



Curriculum Overview – Middle School

Ages 13 – 15 years

This overview outlines the rich Montessori curriculum that is presented during this two 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

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Perseverance
- Caring

Language

Grammar

- Advanced Study of the Function of Words:
- Nouns: Singular & Plural, Subjects & Subject Complements, Direct/Indirect Objects, Objects of Prepositions, Object Complements, Appositives
- Adjectives: Descriptive, Position, Demonstrative, Interrogative & Indefinite, Comparative & Superlative, Few & Little, Concrete/Abstract Nouns, Phrase, Clauses
- Pronouns: Personal, Subject, Subject Complements, Direct/Indirect Objects, Objects of Prepositions, Possessive, Intensive & Reflexive, Agreement & Antecedents, Interrogative/Demonstrative, Relative/Indefinite
- Verbs: Principal Parts, Irregular, Phrases, Transitive & Intransitive, Troublesome, Linking, Active & Passive Voices, Simple/Progressive/Perfect Tenses, Imperative/Indicative/Subjunctive Mood, Modal Auxiliaries, Subject-Verb Agreement, Agreement of Subjects & Verbs
- Verbals, Participles, Gerunds
- Complements: Infinitives
- Adverbs: Types
- Prepositions: Single & Multiword, Phrases
- Sentences: Declarative & Interrogative, Imperative & Exclamatory, Restrictive & Nonrestrictive Clauses, Simple Complex & Compound Sentences
- Punctuation & Capitalization: Periods, Commas, Exclamation Points & Question Marks & Underlining, Apostrophes, Hyphens & Dashes, Capital Letters
- Sentence analysis: Diagramming

Reading

- Story Elements: Plot, Characterization, Setting, Theme, Point of View, Dialog, Purpose
- Literary Genres: Novels, Short Stories, Nonfiction-biographies, Autobiographies, Diaries, Fiction-Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Fantasy Fiction, Fairy Tales, Folktales, Legends, Myths, Fables, Drama, Poetry
- Reading Comprehension: Finding Facts, Main Idea, Sequencing, Drawing Conclusions, Inferencing, Following Directions, Summarizing
- Logic
- Vocabulary Building and Usage
- Word Study Skills: root words, prefixes, suffixes, etymologies, antonyms, synonyms, homophones

Spelling

- Patterns, rules and exceptions

Writing

- Outline Skills for Informational Writing
- Quality Paragraph Construction: topic sentence, supporting detail sentences, transition words, concluding sentence, unified theme
- Organization of Writing: Story Planning, Plot sketches
- The Writing Process: Brainstorming, Prewriting, Drafting, Revising, Proofreading/Editing, Publishing, Presenting
- Developing Story Elements: characterization, plot, setting, dialog, conflict, resolution, point of view, mood
- Writing for a Variety of Purposes: descriptive, narrative, informative, persuasive, share ideas
- Writing in a variety of Formats: stories, letters, reports, journals, book reviews, essays, speeches

Mathematics/Geometry

- Understand numbers, representation of numbers, relationships among numbers and number systems
- Understand meanings of operations and relationship to one another
- Compute fluently and make reasonable estimates
- Understand patterns, relations, and functions
- Represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols
- Use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships
- Analyze change in various contexts
- Analyze characteristics and properties of two-and three-dimensional geometric shapes and develop mathematical arguments about geometric relationships
- Specify locations and describe spatial relationships using coordinate geometry and other representational systems
- Apply transformations and use symmetry to analyze mathematical situations
- Use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems
- Understand measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems, and processes of measurement
- Apply appropriate techniques, tools, and formulas to determine measurements
- Formulate questions that can be addressed with data and collect, organize, and display relevant data to answer them
- Select and use appropriate statistical methods to analyze data
- Develop and evaluate inferences and predictions that are based on data
- Understand and apply basic concepts of probability
- Develop problem solving strategies
- Use reasoning and methods of proof
- Organize and consolidate mathematical thinking through communication

