



Lower Elementary Curriculum

(Grades 1-3/Ages 6-9)

"Education between the ages of six to twelve is not a direct continuation of that which has gone before, though it is built upon that basis. Psychologically there is a decided change in personality, and we recognize that nature has made this a period for the acquisition of culture, just as the former was for the absorption of the environment." - Maria Montessori

The Lower Elementary program at Montessori Academy focuses on high academic achievement in a low-pressure environment. We provide an environment for each student to grow intellectually by using the principles and philosophy developed by Maria Montessori. The Elementary curriculum is based upon the [Five Great Lessons](#) developed by Maria Montessori. These lessons provide the basis for study of Mathematics, Language, Sciences and Arts. Children ages six through nine are eager to understand the connectedness of the world around them. These lessons, and the work that follows throughout the school year, allow children to develop a deep understanding of academic concepts as well as cultures of the world.

- The Lower Elementary Curriculum meets and/or exceeds Common Core Standards.
 - Daily PE is offered to all Lower Elementary students.
- Weekly Art/Music/Drama lessons are presented which connect to the cultural curriculum of the classroom.
 - Self-chosen research is encouraged. Students research and present their findings to the class.
- **Responsibility, kindness, hard work and perseverance are skills taught and encouraged all throughout the school year.**



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Lower Elementary Geometry

History of Geometry

- Story of Geometry

Lines

- Identify types of lines: curved, straight, horizontal, vertical, oblique, parts, divergent, convergent, consecutive, adjacent, perpendicular, oblique

Shapes

- Identify and compare different polygons
- Identify 3-D shapes
- Identify parallel sides in quadrilaterals
- Classification of triangles by sides and angles

Angles

- Identify parts of an angle
- Create types of angles
- Add angles
- Identify vertical and opposite angles
- Identify adjacent, complementary and supplementary angles

Perimeter and Area

- Calculate area and perimeter of quadrilaterals



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Lower Elementary Language Arts

History of Language

- Story and the history of written language

Proper Letter Formation

- Print and Cursive

Phonics

- Identify sounds and symbols
- Identify vowels and consonants

Basics of Reading/Spelling

- CVC words
- Blends
- Long vowel combinations
- Sight word fluency

Reading

- Ability to read fluently from a wide variety of books and material across the curriculum
- Comprehension development and skills
- Differentiating between fiction/non-fiction and genre identification
- Summarization skill development

- Understanding of plot, dialogue, characters, setting, conflict, resolution and theme
- Recognizes similes and personification

Word Study/Spelling

- Alphabetizing
- Compound Words
- Syllables
- Prefixes
- Suffixes
- Homonyms
- Homophones
- Homographs
- Contractions
- Synonyms and Antonyms
- Rhyming
- Classification

Grammar Study

- Understand, Use and Identify Parts of Speech: Noun, Article, Adjective, Verb, Adverb, Preposition, Pronoun, Conjunction, Interjection
- Proper use of capitalization
- Proper use of end marks in sentences

- Proper comma usage
- Possessives
- Plural nouns, Common/Proper Nouns, Positive, Comparative and Superlative Adjectives, Verb conjugation

Analyze and Diagram Simple Sentences

- Identify subject, predicate and direct objects

Research and Writing Skills

- Sentence writing
- Paragraph writing: topic sentence, details, conclusion
- Expository, Persuasive and Narrative writing
- Organization skills
- Multi-paragraph writing
- Poetry writing
- Letter Writing

Reference Skills

- Dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedias, atlases, newspapers, internet



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Lower Elementary Mathematics

History of Mathematics

- Story of and history of early numbering systems

Recognition, Place Value and Patterns

- Read and write numbers in standard and expanded notation up to trillions
- Greater than/less than/equal
- Recognize patterns in numbers
- Identify odd and even numbers
- Sequence/Skip Count by 2-10

Addition

- Add numbers into millions with regrouping
- Memorization of addition facts
- Word problems

Subtraction

- Subtract numbers into millions with regrouping
- Memorization of subtraction facts
- Word problems

Multiplication

- Multiply numbers into millions by single digit - triple digit multiplier
- Memorization of multiplication facts
- Solves equations using binomials and trinomials
- Word problems

Division

- Multi-digit division
- Long Division
- Memorization of division facts
- Word problems

Fractions

- Creates and writes fractions from whole to tenths
- Creates and identifies mixed, improper and proper fractions
- Add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominator
- Multiply and divide fractions by whole numbers

Graphing

- Use bar and line graphs to show data

Measurement

- Linear: standard and metric
- Volume: metric and standard
- Temperature: standard and metric
- Weight: standard and metric
- Time: tells time to the minute, understanding of days, weeks, year
- Money: identification, operations with money, equivalencies, makes change



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Lower Elementary Science

Great Lessons

- Story of the Universe
- Story of Life

Earth Science

- Solar system
- Earth's formation
- Atmosphere
- Movement of Earth and seasons
- Volcanoes, mountains, rocks and minerals
- Biomes of the World
- Identify and locate land and water forms
- Identify parts of a river
- Understanding of erosion
- Understanding of the water cycle
- Food chains, pollution, recycling and composting

Botany

- Understands relationship between plants, sun, earth and people
- Understands parts and functions of plants
- Understands different propagation methods of plants
- Able to identify and classify plants of a variety of biomes

Zoology

- Understands parts and characteristics of vertebrates and invertebrates
- Able to classify animals according to characteristics
- Understands the basic needs of animals
- Able to identify and classify animals of a variety of biomes

Scientific Method

- Complete experiments and scientific demonstrations
- Formulate hypothesis and evaluate results



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Lower Elementary Social Studies

Great Lessons

- Story of Humans

Map Skills

- Relationship between globes and maps
- Identify continents, oceans, and directions
- Find locations on maps
- Identify countries from each continent
- Identify states and capitals of the USA
- Use various maps to gather information: physical, political, climate, biome, resource, road, topographical

Common Human Needs

- Identify the common needs of humans
- Study of how needs are met
- Study how needs impact human activity

Social and Economic Geography

- Understands the traditions of many countries
 - o History and meaning of flag
 - o Anthems and pledges
 - o Language
 - o Music
 - o Art
 - o Dance
 - o Food
 - o Celebrations
- Understands that regions and traditions influence human needs

- Understands relationship between people and the environment

History

- Understands different ways to record passage of time
 - o Order of months
 - o Order of days of the week
 - o Understands history of oneself
 - o History of one's family
- History of Human Beings
- Appreciation for Indigenous North Americans
- Appreciation for different periods in American history