



## Hilltop Montessori School at a Glance

**Head of School:** Michele Wilensky, appointed in 2004, was formerly Elementary and Middle School Coordinator and a Montessori certified educator. She received a B.S. from the University of Alabama in early childhood and elementary education and a M.Ed. from St. Catherine University. She is also a certified 6-9 teacher with The American Montessori Society. 2018-2019 is her 14<sup>th</sup> year as Head of School and her 25<sup>th</sup> year in education.

**The School:** Founded in 1996, Hilltop Montessori School is located in North Shelby County in the Town of Mt Laurel, off Highway 280. The campus of more than 7 acres includes a native plant trail, sustainable garden areas that supplement student snacks, working bee hives and is adjacent to the Mt Laurel community park. The school is located in a LEED certified green school with an estimated campus value of over 7 million dollars. The campus houses an early childhood area, as well as students in grades 1-8. A community teaching kitchen modeled after Alice Waters Edible Schoolyard offers a unique healthy food & learning opportunity. The school also has a gym/community space, science lab, art studio, a multimedia library space and numerous outdoor garden areas.

**Mission:** Hilltop Montessori School's mission is to provide quality Montessori education in an environment which fosters a child's love of learning, and a respect for self, other, community and the world.

**Enrollment:** The programming is offered to over 230 students, ranging in age from 18 months to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Faculty:** 23 full-time, 10 part-time and 4 private music instructors  
Faculty degrees: 27 Bachelor degrees, 6 Master degrees, 18 teachers with Montessori certification; all assistant teachers have Montessori assistant training.

### **Tuition: 2018-2019**

<b>Toddler</b>	\$3,530 - \$10,335
<b>Preschool</b>	\$6,235 - \$8,785
<b>Kindergarten</b>	\$9,260
<b>Lower Elementary</b>	\$9,890
<b>Upper Elementary</b>	\$10,135
<b>Middle School</b>	\$11,175

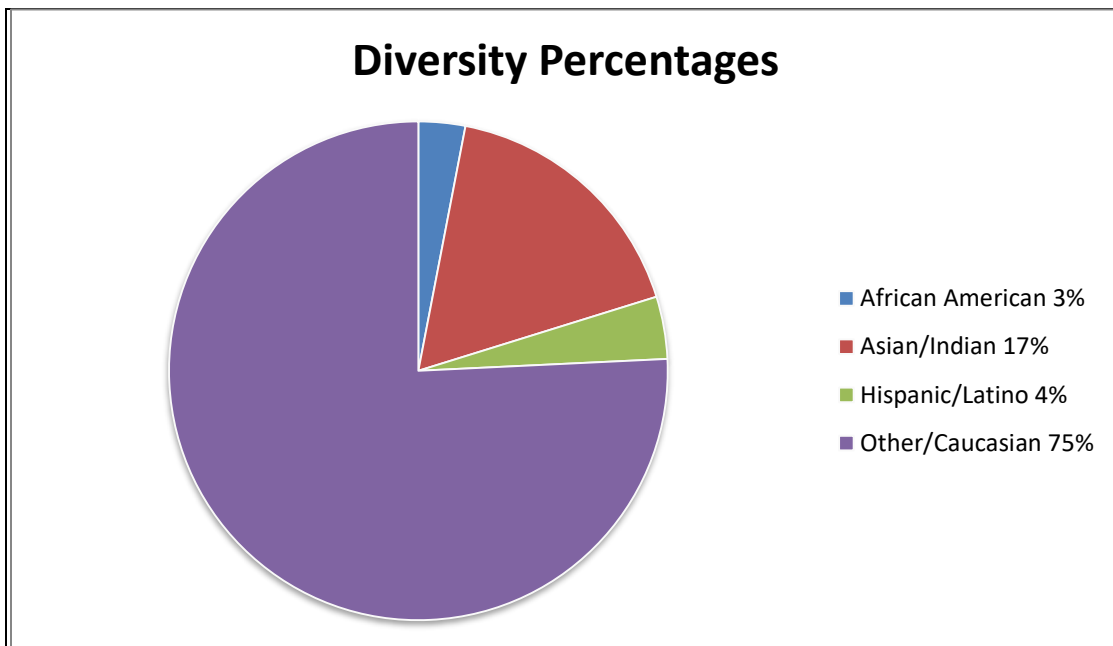
**Transportation:** Students commute via car/carpool. School bus transportation is not offered.

**Affordability/Financial Aid:** The school utilizes FACTS tuition management service and also offers some monetary aid for those truly in need. The deadline for financial aid applications is February 1 for current students and February 15 for incoming students and is strictly enforced. We also have a company we work with called Your Tuition Solution. They provide loan options at a low interest rate with payment plans available from 24-84 months. The APR ranges from 3.99% - 24.99% fixed based on your credit score.

