

BRIDGTON
SCHOOL HOUSE

A LEARNING COMMUNITY

An Introduction to
Bridgton School House

Bridgton, Maine



A LETTER FROM THE

Founding Team

Dear Families,

We're so glad you're here. It means a lot to welcome you into the beginning of something many have been dreaming about.

Like so many parents, the experience of navigating school for young children often brings a sense of misalignment. While there is much to appreciate in traditional settings, the pace, structure, and overall culture don't always reflect what early years can be.

When Bridgton School House was created, it came from the understanding that many families aren't just looking for strong academics and extracurriculars. They're looking for a place where childhood is honored—where days unfold with intention, children are truly known, and curiosity is nurtured rather than rushed. We wanted something calmer, more connected, and more thoughtful in how learning happens.

The more this was considered, the clearer it became what many families are hoping for doesn't quite exist—not in the way that many of us can say yes to. Bridgton School House grew from that realization.

What's been most special is how naturally this has come together. With a foundation in thoughtful building and a connection to educators whose values align deeply with this vision, the right people, place, and timing met—and what once felt like an idea became something real.

This is what we are welcoming you into today.

Bridgton School House is a small, intentionally designed school for families seeking something more grounded, more human, and more aligned with the pace and spirit of childhood. Our size allows us to be thoughtful about every detail—from the environment to the rhythm of the day to the relationships we build with each child and family.

It also means we won't be the right fit for everyone. But for the families who are looking for this kind of space, we hope this feels like something that finally makes sense.

At Bridgton School House, we are building a community rooted in respect, curiosity, and care—for children, for learning, and for one another. We're so glad you're here and taking the time to learn more about what we're creating.

Warmly,

Bridgton School House

About Bridgton School House

Bridgton School House is a small, intentionally designed learning community serving children ages 3–9. The school is grounded in the belief that children thrive in environments that are calm, thoughtfully prepared, and responsive to their development.

Our program draws inspiration from Montessori principles and emphasizes independence, respect, curiosity, and meaningful work.

Classrooms are designed to support both academic growth and the development of social, emotional, and practical life skills, with opportunities for both indoor and outdoor learning.



Our Values

Respect

Respect is grounded in the belief that children are capable, self-directed learners. In practice, this means offering real responsibility, allowing time for independent work, and maintaining an environment that supports focus and order. Children are expected to care for materials, act with intention, and engage with others in ways that reflect awareness and consideration. Over time, children come to see themselves as part of a community that values each individual and holds space for everyone's experiences and perspectives.



Care

Care is developed through participation in the shared life of the classroom. Children contribute to maintaining the environment, supporting peers, and completing real, meaningful tasks. These experiences build responsibility, interdependence, and a sense of belonging. Care is not treated as separate from academic work—it is integrated into daily practice as part of the child's overall development.

Curiosity

Curiosity is supported through uninterrupted work time, access to purposeful materials, and opportunities for choice within a structured environment. Rather than directing all learning, educators observe, introduce, and extend based on readiness and interest. This approach allows children to engage deeply, revisit work, and build understanding through sustained attention rather than constant transition.

Adults model these values through language, consistency, and trust in the child's developmental process.



Our Approach to Learning

At Bridgton School House, our approach is grounded in the model developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, a tested, child-centered educational philosophy. We draw heavily from this approach, which emphasizes respect for the child, independence, and learning through purposeful, hands-on work within a carefully prepared environment.

At the same time, we recognize that families often wonder how a Montessori education prepares children for what comes next. Our goal is to offer an authentic Montessori foundation while also incorporating additional practices that support children in a wide range of future pathways. This includes thoughtful integration of community-based experiences, the arts, movement, and core academic foundations with opportunities for real-world application of learning.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

In addition to our Montessori foundation, we make intentional use of the world beyond the classroom as part of the learning experience.

