Be sure to spend some time in a Montessori classroom as well as in other areas of the school where children are present. **Use this checklist to help you assess the AMI Montessori difference!** 

The environment is organized and attractive.
The teacher acts as a guide and does very little with the whole group at the front of the room.
Multi-sensory, hands-on materials are in regular use.
Each child has an opportunity to choose work that interests.
The emphasis is on learning by doing and social development rather than drills, memorization, or finding information only to answer specific questions.
A child may work as long as they want on an interesting challenge without being stopped by a bell.
The child is allowed to choose a favorite spot to work instead of being restricted to a desk and seat.
Children are encouraged to teach, collaborate, and help each other.
The children have a regular opportunity to work with children of different ages.
The teachers and staff show respect for the children.
Children are respectful of the teacher and the environment.
The school encourages internal self-discipline rather than the teacher acting as primary enforcer of rules.
Learning is its own reward, not motivated by prizes and extrinsic rewards.
The children are calm, concentrated, and joyful.