

Upper Elementary Curriculum Scope & Sequence

Literacy

Our curriculum, which builds on the literal and sensorial lessons and materials of earlier Montessori curricula, focuses on strengthening abstract awareness in:

- Inferencing, predicting, and other metacognitive skill sets
- Summarizing
- Responding to comprehension questions using a universal response strategy
- Understanding vocabulary in context
- Annotating
- Figurative language and literary devices (sensory imagery, similes, metaphors...)
- Making text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self connections
- Book Club-style novel studies
- Socratic seminars
- Expository, opinion, narrative, persuasive, and creative writing
- Isolating main ideas and supporting details
- Crafting topic sentences
- Fluency
- Morphemic Awareness
- Grammar conventions

Geography

Political Geography

- Political and Physical Map studies
 - Map and Atlas skills
 - American history through literature and discussion of historical fiction and related current events

Physical Geography

- Major geographic features – land and water forms, hydrosphere, mountains
- World Continent and Country Studies
- Imaginary Island

Math

- Focus on math vocabulary and language
- Concrete materials
- Varied resources to supplement instruction
- Memorization of multiplication facts
- Problem-solving strategies
- Focus on computation and application of concepts
- Mastery of all whole-number operations
- Introduction to all decimal and fraction operations
- Small group, whole group, and individual lessons as needed
- Introduction of test-taking skills
- Math Extensions:
 - Geometry – concrete application and derivation of formulas
 - Measurement
 - Temperature
 - Time and Money
 - Probability
 - Building responsibility with each year

History

- History of the Universe and living things - Clock of Eras
- Timelines
- Basic/Fundamental needs of all people, now and throughout history
- Timeline of humans - human migration
- Study of Civilizations
- Individual research projects - including hands-on projects from various continents and cultures

Science

- Use of Scientific Method
- Study of Scientists, Inventors, and Inventions
- Hands-on experiments and demonstrations to illustrate scientific concepts
- **Physics:**
 - Simple machines
 - Motion and forces
 - Electromagnetic spectrum
 - Sound
 - Electricity & Magnetism
- **Chemistry:**
 - Elements and Periodic Chart
 - Chemical reactions and Acids and Bases
 - Changes in states of matter
 - Bohr's model
- **Geology:**
 - Classification of rocks and sedimentation
 - Composition of the Geological Fossil Periods
- Related reading for information, research reports, and creative projects

Biology

Life Sciences

- Organization and Needs of Kingdoms of Life
 - Taxonomy of all living organisms (The Tree of Life)
 - Levels of Biological Organization
 - Scientific classification of plants and animals
 - Research on Kingdoms

Zoology

- Vital Functions: nervous system, reproduction, circulation, respiration, skeletal, and muscular
- Adaptation and Evolution
 - Natural Selection
- Observation of specimens of all major animal groupings
 - External and internal parts of all major animal groups, from invertebrates to mammals

Human Anatomy

- Introduction to the systems of the human body: skeletal, muscular, respiratory, circulatory, digestive, reproductive, excretory, and endocrine

Botany

- Classification of the plant kingdom
- Vital functions of plants and the chemical exchanges during photosynthesis

Research

- Reading for information, research, creative projects, note-taking skills, and scientific vocabulary
- Microscope Study
- Nature Journaling and outdoor observation

Study and Organizational Skills

- Class Meetings
- Student planners
- Filing of work- building a portfolio
 - Daily, weekly, and monthly assignments
 - Beginning note-taking instruction
 - Research skills - reading and note-taking, paraphrasing
 - Paragraph construction
 - Collaboration
 - Cooperative Learning groups
 - Organization modeled and taught in each subject area
 - Leadership skills

Practical Life

- Age-appropriate activities – classroom jobs and monthly home assignments
- Annual Public Speaking Assignment
- Social problem-solving skills for emotional intelligence development
- Annual overnight field trip
- The oldest students have leadership roles
- Birthday celebrations

Annual Traditions

- Great Lessons repeated each year
- Various field trips connected to curricular content
- Musical
- Ski trips
- Research reports
- Special celebrations and invitations

Specials

- Art, music, fitness, Spanish, SEL, technology
- Recess/lunch