86% of Teachers hold Colorado Teaching License
  • Leadership both at FHM & in Greater Educational Community
    • Panelists & Presenters
    • Professional Mentors/Supervisors
    • Advisory Committees at District Level

• Shared Leadership Model
  • School Accountability Committee
  • Liaisons to the Board of Directors
  • Liaisons to the Governance Committee

• Committee Participation
  Student Council, AMS Accreditation, Facilities Committee, Equity & Diversity, Sunshine Club
About Our Community

• Service on Leadership Teams
  • Board of Directors
  • Committees: Accountability, Finance, Governance, Facilities
  • Community Support Network/FHM Foundation

• Volunteerism & Involvement
  • Classroom Support
  • Field Trip Chaperones
  • Lunch, Playground, and Carline Assistance
  • Office Support
  • Special Events
  • School Break Pet Care
  • Attending School Events: Parent/Teacher Conferences, Village Nights, Performances, Grub Clubs, etc.

• Generous in Time, Talent & Treasure
MONTESSORI OVERVIEW

Primary, Elementary, Middle School, and Beyond
The Planes of Development

The Four Planes of Development

- **Infancy (0-6)**: Development of Absorbent Mind and Individual Personality
  - Physical and Biological Independence

- **Childhood (6-12)**: Elaboration of Mind and Personality
  - Mental Independence

- **Adolescence (12-18)**: Development of Social Policy
  - Social Independence

- **Maturity (18-24)**: Elaboration of Social Policy
  - Spiritual and Moral Independence

Help me **DO** for myself.

Help me **THINK** for myself.
Hallmarks of Montessori Education

Things you should find in any Montessori environment

• Mixed-Age Classrooms
• Mastery-Based Instruction
• Extended Work Periods
• Multi-Sensory, Hands-On Materials Support a Variety of Learning Styles
• Depth of Knowledge
• ROSE & Peace Education
• Field Excursions
• Preparation for Life
Our Montessori Classrooms

• **PRIMAY = Preschool, Pre-K, Kindergarten**
  - 26 Children
  - 1 Lead Teacher + 2 Educational Assistants per class (6 classrooms)

• **LOWER ELEMENTARY = 1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade**
  - 27 Children
  - 1 Lead Teacher + 1 Educational Assistant per class (6 classrooms)

• **UPPER ELEMENTARY = 4th, 5th Grade**
  - 27 Children
  - 1 Lead Teacher + 1 Educational Assistant per class (3 classrooms)

• **MIDDLE SCHOOL = 6th, 7th, 8th Grade**
  - 75 Children Total
  - 4 Lead Teachers (Integrated Humanities, Math, Science, Health & Wellness)
Learning Montessori Style!

• **NOVICE**: You know you don’t know and it takes great courage to open up to something new. The older you are, the more courage it takes. Your skill level is low, but you watch, listen, ask questions, absorb.

• **PRACTICE**: students received lesson, require time to process and experiment to building confidence with new concepts

• **MASTERY**: students make connections between diverse topics and engage with the material in new and different ways

• **MENTORSHIP**: most vital part of learning continuum, solidifies learning so knowledge is retrievable in new and unusual situations.

Mentorship creates true, complete understanding of concepts.
Opportunities & Supports

• Going Out: Experience IS Learning
  • In School & Out
  • Overnights starting in 6th grade
  • Expectation for ALL students to participate

• Gifted & Talented
  • Advanced Learning Plans supported in same ways as at district gifted center programs
  • Mastery-based instruction with no ceiling
  • Multi-aged classrooms provide both social and academic peers
  • Hands-on, experiential, constructivist model
  • Freedom within structure
  • Learning extension opportunities
  • GT Coordinator works with students and teachers to provide enrichment, support, and communication with parents

FHM uses the same process as Jeffco to identify high-potential children who could benefit from an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP).

• Supporting Students with Special Needs
  • Continuum of Supports
    • Universal Interventions (Classroom Teacher)
    • Targeted Interventions (Classroom Teacher & Interventionist)
    • Intensive Interventions (Classroom Teacher & Interventionist)
  • Special Service Providers on Staff for Students with IEP’s
  • Inclusion Model of Instruction for Montessori Curriculum
    • Mild to Moderate Needs
    • Provide Accommodations & Modifications but Not Alternative Curriculum

FHM has the same standards and thresholds for general education inclusion model as all other Jeffco schools.
POINTS OF PRIDE
Opportunities Abound at Free Horizon Montessori PK-8
Specials Programs

- Art
- Music
- PE
- Technology & Library
- Rotation for K – 5th Graders
- Middle School Electives
Before & After Care

• Before Care 7:30 am – Start of School
  • Breakfast Served

• After Care End of School – 5:30 pm
  • Snack Served
  • Planned Activities, Playground, Tech Lab
Above & Beyond*

- Community Service & Events
- Special Days & Celebrations
- Bike/Walk to School Days
- After School Clubs & Enrichment
- Middle School Athletics
- Kids Night Out

*Many returning post-COVID
Opportunities to Shine

- Student Council
- All-School Musical
- Annual Student Talent Show
- Scripps National Spelling Bee
- Community Performances
- Outside Art Shows
Student Accomplishments

- 100% Acceptance into high school IB & GT Programs among 8th Grade Graduates
- Destination Imagination
  2016 C.A.T.: 2nd Place Regional, State Qualifiers
  2014 Team Free Horizon: 3rd Place Regional
  2012 Fire & Ice Dragons: 1st Place Regional, State Qualifiers
  2011 Team Catawampus: 4th Place Regional
- Denver Metro Regional Science & Engineering Fair Participants
School Performance Rating

- Increased 12.6% over 2018
- Middle School Exceeds Academic Growth Expectations
- Highest ratings among Montessori schools in Jeffco based on grade level comparisons
- Current rating held for 2020-21 school year
“Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.”

- Albert Einstein
ENROLLMENT PROCESS

EnrollJeffco Procedure
EnrollJeffco.org
New Online Enrollment System

School Finder Now Open

Common Application/Enrollment Round 1
December 13th – January 14th
**EnrollJeffco Process**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>December 2021</th>
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<td>Look up schools of interest in the School Finder tool beginning December 13th.</td>
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**Apply Online**

- Returning to your current school? Indicate that in EnrollJeffco.
- Interested in pursuing enrollment at a different school? Complete the application in EnrollJeffco.
- System open December 13th – August 31st

**Accept ONE Space**

- Watch email for notification of spaces offered via the lottery. Reply within the indicated time line of 2 – 3 days.
- Your child can occupy only one space at a time. Accepting one space releases the space at all other schools currently offered.
Why Free Horizon Montessori PK-8?

Who We Are: The Montessori Method

Montessori for the 21st Century: A place to learn, a place to belong
Questions? Come see us!