

26 August 2018

To: Whom it may concern

Re: River Montessori Charter School, Petaluma CA - testimonial

My older daughter is entering into her sixth year of Montessori schooling. Starting with pre-school, each year I gain new and greater appreciation for the Montessori approach to education.

Recently while at a family reunion on the east coast, there was a casual conversation about schools; buses, teachers, and who's going into what grade. A statement was made: "We are so fortunate that both our kids birthdays are in December and that they are the older ones in their class; it does give them such an advantage." This was from a mom from New York State. This gave me pause as I noted the competitive environment that can be created in schooling whether intentional or not.

I thought of my own daughter and the opportunity allowed by her Montessori Education: The respect for the individual; the three-year trajectory for accomplishments; constructing long-term goals and tailoring a path to reach that goal; the holistic approach that acknowledges the social and educational needs of the individual as well as the group. The Montessori emphasis is not on competition but rather encouragement to work together.

I am pleased and so proud of Petaluma for having this Montessori opportunity in public education.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Tammara Norman  
501 Keller Street  
Petaluma CA 94952