



The Lower Elementary Program: Imagination, Interconnectedness

The Montessori Lower Elementary program is designed to meet the needs of children between the ages of 6-9. The children's developing imaginations and intense desire for knowledge make them ready for the exploration of nature, the world, and the universe. They are eager to explore vast fields of knowledge and discover the interconnectedness of all things and people. As the children ask the "what" and the "why" of the universe, they organize their minds. They are discovering their cosmic task.

The students are with a teacher for three years and this minimizes transitions, allows the child to work in a multi-age setting, the older children have chance to reinforce their knowledge by teaching the younger children, and the younger children watch and anticipate lessons. The teacher knows the students well and can accommodate their differentiated learning requirements. Students are encouraged to have a love of learning and encouraged and supported to work at their own level.

Math:

- Understand the function of the four operations
- Mastery of addition, subtraction, and most multiplication facts
- Practicing memorization of division facts
- Abstract multiplication of 2-digit multipliers and long division with 1-digit divisor
- Practicing 2-digit divisors in long division
- Practicing rounding
- Word problems
- Mastery of "odd" and "even", "greater than" and "less than"
- Fraction: understand equivalencies, add and subtract with the same denominator
- Understand the hierarchy of numbers
- Understand the concept of measurement and temperature
- Introduction to bar, line, and pie graphs
- Understand calendars

Geometry:

- Mastery of point, line, surface, and solid, lines and line segments
- Introduction to position of lines - perpendicular, parallel, oblique
- Mastery of types of angles and triangles
- Accomplished in constructing triangles with the triangle a the constructor
- Mastery of regular and irregular polygons
- Practice with compass to construct arcs and circles
- Introduction to the concept of area and perimeter
- Mastery of nomenclature of geometric solids

Language:

- Understanding of phonemic awareness
- Mastery of phonograms
- Practice with syllabication
- Understanding of compound words, homonyms, antonyms, prefixes, suffixes, contractions, and root words
- Understand rules for word endings, -ing, s, es, and ed
- Understand an apply basic capitalization and punctuation rules
- Understand 9 parts of speech - article, adjective, noun, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, pronoun and interjection
- Accomplished in alphabetizing skills, dictionary and encyclopedia use
- Creative writing and editing
- Writing descriptive and expository paragraphs
- Mastery of manuscript and strong ability to use cursive

Mastery of statement, question, and exclamation sentences
Practicing sentence analysis up to and including direct object

Reading:

Sight word automaticity
Strong oral reading and comprehension skills (tested with DIBELS)
Individualized reading of books
Shared novels and discussions
Practice following written and oral directions
Basic book reports and oral reports
Strong oral retelling ability

Cultural:

Geography
Composition of the Earth and its atmosphere
Continents and oceans
Solar system
Awareness of other cultures
Needs of People
Material needs: food, clothing, shelter, transportation, communication, defense
Spiritual needs: beauty, art, religion, customs
Basic map skills: political and physical geography, flag study
Land and water forms

History:

Understand the concept of time
Origins of the Universe – creation stories
Formation of the Earth
AD/BC Time Line, Clock of eras
Origins of and types of calendars, days of the week, months of the year, seasons, holidays
Time Line of Life

Life Science

Organic/Inorganic classification
Classification of the living world – plants, animals, and other
Plant and animal identification stories
External and internal parts of plants and animals
Ecology – Web of life
Microscope studies
Biomes

Physical Chemistry

Introduce scientific method
States of matter
Basic circuits
Mechanics – gears, classes of levers
Element study, Bohr atomic model, Periodic table of elements

Geology / Earth science

Types of rocks
Rock cycle
Weather and climate
Water cycle

Independent Research

Children pursue and report on topics of their own choosing. Independent research combines skills and passions, building upon lessons in all curricular areas.

Enrichment

Art appreciation, art history, and art production
Crafts, sewing, cooking
Music appreciation, vocal music production including annual program
Physical Education
Spanish – oral, cultural appreciation

Nurturing Great People:

Meaningfully identify MSE's core values: Compassion, Attitude, Respect, and Excellence
(C.A.R.E.)

Confidence in own abilities

Concentrate for reasonable periods of time

Plan each day and reflect on accomplishments

Motivation in academic areas

Demonstrate age appropriate self-reliance

Accept and follow directions

Question directions in a respectful and appropriate manner

Choose and complete tasks independently

Think independently

Willing and able to problem solve

Demonstrate social cognition

Engage in positive social interactions

Contribute through concrete events to opportunities that better their local and global communities

Beyond the Walls:

Explore nature through walks and hikes

Overnight trip in the spring, third-years have an additional trip in the fall

Frequent outings and guest speakers that compliment the curriculum

