



*Where the heart, mind, and spirit grow together*

In contrast to a grade-level classroom where a child has one year to cover certain learning objectives, the Montessori elementary classroom provides flexibility over several years.

Our elementary classroom is divided into four areas: Mathematics, Language, Culture (which includes history, geography, and science), and Basic Computers. Each child is supplied with journals to record his daily work. These serve as organizational tools for the student, fostering his independent learning. In addition to core subjects offered, our curriculum includes, Physical Education, Computer class, Spanish, Polish, Art, Music and Movement.

## Language

Emphasis is put on fluency, comprehension, correct grammar, creative writing, and the use of references both in the school and the community. The children write and perform plays for their own amusement. All of this is interrelated with the other "core" subjects.

## Mathematics

Continuing from the preschool foundation, all concepts are introduced with concrete materials-from basic operations through squaring, cubing, prime factors, square roots, geometry, and algebra. All concepts are given when the child is ready and not at a given chronological age. Our students constantly work above expected grade level.

## Culture

The Culture area is one of the favorites. There is always an air of excitement and anticipation. The children actually participate in their learning and link all cultural aspects together. They look at earth in geography and link social and economic development with the physical geography that affects it. Science may be enhanced by a specialist doing experiments with the children-again, hand-on involvement is used with the students. The classroom may contain a wide variety of animals for the children to study and take care of.

Art, music, and physical education vitalize the already integrated Montessori elementary prepared environment. Art projects are natural extensions of classroom work. For example, a child may make a tapestry of geometric figures, a three-dimensional salt map of a continent, or a mural of Colonial life. All of these projects reinforce and expand academic skills and artistic sensitivities. The schools may have annual art shows and musical performances.

Music activities complement the child's work. National anthems, folk songs, and historical ballads key into the social studies areas, for instance. Writing music and plays provides occasion for dramatic integration of the arts-drama, speech, painting, and literature.

## Lower Elementary Level: Ages 6-9 Curriculum

### Practical Life

- Care of indoor and outdoor environments
- Grace and courtesy
- Public etiquette

### Science

#### Basic Research Principles

- Physical Science:
  - Experiments relative to the formation of the universe and earth
  - State of matter
  - Gravity
  - Temperature
  - Density
  - Chemical reactions
  - Properties of water
  - Magnetism
  - Simple machines
- Zoology:
  - Vertebrate and invertebrate classification, characteristics, and internal/external parts
  - Animal kingdom
- Botany:
  - Parts of plant - advanced
  - Experiments
  - Botany charts
  - Plant kingdom
  - Vegetable and flower gardening
- Anatomy:
  - Parts of the body
  - Systems of the body

# Math

- Great lesson: The story of numbers
- Concrete and abstract work in all operations
- Place value
- Money
- Time
- Arithmetic math facts
- Study of binomials
- Fractions:
  - Simple operations
  - Equivalencies
- Measurement: length and temperature, standard and metric
- Word problems: all operations
- Algebra: concrete materials
- Number relationships:
  - Estimation/Rounding
  - $>$ ,  $<$ ,  $=$
- Graphs/data interpretation

# Music

- Underlying steady beat of:
  - Rhyme
  - Song
  - Recorded musical selections
- Sequencing movement with a partner or group in beginning folk dances
- Movement with objects to a steady beat
- Creative expression in movement
- Singing pentatonic and diatonic melodies
- Reading and notating simple rhythm patterns
- Notating known pentatonic melodies in staff notation
- Simple accompaniments on pitched Orff instruments
- Simple rhythm patterns on pitched and unpitched instruments

# Fine Arts

- Elements:
  - Color (primary, secondary, tertiary)
  - Value
  - Texture
  - Form and dimension
  - Line and shape
- Study of artists
- Use of a variety of media
- Art principles:
  - Unity
  - Emphasis
  - Balance
  - Variety
  - Movement and proportion
- Art history and evaluation

# Geometry

- Geometric plane figures:
  - Circles
  - Squares and rectangles
  - Triangle
  - Quadrilaterals
  - Polygons
  - Curved figures
- Study of geometric solids
- Basic concepts of lines and angles
- Measurement: perimeter

# Writing

- Writing process:
  - Five-step writing process for composition
  - Pre-writing activities, rough drafts, revision, editing, final draft
- Compositions:
  - Reports
  - Creative writing
  - Poetry
- Mechanics of writing:
  - Spelling
  - Capitalization
  - Punctuation
- Usage

# Cultural Studies

- History:
  - Great lesson: formation of the universe
  - Clock of eras
  - Timeline of life
  - Study of the calendar
  - Fundamental needs of humans
  - BC/AD timeline
- Geography:
  - Physical
    - Land and water forms
    - Biomes
  - Functional
    - Sun, moon, planets
    - Clouds and atmospheres
    - Volcanoes
    - Rocks and minerals
  - Earth studies
  - Political
    - Flags
    - Countries
    - States
    - Capitals
- Maps, globes, and graphs

# Language Arts

- Great Lesson: The Story of Language
- Literature circles: all genre
- Reading:
  - Decoding Skills
  - Comprehension
  - Sequencing
  - Main idea
  - Details
  - Vocabulary
  - Drawing conclusions
  - Making inferences
  - Cause and effect
- Handwriting:
  - Manuscript
  - Cursive
- Grammar/sentence analysis:
  - Basic parts of speech
  - Subject and predicate
- Word study skills:
  - Alphabetical order
  - Synonyms/Antonyms
  - Prefixes/Suffixes
  - Contractions
  - Compound words
  - Homonyms
  - Plurals

# Technology

- Basic Keyboarding
- Basic parts of a computer
- Basic Window Skills
- Basic graphics
- Basic Animation
- Reading comp w/Accelerated Reader
- Database book searches
- Digital Geography
- Digital timelines
- Microsoft Word, Power Point, Publisher and Excel
- Digital Photo Manipulation
- Coding
- Digital sound recording and editing

# P.E.

- Gross motor movement
- Cardiovascular activities (i.e., pacing)
- Flexibility
- Sportsmanship
- Cooperative games
- Introduction to core strengthening
- Increase flexibility
- Foster good sportsmanship

# Spanish and Polish

- Vocabulary:
  - Days of the week
  - Seasons
  - Animals
  - Transportation
  - Clothing
  - Family members
  - Parts of the body
  - Counting
  - Numbers
  - Colors
  - Around the house