

*Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School*  
**Acceleration & Retention Policy**

Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School accepts children into grade levels based on their age on or before September 1 of the school year, with 5 years being the age for acceptance into Kindergarten. Cornerstone will provide each child with an educational environment that provides optimal challenge and meets the child's developmental needs. Due to the nature of the Montessori environment, the training of the teacher which covers multiple ages, and the multi-age classrooms, lessons can often be remediated or accelerated to meet the needs of each child.

Children turning 5 years between September 2 and December 31 may be eligible for early acceptance to Kindergarten if they meet the following criteria:

- Completion of preschool or a similar early childhood educational program
- Completion of an Early Childhood Screening
- Recommendation of the child's early childhood teacher/caregiver
- A score in the "Meets-High" or "Exceeds" category on the EFGoPro or other standardized assessment
- Approval of the Head of School and Kindergarten teachers

Cornerstone staff members—teachers and administrators—will continually and consistently assess the needs and development of each child to determine the best individual learning plan. At times a child may be recommended for advancement to the next level without advancing grade (for example, a child may be moved to Upper Elementary but remain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in the eyes of the state). Decisions to advance or retain a child will be made by the Head of School in conjunction with the child's parents and will be based on staff experience and assessment of the needs of the child.

Board approved: May 17, 2011

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