

# Hermosa Montessori School-Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the school's educational philosophy?**

Montessori philosophy and methods are used to teach core curriculum and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. The Montessori model combines philosophy, developmental psychology, and educational methods. Active, individualized, developmental learning is maintained through stimulating, multi-sensory teaching materials

**How does Hermosa teach core curriculum?** All traditional content areas are taught using a Montessori curricular model. Montessori materials illustrate abstract concepts in all curricular areas. Small group and individualized instruction is used to teach academic skills. Montessori materials illustrate abstract concepts in all curricular areas. History and cultural geography teach a global perspective.

## **How does Hermosa monitor student progress?**

Portfolio, benchmark assessment, conferences, and standardized testing are used. Students participate in state mandated testing each spring. Hermosa is an excellent Tucson school, the highest rank the state awards to public schools, given after evaluating tests scores and other assessments.

## **How does Hermosa teach 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills?**

Heramosa's educational design supports skills such as teamwork, collaboration, and self directed learning. Instead of a traditional lecture format, Hermosa teachers guide students to ask questions, lead their own discussions, and clarify others' comments. Hermosa is student-focused, unlike traditional teacher-directed learning. Hermosa students learn to be self-directed, and practice personal responsibility as they take ownership of planning their daily schedules and completing their classroom assignments. 21<sup>st</sup> century technology is integrated with Montessori materials.

**What enrichment programs are offered?** Hermosa students participate in extracurricular programs during the school day, and after school hours. The following are offered: Art, Mad Science, <http://www.hermosaschool.org/Music.html> general music, choir, musical theater, chess, physical education, land lab, and cross country. Middle school electives include guitar, film making, sculpture, cooking, business, photography, rocketry, yearbook, and animation.

## **Does Hermosa accommodate gifted students or those with special needs?**

Heramosa's program for all students is individually based, so every student has an individualized education plan. . Exceptional Students receive additional support services through Hermosa's special education department which includes a school psychologist, special education teacher, speech and language pathologist, and Exceptional Student Services Coordinator.

## **How are Hermosa's teachers certified?**

Heramosa's teachers are certified by either the Association Montessori International (AMI) or the American Montessori Society (AMS). Teachers also have B.A, B.S, M.A, or Ph.D. degrees in a variety of disciplines.

## **How does Hermosa communicate with parents?**

Parents are encouraged to use Hermosa's website [www.hermosaschool.org](http://www.hermosaschool.org), and links to face book, twitter, and YouTube, to stay abreast of current information. A newsletter is published and available on the website.

## **How is parent involvement encouraged?**

Heramosa's parents are organized as HOPE, Hermosa Organization of Parents for Education. The mission statement and organization's goals and activities are posted on the school's website. Parent volunteers are encouraged to assist with art classes, field trips, gardening, and lunch monitoring.

## **How does Hermosa handle campus security?**

Heramosa's 10-acre campus and playgrounds is a closed campus secured with fencing. The swimming pool has additional code compliant fencing.

## **Is there assigned homework?**

Elementary students do not receive nightly homework assignments. Students often choose to complete some classroom assignments at home. Middle school students complete math, reading and literature homework, which is discussed in class the following day.

## **How do students make the transition from Hermosa to other schools?**

Heramosa students generally experience success in higher education. Most students develop a strong foundation in academics, study, and communication skills. Former students have received leadership and citizenship awards, scholarships, and other academic honors.