



OAK HILL
MONTESSORI
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Annual Report
Inaugural Academic Year
2021-22

Mission

Preparing every student for tomorrow by nurturing the love of learning today.

Vision

Creating a space for students, families, and community members to thrive as they collaborate to learn, to celebrate, and to serve one another.

Core Values

- Independent thinking and self-reliance through purposeful work
- Inclusivity in our community and a sense of belonging for all
- Compassion for others and the environment around us
- A vision for peace through social change

Oak Hill Montessori Community School (OHMCS) is proud to represent a different point-of-view in education; driven by the motivation of students. We present challenging academics while valuing social skills as much as mathematical skills.

Located in Shoreview, MN, OHMCS offers authentic Montessori education from 16 months through the Junior High level. A student's entire learning experience is enriched by opportunities to explore art and music, workout the body during recess/physical education as well as through exploring nearly seven acres of a beautiful and safe campus.

Utilizing Montessori principles, teachers often work in small groups, or one-on-one with children, providing an individualized approach to each student's growth. The mixed age classrooms provide numerous advantages not found in traditionally structured classrooms. Older children serve as leaders while younger students are shown what is expected of them by their role models.

Our responsive and caring faculty inspire students to become independent and passionate learners. Each teacher is empowered to create opportunities of discovery, observation, and reflection for their students. All lead teachers are licensed teachers who have completed their Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) Certification in addition to a bachelor's degree or higher.

Our facility and its grounds were specifically designed as a Montessori learning environment to meet the developmental needs of students and inspire them every step of the way both in the classroom, and during free play.

Academic Performance

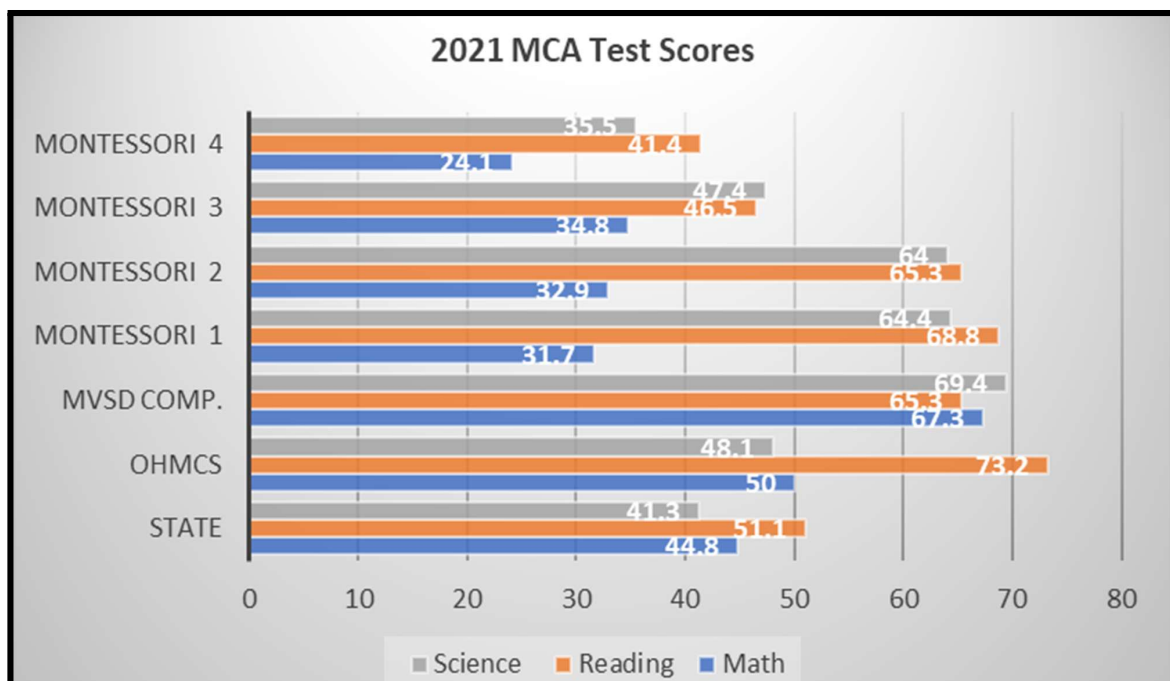
In its first year of operation, OHMCS invested in wireless infrastructure and personal computers to ensure access for all students to the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment tools. Participation in statewide testing this year establishes a baseline of academic performance for the student body.

