



Curriculum Overview – Lower Elementary

Ages 6 – 9 years

This overview outlines the rich Montessori curriculum that is presented during this three year learning cycle. Students advance according to their developmental readiness, which is the premise of the Montessori philosophy, including quality and level of work completed. Gifted students thrive in our Montessori classrooms where accelerated learning is encouraged. Teachers utilize a multi-sensory approach, which addresses all learning styles and creates the optimal learning environment. Montessori Academy offers a unique learning environment and specialized materials for students to accomplish these goals. The exit requirements are mastery of these concepts.

Life Skills/Development

- Self-motivated and curious
- Responsible and accountable
- Independent learner
- Respect classroom environment
- Ability to comprehend what is heard
- Focus on work for 15 – 30 minutes
- Sequence of 3 given directions
- Conflict resolution/problem solving skills
- Respectful of self and others
- Explore abstract world
- Reasoning
- Moral sense
- Imaginative
- Connection with facts, thoughts, and memories
- Mental ability to picture objects
- Daily work plan and objectives

Language/Reading

- Language Tower skills: (compound words, suffix, prefix, antonym, synonym, homophone, homonym, homographs, capitalization, abbreviation, apostrophe, possessives, comma, quotation marks, classification, ABC order, guide words, dictionary and thesaurus)
- Parts of speech: article, adjective, noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, conjunction, preposition, interjection
- Sentence Types: statement, exclamation, question and command
- Spelling, vocabulary, spelling patterns, word derivations/etymology, grammar; punctuation, word usage in sentences and paragraphs
- Emphasis on phonics
- Sight vocabulary
- Syllables
- Expression, accuracy and meaning in reading
- Grade level comprehension
- Decoding and comprehension strategies
- Book report
- Author and illustrator
- Chapter books
- Literary forms
- Guided reading
- Sequential order in a story
- Research and information

Writing

- Cursive handwriting
- Write short assignments neatly in copy book
- Ability to copy information correctly
- Sentences and paragraphs, letters and invitations, original stories, poems, and research reports
- Ability to edit print

Mathematics

- Memorization of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division math facts
- Numeric order and place value
- Standard and metric measurement
- Telling time using a standard clock
- Identify, label, add and subtract fractions
- Addition and subtraction of whole numbers with regrouping
- Multiplication with multi-digit numbers
- Division with remainders
- Graphs
- Problem solving, word problems
- Estimation and mental math
- Measurement: length, width, time, volume, temperature, weight, area, perimeter
- Counting by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's
- Identify and label geometric shapes and solids
- Identify coins
- Coin combinations, make change
- Introduction to decimals
- Identifying shapes in a plane, symmetry

History/Cultural Studies /Geography

- History of writing
- History of math
- Timeline of history including pre-history
- Fundamental needs of humans
- Global settlement and its influence on the environment and geography
- Development and interdependence of local, state, national and international communities
- Exchange of goods and services
- Contribution of individuals, cultural diversity and heritage
- Famous Americans, U.S. national holidays, Native Americans, regional groups and their way of life
- Rules/laws for classroom, school and community; citizen and environmental responsibilities
- Physical and political map/globe skills; continents, countries, U.S. maps, compass rose
- Land and water forms
- Early America, Tennessee history and cities

Life Science/Physical Science/Earth Science/Health

- Timeline of life
- Development of life; adaptation to environment
- Scientific method
- Classification of organisms
- Observation skills; use of a microscope
- **Botany:** Flowering plants, plant parts, trees and classification
- Plant care and functions
- **Zoology:** Identify animal groups: invertebrates/ vertebrates
- Animal care and functions
- Animal behaviors/habitats (endangered)
- **Chemistry/Physics:** Three states of matter, energy, motion, properties of air/sound
- Observe physical and chemical changes
- History of science/technology
- Simple machines
- Balance and weight
- Ecology, recycling
- Composition of solar system

Life Science/Physical Science/Earth Science/Health (continued)

- **Earth Science:** Formation of volcanoes, seas, atmosphere, plate tectonics
- Composition of the earth
- Weather, seasons, change
- Water cycle
- **Geology:** Rocks, minerals, soil, cycle, components
- **Anatomy:** Human body systems: support, movement
- **Health:** Nutrition, personal hygiene

Computer

- Keyboarding instruction to build speed and accuracy for 3rd level students

Art

Art History and Appreciation 1st Cycle

- Prehistoric cave art, Ancient Egyptian art and Hieroglyphics, Native American art work, Ancient Greek and Roman art, European Gothic art of the middle ages, 2000 B.C.- 1000 A.D.
- Techniques and Media- Crayon rubbing and etching, drawing with pencil, marker, charcoal, and crayon. Styrofoam board print making, mosaics, collage, mixed media, clay, acrylic and watercolor painting

Art History and Appreciation 2nd Cycle

- Art from around the world, including; Asia, India, Africa, Middle East and Persian countries, Central and South America
- Technique and Media; Origami, paper cutting, water color, mixed media, collage, dragon murals, clay sculpture, batik, gyotaku-fish printing, blow painting, oil pastels, Henna tattoos, torn paper, drawing pattern and texture with pencil, egg shell mosaics, wire sculpture, and paper masks

Basic Drawing 3rd Cycle

- Identify and use the six elements of art to create unique pieces of art, line, shape, value, color and color theory, space and perspective, and texture
- Identify seascapes, landscapes, still lives, portraits, and cityscapes
- Techniques and media, pencil, marker, acrylic and water color paints, paper cutting, collage, contour line, crayon rubbings, print making. Charcoal, oil and chalk pastels, clay
- Special project- paper Mache animal sculptures, or self-sculpture

Music

- Sing alone and with others a varied repertoire of songs with and without accompaniment in unison and simple harmony; Folk, patriotic, singing games, rounds and various cultures. Learn and sing solfege using hand signals (melodic, chromatic, skips, repeats), canons
- Play alone/ with others on melodic and rhythmic instruments
- Read and write simple rhythmic and melodic notation, meter and symbols, and identify accents
- Learn appropriate terminology to analyze music dynamics: piano, mezzo forte, forte, and tempos; largo, andante, repeat signs and AB/ABA forms
- Analyze mood of music through drawing pictures
- Identify voice types and instrumental families
- Identify music of various cultures
- Learn basic piano theory, names of keys
- Third level: learns how to play the recorder, learns embouchure, proper fingering, dotted notes, ties, ledger lines, sharps and flats, pick-up measures and playing in 2 parts through a varied repertoire

Physical Education

- Travel using body and spatial awareness, relationships and effort
- Demonstrate a mature form of locomotor skills
- Jump and land using a variety of take-off and landing patterns
- Illustrate, through movement, a wide variety of rhythmic activities that involve locomotion and non-locomotion
- Kick a ball into the air or along the ground
- Throw a ball demonstrating an overhand or underhand technique
- Catch a ball
- Strike/volley an object
- Strike an object with short and long handled implements
- Dribble a ball using the hands or feet
- Demonstrate control in weight transfer and balance activities

Spanish

- Alphabet and pronunciation
- Greetings
- Numbers: 1-100
- Days of the week
- Months of the year
- Seasons
- Weather
- Additional body parts
- Additional pieces of clothing
- Spanish speaking countries