



Curriculum Overview – Primary

Ages 3 years – 6 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 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

- **Grace and courtesy:** manners, proper introductions, how to properly interrupt, co-operative, patience, listening skills, learning to speak softly and quietly
- Lengthening attention span
- Ease of transition from one activity to another
- Observe others or a lesson
- Completion of task
- Respect for materials and environment
- Care of self
- Gross motor control
- Fine motor control
- Care of environment
- Food preparation

Language

- **Reading readiness:** letter/sound recognition, rhyming, sequencing and classifying, auditory and visual discrimination, vocabulary
- **Reading:** letter sounds/Sandpaper Letters, objects with sounds, Moveable Alphabet with objects, words and sentences
- **Pink Phonetic Group:** two and three letter words with objects, picture cards, flashcard booklets and word lists
- **Blue Phonetic Group:** four or more letters with objects, picture matching cards, flashcard booklets, word lists, sentences with objects, sentences with pictures and books
- **Green Phonetic Group:** phonograms, digraphs and exceptions
- **Sight words** are integrated throughout the reading program
- **Grammar**

Writing

- **Preparation for writing** is developed through working in the Practical Life and Sensorial areas
- **Tracing Metal Insets** with colored pencils and creating Metal Inset design booklets
- **Tracing Sandpaper Letters** and Sandpaper Numerals with fingers
- **Tracing pictures** with pencil
- **Writing manuscript letters** and numerals using dots, writing on lined paper
- **Writing words, sentences** and stories
- **Cursive** introduced to Kindergarteners in the Spring

Mathematics

- **Preparation for math** begins in the Practical Life and Sensorial areas
- **Number Recognition:** Number Rods with Numerals, Sandpaper Numerals, Table Top Rods with Numerals, Spindle Box, Cards and Counters, odd and even
- **Decimal System:** Introduction, Quantity and Symbol, Layout of Symbols (1-9000), Nine Tray with Symbols, Ten Tray (Comparison), Thousand Game, Exchange Game, Bank, Ten Board, 1-100 Board
- **Addition:** addition with Tabletop Rods, addition with Color Bead Stair, Addition Strip Board with booklets, Operations (+, -) with Golden Bead Materials
- **Bead Cabinet:** Chains (1-1000) Linear Counting and Skip Counting (ex. 3, 6, 9)
- Time, calendar, money and measurement

History/Cultural Studies /Geography

- **History:** clocks, time and calendar
- Holidays and famous Americans
- **Cultural Studies:** overview of continents, cultural diversity, study of U.S., study of Tennessee
- **Geography:** study of air, land and water
- Directions N, S, E, W
- Sandpaper Globe with Continents
- Color Continent Globe
- Continent Maps with control boards, tracing of the continent maps
- Land Forms

Life Science/Physical Science/Earth Science/Health

- **Botany:** Parts of a plant, a tree and a flower
- Leaves
- Seeds
- Care of plants
- **Zoology:** Living and non-living
- Classification and Life Cycles – fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal
- Vertebrates and invertebrates
- **Astronomy:** Solar System
- **Science:** sink and float, magnets
- **Earth Science:** rocks, layers of the earth, volcanoes
- Seasons and weather
- **Anatomy:** skeleton cards, parts of the human body, organs of the human body
- **Health:** nutrition and food groups

Art

- Media and Techniques: Push pinning, cutting strips, gluing, tempera paints, clay, felt markers, colored pencils, crayons, collage, origami, color and color mixing
- **Art Appreciation**
- **Art** is integrated into the classroom on a daily basis
- **Kindergarten Art**
- Learn to use media in a safe and creative way
- Learn that everyone is capable of creating works of art

Music

- Music Group: songs, pitch, beat, tempo, rhythm
- Instrument matching cards
- Movement

Play Time

- Perceptual/ Gross Motor Skills: bouncing balls, tossing balls, catching balls, running, climbing bars
- Bike paddling equipment
- Walking on a line
- Balance beams
- Muscular Coordination
- Social skills

Spanish

- Color names
- Animal names
- Introductions
- Body parts
- Clothing
- Food
- Weather
- Basic questions and phrases

Computer

- Computers are introduced in 3rd Level, Lower Elementary where the students learn keyboarding and other skills using the Mavis Beacon Program.

Kindergarten Requirements for Graduation

Language

- Knows all letter names and sounds
- Reads short and long vowel books
- Reads words with diagraphs

Math

- Linear counting 1 – 100
- Quantity & numeral 1 – 1000
- 4-digit addition with manipulatives
- Addition facts (sums to 10)
- Addition with exchanging
- 4-digit subtraction with manipulatives
- Introduction to concept of time (whole & half numbers, minutes)
- Introduction to money (coin value)
- Introduction to measurement (inches, ruler, yardstick and tape measure)

Geography

- Knows N S E W in the classroom and on a map
- Knows that he/she lives in the state of Tennessee, city of _____, street _____, and zip code _____
- Is familiar with the U. S. map, state of Tennessee, Nashville and neighboring states
- Recognizes the globe and the world map
- Knows the seven continents and oceans

Science

- Parts of a plant, a tree and a flower
- Leaves/Seeds
- Care of plants
- Living and Non-Living cards
- Classification and Life Cycles – fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal
- Vertebrates and invertebrates
- Solar system
- Sink and float exercises, magnets
- Rocks, layers of the earth, volcanoes
- Seasons and weather
- Skeleton cards, parts of the human body, organs of the human body
- Nutrition and food groups

General Knowledge

- Knows address
- Knows telephone number
- Knows days of week, months of year, seasons

Life Skills

- Zips/buttons one's coat/jacket
- Can cut with scissors – strips and on lines
- Eats politely, properly and uses good manners
- Respects peers, teachers and parents
- Is mannerly to peers, teachers and parents
- Obeys the ground rules