

Paige Peterson
Walden Green Montessori
6th Grade

Prepared to Succeed

Many people associate money, popularity and fame with success. Yet I know that true and lasting success is about the difference you make in people's lives. My amazing charter school, Walden Green Montessori, is helping me reach my fullest potential and have true success in life.

First off, Walden Green has amazing teachers and programs to prepare me academically. This school has detailed daily work plans that gives students multiple academic work choices and provides the students freedom within limits. My school also teaches with many hands-on materials that help the younger children learn concretely. Walden Green Montessori often teaches or instructs in small groups so the teachers can work closely with individual students on goals or various project based learning initiatives. We also partake in various leadership and real-world activities. For example, I've planned several "job-shadowing" excursions where I spent a day with a dental hygienist and graphic designer. Eye-opening experiences like these truly prepare me for possible future careers.

Secondly, this school teaches critical social and emotional skills that I will surely need for my future. Walden Green Montessori has an incredible program called the "Heroic Journey" that teaches many important interpersonal and intrapersonal skills that are vital for an adolescent like me. In this program we practice handling many dilemmas that we might face in our future. The program also includes learning about the "16 Habits of Mind" which are essential *thinking skills* that everyone needs like managing impulsivity, striving for accuracy, thinking and communicated with clarity and precision and remaining open to continuous learning. Also, an integral component of the Heroic journey program is organizing a "service learning project" and partaking in meaningful mentor relationships that ensure we are engaged with others and helping our local communities. As if that wasn't enough, we also have a thorough "peace education" curriculum which instills the fundamental values of respect, responsibility, and receptivity.

Last but not least, Walden Green helps improve and maintain our physical health by keeping us active and encouraging us to be healthy. Unlike most schools, Walden Green has three acres of coniferous and deciduous forest for a playground. Each day, we spend thirty minutes in the woods playing with friends, building forts, getting exercise and exploring nature. Many classrooms in the school even spend a little time each day enjoying nature and keeping their heart healthy in our "hiking" and "cardio" clubs. Even during work time, the teachers often give us movement breaks like Bal-A-Vis-X or short walks around the school that help us focus. We are also encouraged to make healthy lunches for school with limited sugar. Ultimately, all of this helps instill a well-balanced outlook to living life to the fullest.

As you have seen, Walden Green Montessori is a stunning school providing me a holistic education that not only ensures I will be ready for the workforce... but will hit the ground running with a purpose.

Administrative Guidelines Client – Walden Green Montessori
Board Policies Client – Walden Green Montessori
Epicenter Client – Central Michigan University