Children will have regular opportunities to engage with their surroundings—through outdoor exploration, nature-based activities, and connections with local people and resources. These experiences help extend learning into real-world contexts, allowing children to see the relevance of their work and develop a deeper understanding of the community around them.

Outdoor time is also an important part of the school day. Time spent outside supports movement, observation, and a relationship with the natural environment, all of which are essential to a child's development.



Programs

Primary Program (Ages 3–6)

The Primary program is a three-year, mixed-age classroom designed to support the early development of independence, coordination, concentration, and foundational academic skills.

Children learn within a carefully prepared environment guided by a Montessori-trained educator, whose role is to observe, introduce materials, and support each child's development based on readiness rather than age. Learning is hands-on and self-directed, with children choosing purposeful work and engaging deeply at their own pace.

The mixed-age structure is central to the experience. Younger children learn through observation and imitation, while older children reinforce their knowledge by modeling, supporting others, and taking on increasing responsibility within the classroom community.

Throughout the three-year cycle, children develop not only early academic skills in language and mathematics, but also the habits that make learning possible—focus, persistence, independence, and care for their environment and others.

By the final year, children demonstrate a strong sense of confidence, responsibility, and readiness for more abstract and collaborative work.



Lower Elementary (Ages 6–9)

The Lower Elementary program builds on the foundation established in Primary, supporting children as they move into a new stage of development marked by reasoning, curiosity, and a growing interest in understanding the wider world.

The environment remains Montessori-centered, with mixed-age groupings, guided choice, and extended work periods. Learning becomes more abstract, collaborative, and concept-driven. Children begin to explore big ideas across disciplines, including mathematics, language, science, history, and geography, making connections across subjects and asking deeper questions.

Instruction increasingly includes small group lessons, project-based work, and opportunities for discussion and shared inquiry. Children take greater ownership of their time, plan their work more intentionally, and engage in longer-term projects.

The mixed-age classroom continues to play an important role as students collaborate more actively, exchange ideas, and contribute to group work while continuing to develop independence and personal responsibility.

By the end of this stage, children are increasingly confident thinkers and collaborators, prepared to engage with more advanced academic work and broader social contexts.



Tuition Overview

Full Day Program (Ages 3-9)

Monday-Friday | 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

\$16,000 annually or \$1,500/month (10 months)

Half Day Program (Ages 3-4)

Monday-Friday | 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

\$12,000 annually or \$1,100/month (10 months)

Three-Day Primary (Age 3)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

\$10,000 annually or \$900/month (10 months).

All tuition totals include a \$1,000 non-refundable deposit.

Extended Care (Full Day Students Only)

Before Care | 7:45 - 8:30 AM

\$2,200 annually or \$220/month

After Care | 3:00 - 5:30 PM

\$7,600 annually or \$760/month

Before & After Care

\$8,800 annually or \$880/month

Tuition may be paid in full or in 10 installments (September–June).

10% sibling discount applied to each additional child.

A \$300 annual materials fee applies per child.

Enrollment Process

At Bridgton School House, our enrollment process is designed to be thoughtful and intentional.

We take time to understand each child—their readiness, personality, and how they may engage within the classroom.

At the same time, we consider alignment with families. A meaningful experience is built through a strong partnership between home and school, grounded in mutual respect, trust in the process, and a shared understanding of how children learn.



1

Begin by completing the application and submitting a \$50 non-refundable application fee.

2

Share information about your child—this helps us understand who they are, how they learn, and how they may engage within the classroom. A separate application is required for each child.

3

Once your application is received, we will reach out to schedule a time to connect. This is an opportunity to learn more about your child, share our approach, and answer any questions.

4

Families who wish to move forward will continue to the next step, which includes a parent meeting and time for us to get to know your child more closely.

5

Following this process, families will be notified of enrollment decisions, next steps, and additional information.

Next Steps/ Contact

School Location

Bridgton School House
190 Portland Road
Bridgton, Maine

Applications and additional information are available at:
bridgtonschoolhouse.org

