

## Characteristics of an AMS & NCPSA Accredited School...

**It is devoted to a mission.** Your school cares enough about what it does to seek validation of its mission and educational philosophy.

**It knows itself.** Your school operates from an examined vision of service to students, family, and community.

**It keeps its promises.** AMS & NCPSA accreditation ensures that the school is what it says it is and does what it says it does.

**It accepts objective evaluation.** Your school invites validation from experienced educators who have no involvement with the school other than to provide scheduled evaluations.

**It is recognized.** Your school is accredited by AMS, a member of NCPSA, and is listed as an accredited school at [www.ncpsa.org](http://www.ncpsa.org) and [www.amshq.org](http://www.amshq.org)

**It is self-correcting.** AMS & NCPSA accreditation begins with self-evaluation which results in a strategic plan that fosters continuing school improvement.

**It is student-centered.** Your school's philosophy of education expresses what it does for the whole student.

**It plans for its future.** Your school has plans that include continuous strategies and goals toward even higher levels of quality and school improvement.

**It examines performance.** Your school continuously obtains and analyzes objective evidence on student achievement and growth.

**It participates in the responsibilities of the academic profession.** Your accredited school participates in the self-renewing activity of evaluation and accreditation.

For more information about  
AMS school accreditation contact:



**AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY**  
education that transforms lives

**American Montessori Society**

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## Your Child Is in an Accredited School



**AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY**  
education that transforms lives



# How Your School Became Accredited by the American Montessori Society (AMS), A Nationally-Recognized Accrediting Agency, and NCPSA...

## First, the Self-Study

AMS & NCPSA Accreditation Commissions believe that students benefit from being in a school that knows itself thoroughly.

AMS & NCPSA Accreditation is a voluntary process undertaken by schools that are committed to continuous improvement. The first step is a rigorous self-study and documentation process that begins with the articulation of a philosophy of education and an analysis and description of the school community. This is followed by an appraisal of the school's organization, personnel, facilities, and instruction.

The process is one of discovery and attainment of knowledge necessary for planning with confidence, and results in a strategic plan that fosters continuous school improvement.

## Second, an Objective Evaluation

AMS & NCPSA Accreditation Commissions believe that students benefit when their school undergoes objective evaluation.

Having completed an accepted self-study, the school is visited and evaluated by a team of experienced educators selected by AMS. These educators (validators) verify the findings of the self-study and offer evaluative judgments, both recommendations and commendations, to the school community.



## Third, an Action Plan

AMS & NCPSA Accreditation Commissions believe that students benefit from being in a school that constantly strives for improvement.

A school is required to provide a plan for its further development and improvement. A plan becomes strategic when it includes timelines, resources (both human and financial), and tools to measure success.

## Fourth, Accreditation

AMS & NCPSA Accreditation Commissions believe that students benefit if their school continues to be actively involved with other quality schools – both to improve itself and to participate in the national movement to improve education.

AMS & NCPSA Accreditation is granted if the self-study, evaluation, and planning reports reveal that the school meets the standards for accreditation. During this time, through networking with other quality schools, periodic progress reporting, and participation in other events, accredited schools work toward improvement.

## Fifth, Continuous Evaluation

AMS & NCPSA Accreditation Commissions believe that a quality, accredited school must show stability and continuous improvement.

AMS & NCPSA accredited schools submit an annual report to AMS, which documents continuing compliance with AMS & NCPSA standards and reports on the status of the school's implementation of the strategic plan.

# Your Accredited School Has Met Standards for...

- defining appropriate educational goals and providing educational programs to achieve them;
- maintaining a qualified faculty and an effective school organization;
- assessing outcomes of school experiences and controlling the quality of educational programs;
- responding to concerns of parents and needs of the school community;
- providing for the continuity of its programs and planning for their future;
- describing with accuracy the content of its services and programs;
- developing plans and activities for continuous school improvement.

The American Montessori Society has established the standards for accrediting your school. These standards and AMS have been formally recognized and approved by the National Council for Private School Accreditation. NCPSA is a member and participant with the regional accrediting associations as part of the Alliance of Regional Accreditors. Through NCPSA recognition and agreements, cooperative accreditation and transferability of credits and/or grade placement are possible for students attending schools accredited by NCPSA – member accrediting agencies.

See [www.ncpsa.org](http://www.ncpsa.org) for a list of NCPSA-recognized private school accrediting agencies.