As shown in the graphic below, Oak Hill students in grades 3-8 performed well in their first attempt at the MCA battery of tests.

In reading, 73.2% of students met or exceeded grade level benchmarks, scoring higher than the statewide average of 51.1%, as well as the local district elementary composite of 65.3%, and all 4 demographically matching schools.¹

51.1% of Oak Hill Students in grades 3-8 met or exceeded the grade level benchmarks for Math, outperforming all comparison Montessori schools. In comparison, 44.8% of students statewide met or exceeded the benchmark in Mathematics while in our local district, 67.3% of students met or exceeded the benchmark.

MCA Science exams are given only to students in grades 3, 8, and 10 in Minnesota. At Oak Hill, there are fewer than 25 students who took the science exam this year. 48.1% of students in grades 3 and 8 met or exceeded the benchmark in Science as compared to 41.3% of students statewide and 69.4% of students in the local district.



¹ M1: Great River School, St. Paul; M2: Cornerstone Montessori Elementary, St. Paul; M3: Modern Montessori, Champlain; M4: New Discoveries Academy, Hutchinson

Based on student performance in all subjects above the state average, the school does not require support from MDE due to low performance as reflected in the [North Star System](#).

Both mathematics and science MCA data indicate the need for further study during the 2022-2023 school year to identify key areas for student growth, as well as to identify any potential curriculum needs.

Faculty and staff will continue to participate in Montessori training across these content areas during the year in order to increase learning opportunities for all pupils, including the tactile-rich Montessori pedagogy, encouraging the use of interdisciplinary and innovative teaching methods.

Financial Performance

The Board established a Finance Committee currently composed of Matt Howell, Mary Wilcox, and Erin Doan. The Finance Committee meets regularly to review the monthly financial statements from OHMCS's accounting firm EdFin, and discuss any finance issues that come up that need to be addressed. As items that require board approval come up, the Finance Committee presents these to the board for decision making.

The school has a [Fund Balance Policy](#) that establishes a general operations reserve funds balance. OHMCS has completed its Annual Audit for the 2021-2022 school year performed by MMKR which was without any major findings.

The school establishes and maintains an annual budget, developed by the Finance Committee in partnership with EdFin which is then presented to the board for approval. The budget for the 2021-2022 school year was approved by the OHMCS board on May 24, 2021.

The board established a target ADM of 145 students as approved on February 8, 2021. While the year began at full capacity, the actual ADM was 143 at year end. OHMCS has an [admission policy](#) which outlines admissions, enrollment, and the lottery process. This policy is followed closely by the board and school administration.

The school has sufficient cash on hand to meet its near-term obligations. Given the cycle of payments from MDE as well as the holdback of funds until the end of the school year, the board approved a Line of Credit of \$250,000 to ensure that OHMCS is able to meet their financial obligations in a timely manner. The line of credit was approved by the OHMCS board on July 12, 2021.

At the end of the first operational year, OHMCS had a fund balance of \$63,983. The school's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceed its liabilities by \$119,119.

Operational Performance

It is the role of the OHMCs board to direct the affairs of the organization. This is a role all the board members understand and work diligently to execute thoughtfully. The work of the board during the first operational year is extensive and the first priority is to ensure the school is operating at its best to serve all its students and support its teaching staff in a safe environment. The board continues to lay the groundwork needed to establish policies and processes that will ensure the board continues to be true to the school’s mission, it shows duty of care, and it not only supports but holds the Executive Director accountable for their goals.

The OHMCS bylaws state the officers of the corporation shall consist of a Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer elected annually at a regular meeting. For the 2021-2022 school year the board elected Lillyan Hoyos as Chair, Juli Rubin as Secretary, and Matt Howell as Treasurer. The officers have performed their duties and carried out their responsibilities as outlined in the bylaws.

To ensure that all board members are current on school activities and are well informed on topics that need to be discussed and approved by the board, the OHMCS Executive Committee meets monthly to prepare board meeting agendas as well as the board documents that cover all subjects to be discussed during the board meeting.

The OHMCS board understands and complies with Open Meeting Law. Required information on board meetings is posted on the school website.

As required by the Minnesota Charter Schools Statute, the board members participated in training during the 2021-2022 school year which included information on Minnesota Governmental Data Practices Act, Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, Open Meeting Law, Board Working Sessions, School Finance, and School Law. Participation of each board member is listed below.

