City Garden Montessori School operates a tuition-based preschool program and a tuition-free, public charter elementary school, serving the Botanical Heights, Forest Park Southeast, Shaw, Southwest Garden, and Tiffany neighborhoods in the City of St. Louis.

Mission
City Garden exists to redefine education by developing the whole child in an excellent, inclusive, Montessori school; to reimagine community by creating spaces and systems that help to restore our collective humanity; and to reinvigorate our world by creating a culture in which individuals and communities thrive without disparities or barriers to success.

WHAT MAKES CITY GARDEN UNIQUE?

Montessori Curriculum
City Garden effectively implements the Montessori Theory of Child Development in a stimulating public school environment. Montessori is a philosophy and pedagogy of education that focuses on every human’s inherent intelligence. A Montessori education includes hands-on learning with mixed-age classrooms with a goal to reach developmental milestones in three year age bands rather than traditional grade levels. In City Garden’s Montessori classrooms, there is a strong focus on the learning community and classroom culture, with respect as a central value – respect of self, others and the environment.

Racial equity
City Garden has developed and utilizes an anti-biased, anti-racist framework in all aspects and levels of the school community. City Garden works to apply this lens throughout every aspect of the school – curriculum, interactions with children and parents, interactions with staff, hiring practices, board member selection and development, and more. In fact, all staff and board members are required to attend anti-bias, anti-racist training to analyze and understand systemic racism. City Garden also has a staff position dedicated to this work, the Director of Racial Equity, Curriculum and Training, who develops Professional Development and frameworks for the school to use. “Creating an institution in which all have access to freedom and possibility requires actively dismantling systems that have perpetuated inequities and intentionally seeking inclusive excellence,” Christie Huck, Executive Director, said.