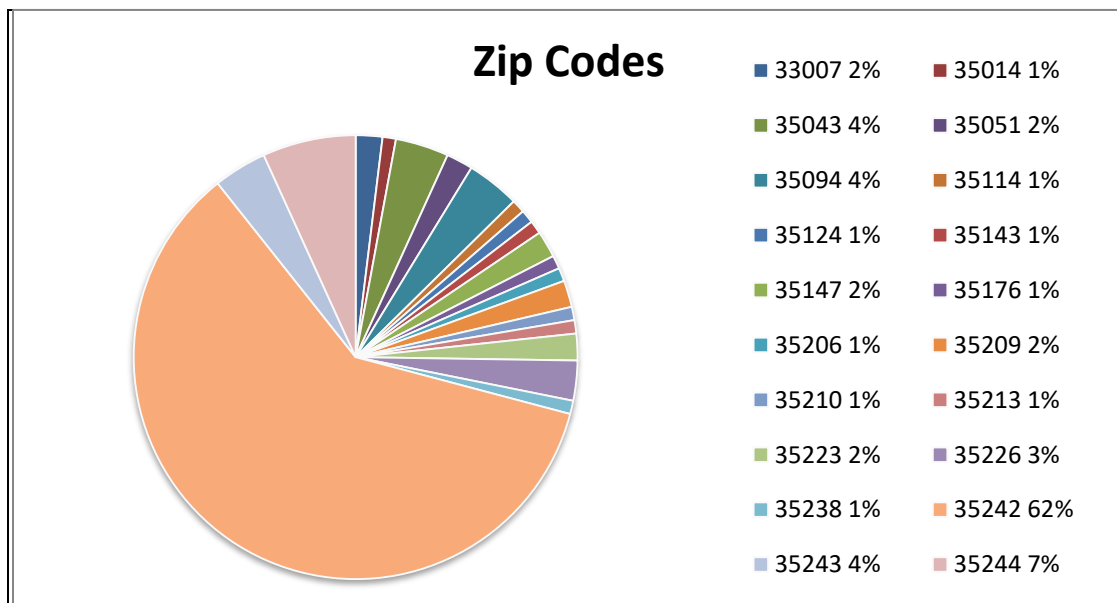
**Philanthropy/Fundraising:** Hilltop Montessori School is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation that relies on charitable giving to enhance the school environment. Annual Giving provides support for current programming needs by funding academic and extracurricular enhancements.

**School Accreditations and Memberships:** AdvancED accreditation, SACS/SAIS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Southern Association of Independent Schools) accreditation, International Montessori Council membership and our early childhood programs are accredited with the American Montessori Society (AMS). The school is also an associate member of AMS and a member of NCPSA (National Council for Private School Accreditation). Our building is a LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficiency & Design) with the USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council) and our outdoor habitat is certified with the National Wildlife Federation.

**Diversity of the school is as follow:**



**Demographics of the school is as follows:**



## **Middle School and High School Matriculations for the school are:**

- St. James Boarding School
- Indian Springs School
- The Altamont School
- Alabama School of Fine Arts
- Westminster School
- Briarwood Christian School
- Shades Valley Christian School
- St. Andrews-Sewanee Boarding School

## **Graduates have been accepted to the following universities and honor programs, among many others:**

- Florida State University
- Auburn University
- Birmingham Southern College
- Eckerd College, Florida
- Hunter College in NYC
- Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts
- Tulane University
- University of Mississippi Honors College
- Southern Methodist University
- University of Georgia
- University of South Alabama
- University of Southern California
- The University of Alabama, Honors College
- The University of Alabama in Birmingham
- The University of North Carolina in Ashville
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts
- Oberlin College
- Pomona College

## **Academic Awards for some of our graduates during the after their Montessori education:**

- \* 1 Fulbright Scholar
- \* 6 National Merit Scholars, all received Presidential Scholarship offers for 4 year tuition and room/board and 1 National Merit Commended Student
- \* 1 student elected Mayor of Indian Springs School student government association
- \* 1 Finalist in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, national competition
- \* Finalist-National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium
- \* 15 National Honor Society and 6 National Junior Honor Society Members
- \* 4 students placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in the Alabama Law Day Essay Contest
- \* National Spanish Exam, 2 gold awards, 5 silver awards
- \* National Latin Exam, 1 gold award, level V
- \* Classical Latin Exam, 1 silver award
- \* Member-National Championship Team, National Academic Championship
- \* Central Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair-Once first place winner in Mathematics and Computer Science, Junior Division; One first place winner in Medicine and Health Division, 2 Honorable Mentions
- \* Alabama State Champion-National History Bee, individual award and team captain
- \* Alabama Junior Classical League Latin Scholar's Bowl State Champion
- \* Gold Medal-Classical Literacy Exam
- \* Gold Medal-National Roman Civilization Exam
- \* Winner John Wallace Johnston History Award
- \* Winner Gage Prize for outstanding student in US History
- \* Winner Randolph Macon College Book Award in Classics
- \* Named John Frederick Oberlin Scholar/received merit scholarship/early admission to Oberlin College
- \* 5 students-Mu Alpha Theta, Mathematics Honor Society
- \* Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge (Birmingham)-Merit Certificate for Public Communications
- \* Winner-Bausch and Lomb Junior Class Science Award-outstanding student in the junior class
- \* Winner-Smith College Book Award
- \* Corona Laurea for Excellent Achievement on National Mythology Exam
- \* Scholastic Art and Writing Competition-6 silver key awards
- \* 3 Students selected to compete at the State Geography Bee-National Geographic Society
- \* First place winner in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Essay
- \* Scripps Spelling Bee Winner who competed at local level
- \* Young Hero Award by Alabama Public Television
- \* C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Program, gold distinction
- \* University of Alabama- University Fellows semi-finalist
- \* University of Alabama- Computer Based honors program