	Minnesota Government Data Practices Act + Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act 10/18/21	Open Meeting Law 11/22/21	Board Working Sessions 1/24/22	School Finance 8/4/22	School Law 8/12/22
Lillyan Hoyos	x	x	x	x	x
Matt Howell	x	x	x		x
Juli Rubin	x	x	x		x
Kim Vappie		x	x	x	x
Chris Kindler	x	x		x	
Jason Eggers		x	x	x	x
Mary Wilcox	x	x	x	x	x
Anne Wussler	x	x	x	x	x

The OHMCS works closely with legal counsel to ensure state law changes that impact the bylaws trigger a review of the bylaws. Additionally, OHMCS's membership in Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS) and Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) help the OHMCS board stay aware of changes in legislation that impact charter schools and trigger the need to update or create policies.

The OHMCS board has as a responsibility to appoint an Executive Director and is responsible for overseeing their work. As such this is the only staff member of the school the board evaluates. As we complete our first operational year, board members are working on establishing the framework and process for the evaluation of the Executive Director. This process will be done annually moving forward.

Growth & Retention

At the end of the first operational year, 90% of lead faculty and administrative staff were retained and returned for the 2022-2023 school year. Due to the long tenure of many support staff that came to the charter school from the former nonpublic school, and the strenuous experience during the pandemic, many left to pursue jobs outside of education. Roughly 50% of the support staff were retained into the 2022-2023 academic year.

Professional growth and development is a key priority for the school and as such, resources are dedicated to the training of each employee. In June of 2021, OHMCS established its first licensure committee to provide for the review and approval of continuing education portfolios of all licensed staff.

The OHMCS board approved the participation of the Executive Director in the Principal Licensure Program at Bethel University which began in the fall of 2021. The participation in the program takes the place of a board-approved professional development plan.

Faculty members of OHMCS are all appropriately licensed for their assignments. The 2021 STAR report revealed the need for the Junior High program to be recognized as an innovative program, receiving special permission for its co-teachers to teach outside of their licensure areas. This is necessary due to the small class size and the interdisciplinary nature of the pedagogical model.

OHMCS additionally requires criminal background checks of all individuals who work in the school to comply with MN Department of Human Services requirements for licensed child care.

At the end of its first operational year, OHMCS finds its classroom filled with students excited to learn, a staff that is supported, and a community that is growing and thriving. The board is proud of the work our community has invested in getting us to this milestone.

Appendix A

2021–22 World’s Best Workforce (WBWF) Summary

The World’s Best Workforce strategic plan focuses on five goals for continued student performance. Due to the K-8 scope of our charter and education services, OHMCS has not set a goal for high school graduation. The board will appoint new members to a Student Achievement Committee in the coming year to further develop goals in each area for the 2022-2023 academic year and beyond.

Annual Public Meeting

The annual public meeting to review progress on the WBWF plan for the 2020–21 SY:
December 21, 2022

Goals and Results

All Students Ready for School

Goal	Result	Goal Status
Kindergarten (primary) curriculum will be meaningfully mapped to the common core/MN standards.	Kindergarten curriculum (primary) was mapped to the common core standards with the assistance of the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector.	<i>Check one of the following:</i> <u> X </u> On Track (multi-year goal)

All Students in Third Grade Achieving Grade-Level Literacy

Goal	Result	Goal Status
Students will perform at similar levels to surrounding districts on MCA’s.	Oak Hill students scored as well or better than comparison districts on reading assessments in 2022.	<i>Check one of the following:</i> <u> X </u> On Track (multi-year goal)

Close the Achievement Gap(s) Between Student Groups

Goal	Result	Goal Status
Institute purchasing plan and secure budget to ensure that all students have access to school supplies, curriculum materials and educational travel.	Fundraising continues to ensure that educational travel and access to learning materials is available to all students.	<i>Check one of the following:</i> <u> X </u> On Track (multi-year goal)

All Students Career and College-Ready by Graduation

Goal	Result	Goal Status
Students in grades 1-8 will have the opportunity to explore career and college options throughout the year, via independent going out events.	Students participated in independent going out events following COVID restrictions. Additional planning will expand the scope in years ahead.	<i>Check one of the following:</i> <u> X </u> On Track (multi-year goal)