History/Cultural Studies/Geography

- The First Americans (Prehistory to A.D. 1500)
- European Exploration of the Americas (1000-1800)
- English Colonization of North America (1500-1760)
- Developing American Ways of Live (1630-1770)
- Moving Toward Revolution (1750-1775)
- The American Revolution (1775-1783)
- Experimenting with Self Government (1776-1786)
- Creating a Federal Government (1787-1791)
- The New Republic on Trial (1788-1800)
- The Age of Jefferson (1800-1815)
- A Nation Emerges (1785-1840)
- The Age of Jackson (1824-1840)
- An Age of Reform (1800-1860)
- An Age of Expansion (1818-1860)
- The Growing Crisis (1848-1861)
- The Civil War (1861-1865)
- Reconstruction (1865-1900)
- Closing the Frontier (1849-1909)
- An Industrial Nation (1860-1920)
- Toward an Urban Society (1866-1914)
- A New Age of Politics (1870-1900)
- Expanding World Power (1853-1902)
- The Progressive Era (1890-1920)
- The Great War (1900-1920)
- Move To Modern America (1919-1929)
- The Great Depression (1929-1941)
- World War II (1939-1945)
- The Cold War Years (1945-1960)
- The New Frontier (1960-1968)
- The Longest War (1945-1975)
- Years of Turmoil/Change (1969-1980)
- New Political Era (1980-Present)

Life Science/Physical Science/Earth Science/Health

Understanding:

- The scientific method
- Cell structure/processes
- Genetics
- Timeline of life
- Classification of organisms
- Organism adaptations/cycles
- Communities/systems
- Physical and chemical properties
- Static electricity, magnets
- Energy pathways
- Heat production, transfer, uses
- Matter, motion, machines
- Weather and climate
- Earth's cycles and changing surface
- Rock types and formation
- Earth minerals and soils
- Earth in space (a study of the solar system)
- Solar radiation
- Body systems/functions
- Global health
- Nutrition

Art

Art History and Appreciation – 1st Cycle

- The Renaissance, Baroque, Romanticism, and Realism, 1400-1800
- Techniques and media: tondo, fresco, acrylic painting, watercolors, linear perspective, size change, vertical location, overlapping, and chiaroscuro
- Special Project – Students will create their own hand puppet with paper Mache, paint and fabric. They will form teams to write, direct, and produce a puppet show, which will be presented to Primary and LE students.

Art History and Appreciation – 2nd Cycle

- Impressionism, Pointillism, Fauvism, Cubism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism
- Technique and media: acrylic painting, oil and chalk pastels, pen and ink, markers, collage, mixed media, water color pencils, charcoal, paper Mache
- Special Project – Students will create a drawing to translate into a linoleum block carving to print. Each student will make copies for each member of their class to be bound into a book.

Physical Education

- Demonstrate mature form in all loco motor patterns and selected manipulative and non-loco motor skills
- Apply basic skills in game-like experience
- Introduce strategies that occur in game-like situations
- Acquire beginning skills in specialized movement forms
- Apply basic rhythmic skills into rhythmic activities and creative sequences
- Demonstrate and modify traditional and popular dance sequences
- Demonstrate and refine specialized educational gymnastics skills
- Develop and refine a gymnastic sequence demonstrating smooth transitions
- Develop patterns and combinations of movements in educational gymnastics, games and rhythm/dance
- Use responsible behavior in safety procedures for all physical activities

Spanish

- Spelling and pronunciation
- Greetings
- Classroom objects
- Basic conversational phrases
- Tell how one feels
- Study skills for future study
- Ask/answer basic questions
- Introduce basic verbs
- Applications for use: restaurant, shopping, making friends

Computer

- Mavis Beacon Typing: speed and accuracy
- Integrated curriculum projects
- Online research techniques

Music

- Sing alone and with others a varied repertoire of songs from American folk to Broadway; jazz standards to pop hits; as well as songs from other cultures
- Play melodic and rhythmic instruments alone and with others
- Learn to recognize and reproduce rhythmic and melodic patterns
- Learn to play basic songs on the piano
- Improvise on melodic and rhythmic instruments
- Compose and arrange songs and instrumental pieces
- Read and write music notations using whole, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16 notes and rests, dotted notes and rests, treble and bass clefs, time signature, key signature, and form signs i.e. coda, 1st and 2nd endings, etc.
- Identify music of differing styles, periods, and cultures
- Learn the basics of modern music recording technology
- Learn to describe music using appropriate terminology in regards to dynamics, tempo, articulation, syncopation, and alternate forms
- Study the lives of prominent figures in musical history
- Learn how music is used in daily life and how it relates to other subjects
- Play in an ensemble:
 - Band: flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, and drums
 - String Ensemble: violin, viola, and cello
 - Chorus: voice