



Summer 2026



Ponte Montessori





Ponte Montessori 2026
July 6 - August 14

Dear Family, Friends and Explorers of All Ages,

Summertime! The word brims with promise, even as it conjures memories of lakes and ballparks, beaches and campsites, hours, weekends, sometimes entire weeks away from the day-to-day with the ones we love. As I write this, the winter snows are still covering our gardens. For our directors and board, though, summertime is just around the corner.

At Maria's House, summer session is very similar to our fall-spring developmental program, offering children the chance to explore our full array of Montessori works with seasoned guides, residents, and Montessori Master Teachers. We also happily enjoy the summer availability of a number of our adjunct specialists and educational partner sites as we fully enjoy our yard, gardens and beautiful grounds of our Doylestown campus. We continue to develop a unique set of *Integrated Studies*, working with regional and national experts to create age-appropriate Montessori approaches to everything from golf swings to fencing, gardening to pasta making, with equestrian studies, cricket and large-scale chess thrown in for fun. Ok, and folk dancing. And did I mention geology, pottery making, and immersive anthropology? The list goes on and on.

The most noticeable difference about the summer program (*Ponte Montessori*, or "Montessori Bridge") at Maria's House is that we offer registrations a week at a time. Admittedly, this is unusual in the Montessori world, where transition to the rhythm and style of the method takes its own time. Still, my faculty and I are excited to welcome the children (and families) of our area to the House, to share a taste of the remarkable early childhood approach that we dearly love.

No, *Ponte Montessori* isn't a camp. Throughout each morning and afternoon session, our young explorers have the chance to immerse themselves in the areas (Montessori calls them "works") that speak to them, deepening their knowledge as our guides prepare their way. Anyone who has experienced a true Montessori environment can tell you firsthand how quickly and instinctively our 3 to 8 year-olds gain mastery of things that might initially seem beyond them. They're hardwired to learn, ready to absorb the next thing, waiting to be guided. We love this work.

I hope you'll consider joining us on the Bridge for a week or two (or more) this summer. This packet will give you an idea of the structure and content of each of our seven weeks. After you review it, please feel free to contact us through our website at your convenience. I look forward to welcoming your family to campus for a visit. In the meantime, I wish you and your young explorer all the best. These truly are exciting years.

Sincerely,

Laine Walker, MA, NBCT
Executive Director



A Very Montessori Summer

Imagine yourself as a four year old, when all the world was still new and full of surprises. Now, imagine a perfect week, with days built just for you, guided by friendly experts, with a beautiful old house as your personal academy,



its green campus your own country club, its gardens your organic farm, the ideal base camp for your very own mid-summer safari, and every day buzzing with the promise of adventure and harvests,



as math, science and language weave together with the magic of giant chess, small scale golf, equestrian studies, pizza making, cricket and fencing, amazing encounters with a zooful of happy visiting animals, rocket launches and picnic lunches.



Imagine a staff constantly working behind the scenes, laughing and learning with you, sharing stories, songs, culture and language from far away places (Italy, France, India) and not so far away places (at our weekly Lenni Lenape powwow).



Can you see it? So can we. Welcome to *Ponte Montessori*, the weekly summer session at Maria's House. We're ready for you!



Ponte Montessori 2026
July 5 - August 14



Laine Walker, MA, NBCT

Laine Walker is the Director and Principal Guide of Maria's House. A career educator, National Board Certified Teacher and mom, Laine inspires and supports our staff, overseeing the professional development of MHMI guides and assistants, channeling the spirit and vision of Dottorossa Montessori throughout our house and our program. A Montessori Diplomate of the *Princeton Center for Teacher Education* with a Masters in Educational Administration and advanced post-graduate work in early child development, Laine creates and maintains program standards that meet or exceed those established by the American Montessori Society, ensuring that each child is welcomed as an honored guest, treated with respect and hospitality, and guided to explore the wonder of simple things.



Summer Days at Maria's House

Maria's House provides a full-day (8am-3pm) weekly Summer Montessori Primary program, welcoming children 3-8 years of age to explore their world in a safe, engaging and thoroughly Montessori way. Any child who is comfortably toilet trained and has outgrown the need for an afternoon nap (do any of us really outgrow that?) will be well-suited to the rhythm of life at our Doylestown House. Most days unfold like this:

Morning

- 7:50 am Drop off begins at our circle with staff assistance
- 8:30 am Gathering, flag raising and morning exercise
- 8:40 am Morning rally at cubbies
- 8:45 am Morning experiential learning period begins



Lunch (Our explorers bring their own lunch, which we augment with healthy options)

- 11:15 am Table setting and lunch
- 12:10 pm Table clearing and cleanup

Afternoon

- 12:15 pm Exploration (outdoors whenever the weather permits)
- 1:00pm Afternoon rally at cubbies
- 1:05pm Afternoon experiential learning period begins
- 2:50pm Flag lowering and farewells
- 3:00pm Pickup begins at our circle



To accommodate your needs, Maria's House offers two additional program opportunities:

- *Afternoon Tea & Interesting Things* (3pm-4pm)
- *Maria's Summer Academy* (4pm-5pm)

Our extended care options are thoroughly Montessori, offering a variety of opportunities for outdoor play, civilized snacks, instruction in music, food preparation, organic gardening, chess, equine studies, language, ceramics, fencing, golf, zoology and much more.

To arrange a visit to our campus, please use the *Schedule a Tour* button that you'll find on the *Inquire* pages of our website. We look forward to hearing from you.

Six Summery 2026 Weeks: July 6 - August 14





Tuition and Fees Summer 2026

Weekly Tuition

Ponte Montessori Summer 2026 (8am-3pm, weekly tuition) \$495/wk

Extended Program

Afternoon Tea & Interesting Things (3pm-4pm, weekly tuition) \$75/wk

Summer Academy (4pm-5pm, weekly tuition) \$75/wk

Our extended-care offerings are fully Montessori in design and delivery.

Deposits and Fees

Application Fee \$50

(New families only)

Multiple Week Discount Options

Summer 2026 8am-3pm weekly tuition (3-5 weeks) \$485/wk*

Summer 2026 8am-3pm weekly tuition (6-7 weeks) \$475/wk*

For All Who Serve

Maria's House is proud to extend a 10% tuition scholarship to the children of those who protect and defend others through Military, Law Enforcement, Firefighter or Emergency Medical service. Please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks for all that you do.

Summer Calendar

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We offer enrollment for single or multiple-weeks beginning Monday, July 6 and extending through Friday, August 14. Please select your preferred weeks on your application.

JULY

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
			1	2	3	
I	6	7	8	9	10	11
II	13	14	15	16	17	18
III	20	21	22	23	24	25
IV	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
						1
V	3	4	5	6	7	8
VI	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Our 2026 Academic Year begins on Monday, August 31

Applications for our summer programs can be submitted via the Apply section of our website after March 2, 2026, or requested by email (Explore@MariasHouseMontessori.com).

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