

Ready to Learn – We Have an App for That!

Well, here we go again! Another school year has begun and Montessori Elementary is finally off to a great start with the renovations coming to an end and the teachers & students seemingly settled in. However, technology never stops and the students were very excited to have a delivery made to each classroom.

Last spring the Montessori teachers were busy writing a grant to the NPS Foundation for the purchase of an educational tool called an **Osmo**. This device hooks to an iPad and with a few apps downloaded, you are in business. Each classroom got the apps for **Words** and **Numbers** (which challenges students to use the correct letters or numbers to match or fill in on the target word or number displayed on the iPad), **Tangram** (which displays a shape on the screen and the objective is for the students to recreate this shape using the real life tangram pieces that come with the kit), **Newton** (a great hand eye coordination practice that presents the objective to draw lines on paper that is placed in front of the iPad and challenge yourself to see if you predicted where a falling object would land when projected from the iPad screen to the paper), and **Masterpiece** (has you transform pictures into your own recreation. The camera tracks your pencil's every move while it guides you to follow the lines.)

How does this relate to Montessori? This device turns our iPads into a hands-on learning tool which encourages both independent learning, as well as partner communications while working on thinking skills, spelling skills and math skills. Students can choose their challenge levels.

Also, through the myOsmo accounts, teachers can find ideas and lesson plans to incorporate this device into their curriculum.

A big "THANK YOU!" to the teachers for writing the grant and another big "THANK YOU!" to the Norfolk Public School Foundation for making the grant money available to our school for the students. These devices are very much "APP"reciated!



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