



Great River School

Engaging intellect, shaping character, building community.



1326 Energy Park Drive
St. Paul, MN 55108-5202
Tel: 651.305.2780
Fax: 651.305.2781

Email: info@greatriverschool.org

1326 Energy Park Drive
St. Paul, MN 55108
651-305-2780
Website: www.greatriverschool.org

Interim School Director: Andrea Martin
IB Coordinator: Melanie Peterson-Nafziger

Great River School was authorized in April 2008, the first charter school in the state of Minnesota to offer IB DP.

Great River School was founded in 2004 by Larry Schaefer as a Montessori secondary school. The doors opened with 7 – 10th graders. In June, 2007 9 students graduated. In June 2008 we had a class of 21 seniors graduate, planning to attend an array of colleges including: Reed College, St. Thomas University, St. Catherine's, Lake Forest College, Superior College, and Century College, among others.

As the staff and community of Great River forged new territory with developing Montessori curriculum for college bound senior secondary students, they worked closely with the North American Montessori Teacher's Association to explore the IB Diploma Program as a capstone to prepare students to become active citizens.

Great River School will offer first exams in May 2009 and will have the first class of Diploma candidates in May 2010. The following IB courses will be offered: English A1 HL, Spanish SL, History of the Americas HL, Environmental Systems SL, SL and HL Mathematics, Music HL and SL, and Visual Art HL and SL.

Great River School is an urban Montessori charter school in St. Paul, Minnesota. Founded on leadership, service, and peace formation, Great River fosters independence, critical thinking, respect, responsibility to self, to others, and to the earth. Key experiences are an integral part of our program. In 07-08 our senior high students went on a 5-day Midwest college tour, worked on the land for Lake Country Land School in Wisconsin, competed in First Robotics and Inventeams, and completed service work in New Orleans. In 2008-09 our students will canoe in Northern Minnesota and have our first year of student-initiated May term study groups.