



Little Scholars Montessori Curriculum

2018-2019

Each summer, the Little Scholars staff collectively plan an amazing year of exciting new material to coordinate with the Montessori curriculum and grade level standards. The Little Scholars tiered curriculum and looping instruction provides students with differentiated, interdisciplinary learning materials that adapt to the ability level of the individual, allowing students to be comfortably challenged at all stages. Each classroom is divided into seven major content areas of Montessori: practical life, sensorial, social studies, math, language, history, and science. The foundation of the Little Scholars curriculum will be based on two main groups of study: science and social studies (including both history and geography). These groups of study will be presented in an interdisciplinary format within math, language arts, practical life, and sensorial.

Science Units

Each science unit will include an engineering component to challenge the students to apply content knowledge and use creativity to achieve a new level of understanding.

- **Life Science:** This unit encompasses all living things and their life processes through intense and interactive study, exploring everything from the five senses to the human body. There will be a special unit on genetics and heredity. Animal classifications will be discussed to learn about the characteristics of certain species and how these characteristics help animals adapt and survive in different environments.
- **Earth Science:** With a brief review of the solar system and universe, students will dive deeper into the ground they walk upon. Starting large and working small, students will learn about the atmosphere, layers of the earth, and rocks and minerals found here. There will be discussions on how Earth changes and evolves to bring forth new materials needed for everyday life.
- **Physical Science:** Working in the opposite direction, students will begin with the minute atom and work towards the complicated mixtures found within the planet. There will be lessons on molecules, elements, and compounds to help students see how molecules can form to become different substances used in everyday life.

Social Studies Units

The social studies units will fluidly combine the geographical concepts presented in both traditional and Montessori education with the history so often overlooked in the traditional setting of elementary school.

- **Maps and Globes:** Beginning with an overview of the Earth as displayed on a globe and map, students will learn how each relates to one another as they work to understand the map as a flat representation of the globe. Moving towards the study of the continents and oceans, a reflection on the differences between the different types of water and landforms are found within the planet. Using direction words and map vocabulary,



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students will work to read and create maps using knowledge from academic progression according to Montessori and traditional standards.

- **Time:** Discerning the concept of time can be challenging for children, therefore the unit will focus on understanding time vocabulary, calendar progression, and timelines. Students in the lower school will learn about days, weeks, months, and years, while the upper school students explore the Timeline of Universe and Earth, as well as the Clock of Eras.
- **Continent Study:** Incorporating the geographical lessons of maps and globes, students will study the major landmarks, water and landforms, plants and animals, and biomes of each continent. History studies are listed below:
 - **North America:** Students in the lower school will explore the city, region, and state to better understand where they live. Upper school students will relate the state of Tennessee to the regions of the United States as they complete a unit on the states and capitals. History of the continent will spotlight the primitive people indigenous to North America, including the Mayans and Aztecs.
 - **South America:** Students will further examine the people and culture of South America, including the Incas and the tribes in the Amazon rainforest. They will explore the rich literature and stories of the continent, along with the changes brought with European explorers.
 - **Europe:** From the Ancient Greeks and Roman empires to the Renaissance, European culture is abundant in its history. Students will obtain knowledge on different time periods within Europe and how these influenced the present.
 - **Africa:** Pyramids, Egyptians, and the immense Nile River will be discussed as students delve into this great continent. Students will learn about the great inventions of the continent and the famous people who have changed and influenced the world.
 - **Australia:** Looking into the history of the Australian Aborigines, students will explore the culture and how it affected the people of Australia today. New Zealand's history will also be explored and dissected.
 - **Asia:** Starting with Mesopotamia and progressing to startling inventions, students will discover the growth of the largest continent on Earth. Included in this unit will be The Great Wall of China, Chinese Emperors, and Japanese Samurai.
 - **Antarctica:** How has this desolate continent changed in the timeline of Earth? Students will learn about the research and history of this cold place.