

# Montessori Early Learning Center & School of the Arts

## Lower Elementary Curriculum

- ❖ Language Arts
- ❖ Mathematics
- ❖ Science
- ❖ History & Geography
- ❖ The Arts
- ❖ Performing Arts
- ❖ Physical Education and Health
- ❖ Spanish
- ❖ Latin

**Language Arts:** The Lower Elementary classroom is a place for children to learn and experience the power of language. With guidance, children build their base of knowledge and learn to express their thinking through reading, writing, speaking, analyzing and assessing their own comprehension. The curriculum includes spelling, vocabulary and grammar, sentence and paragraph structure, and other fundamentals of language. Language arts are woven into studies of history, science, math, literature, geography, art and music.

We present a combination of approaches to language arts including phonics, whole language, responding to textual clues, comprehension exercises and the study of authentic literature. Children apply their developing knowledge through:

- ❖ Journals
- ❖ Original stories
- ❖ Poetry
- ❖ Book reports
- ❖ Dramatic interpretations
- ❖ Storytelling
- ❖ Independent research studies
- ❖ Oral presentations

**Mathematics:** The study of mathematics in the Lower Elementary classroom is an active, hands-on exploration. Resource materials allow students to develop an in-depth understanding of fundamental concepts and operations. As they progress along the continuum of skills and concepts, children learn to document their thinking and explain their strategies for solving increasingly complex problems. The memorization of math facts becomes an essential tool for taking on new challenges.

Concepts of Numbers:

- ❖ Even and odd
- ❖ Skip counting
- ❖ Formation of numbers
- ❖ Decimal system
- ❖ Commutative, distributive and associative laws
- ❖ Multiples and factors
- ❖ Squaring and powers of numbers

### Understanding Quantities:

- ❖ Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- ❖ Fractions
- ❖ Estimation
- ❖ Rounding

### Mathematics of Currency

### Mathematics of Time

### Measurement:

- ❖ English system
- ❖ Temperature

### Geometry:

- ❖ Solid figures
- ❖ Two-dimensional figures
- ❖ Lines
- ❖ Angles
- ❖ Equivalence
- ❖ Symmetry
- ❖ Open and closed figures
- ❖ Perimeter
- ❖ Area
- ❖ Language of geometry

**Science:** In our Lower Elementary classroom, five central areas of interconnected studies, referred to as the “Great Lessons,” provide children with the fundamental concepts of science and reveal interrelationship of science with history, language, culture, and art. The Great Lessons are introduced in the form of stories that capture the wonder and excitement of children’s imaginations, inspiring them to develop a global perspective as they reflect, question and explore.

### Areas of study include:

- ❖ Introduction to the Five Kingdoms: Monera, Protista, Fungus, Plant, Animal
- ❖ Introduction to zoology
- ❖ The animal kingdom vertebrates and invertebrates
- ❖ Introduction to botany – the plant kingdom
- ❖ Fundamental needs of humans (time line)

**History and Geography:** “The Great Lessons” provide children with a sense of history, the development of civilizations and culture, and geography, the sciences, language, culture and art. Introduced in the form of stories that capture the wonder and excitement of children’s imaginations, these lessons inspire children to develop a global perspective as they reflect, question and explore.

As with their examination of science, children proceed to study increasing levels of detail and complexity within each academic discipline with the stories as their guide. Who were the first humans? Where did numbers and letters come from? These questions and many more become the focus of children’s research and independent investigations. This is how children construct a solid foundation of knowledge and skills they will need to become contributing members of a global society.

## History:

- ❖ Story of the universe
- ❖ Timeline of humans
- ❖ History of language
- ❖ History of mathematics
- ❖ Concepts of time – B.C. and A.D., past/present/future
- ❖ Timelines – creation, evolution, early humans, fundamental needs of humans, inventions
- ❖ Age 6 – Current Events
- ❖ Age 7 – Social Studies
- ❖ Age 8 – SC History

## Geography:

### *Physical*

- ❖ Continents and Oceans
- ❖ Land and water forms; island/lake, peninsula/gulf, isthmus/strait, cape/bay
- ❖ Landforms: mountains, faults, volcanoes
- ❖ Geology: rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, precious stones
- ❖ Solar System
- ❖ Sun and Earth
- ❖ Climatic Zones

### *Political*

- ❖ The world: countries in each continent
- ❖ Maps: direction, location, visual referencing
- ❖ Flags

**The Arts:** Art is a language that comes naturally to children, and the language of art is spoken at MELC from Early Childhood through the Upper Elementary years. The Arts at MELC provide children with rich and varied experiences. Lessons are designed to teach children a discreet set of artistic principles and techniques, and also to allow students to connect their lives as artists to their classroom themes and projects. A wide variety of arts classes are also offered as private classes in special interest areas.

## Arts

- ❖ Visual – Fall & Summer/Variety of Mediums
- ❖ Dance History
- ❖ Art History
- ❖ Music
  - Chorus
  - Music History

**Performing Arts:** The MELC performing arts school takes a hands-on approach to learning. Students work to foster an understanding and appreciation of the arts and an emphasis is placed on making connections among music, dance, drama, visual arts, and emotion. Students are encouraged to share their musical and dramatic endeavors during recitals and various other performance opportunities throughout the year.

**Physical Education and Health:** We encourage a love of physical learning and discovery. Our physical education program uses state-of-the-art facilities to develop lifelong skills of fitness. Beginning in the Lower Elementary years, children participate in summer swimming programs and year round soccer. Children also have daily free time on our 3 ½ acre well-equipped playground.

## Health:

As children in Lower Elementary begin to develop an understanding of self and human body, MELC's science and physical education curricula combine to explore health and nutrition. Students in Lower Elementary study health and nutrition each year, focusing on the following concepts:

- ❖ Balanced meals and snack
- ❖ The importance of nutrition
- ❖ Importance of the human body
- ❖ Foods that provide good sources of nutrients
- ❖ How nutrients provide energy

**Spanish:** Language proficiency is a tool for communicating and cultivating connections. Spanish is taught at MELC beginning at the 6-9 level and continuing through the Upper Elementary grades.

Studies show that children who begin a second language at an early age achieve a high degree of proficiency, gain a better understanding of the English language, improve their overall performance, become more flexible thinkers, use critical thinking skills effectively, and display a better understanding and appreciation of cultural differences and social interactions.

**Latin:** Latin is offered at Lower and Upper Elementary levels by invitation, depending on the level of mechanics of English