

## Lower Elementary Curriculum Ages 6 through 9 years

Dr. Montessori recognized the interconnectedness of all things and founded the Elementary program on the principle of "Cosmic Education." The integrated curriculum is designed to spark the interest of the child in knowledge, to nourish the child's creativity, and to inspire the child's discovery of the world.

The Cultural area integrates geography, history, cultural studies, and science. Study of these subjects establishes an awareness of the history of life, how things came to be, how the earth functions, and how humans meet their fundamental needs. The activities are designed to develop a clear sense of time and to present the story of the universe and human civilization. The big picture is presented through impressionistic stories that stimulate the child's interest and imagination. The student's mind is opened to an understanding of the world, to the effect that plants and animals have had on the world, and to an awareness of how humans transformed the world.

Geography and History are linked through the lessons of customs, housing, food, government, industry, the arts, clothing and defense throughout human history. Studies in physical geography begin with the formation of the earth and delve into aspects of earth topography as a geographical influence on developing civilizations. History is the exploration and appreciation of the past and shows the child the greatness of humans and their role in the evolution of cultures. It is through the study of different cultures that we learn not only what is different between cultures, but ultimately what unites us as global citizens.

The Science curriculum includes biology, zoology, chemistry, physics, geology, and astronomy. Our goal is to cultivate the child's fascination with the universe through materials that are designed to stimulate the children's curiosity and encourage their determination to discover the facts for themselves. Students are encouraged to observe, analyze, measure, classify, experiment, and predict. The science curriculum fosters a clear-thinking approach to gathering information and problem solving.

Language is a tool of one's culture, a system of communication, and an expression of the individual person. The child explores the reasoning underlying the facts of language, the origins and the development of language. They come to understand and appreciate the power of language to communicate the present and the past, and to project to the future. Reading, writing, and all aspects of grammar are interrelated throughout the elementary curriculum.

The goal for the area of Mathematics is the development of mathematical thinking skills. The Montessori math materials provide opportunities to develop precise and logical thought patterns, and the hands-on materials make abstract concepts concrete. Core math skills functions are mastered and the students internalize the concepts of those processes, handling whole and fractional numbers into the millions. Our elementary students develop a sound foundation in mathematics and geometry.

The Arts are incorporated in the entire curriculum. Creative expression is one of the modes for exploring and expanding lessons in geography, history, science, language arts, and mathematics.

The integration of all the areas of the elementary curriculum helps further develop each child's social, intellectual, emotional, and organizational habits. Through discovery, exploration, repetition, and determination, each child at The Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes strives to become a life-long learner.



## Curriculum Outline

### LANGUAGE ARTS

#### Great Lesson: The Story of Writing

- Reading: Phonetic studies, whole word recognition, reading comprehension, reference materials
- Grammar: Word analysis, word study skills, punctuation, dictionary skills, sentence analysis
- Spelling and vocabulary
- Handwriting Skills: Modern cursive form, lower/upper case, penmanship
- Writing: Basic research and library skills, creative writing, biographies, compositions, poetry, letter writing and book reports

### MATHEMATICS

#### Great Lesson: The Story of Numerals

- Math Concepts and Counting
- Operations/Computations with whole numbers: Decimal system, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
- Memorization of basic math facts: Addition, subtraction, and multiplication
- Measurement: Time and money; linear and volume
- Introduction: Positive numbers; squaring and cubing; decanomials; problem solving

Geometry: Classification and nomenclature of plane and solid forms, classification and nomenclature of angles, triangles, polygons, lines, quadrilaterals

### CULTURAL SUBJECTS

#### Great Lessons: Coming of the Universe, Timeline of Life, Coming of Humans

- History: Development and adaptations of life forms from cell to human; fundamental needs of humans; timeline of life studies and research; time and calendar study
- Cultural Studies: Units on other cultures; U.S. Presidents, flags, famous people, biographical studies; study of individual continent
- Geography/Mapping: Knowledge of land and water forms; knowledge of continents; knowledge of United States and capitals; research work
- Science: Solar systems and universe—sun, earth, and planetary studies
- Life Science: Botany and Zoology—nomenclature, classification, research
- Physical Science: Introduction to physics and experiments
- Geology and Ecology: Environmental systems; knowledge of geology nomenclature