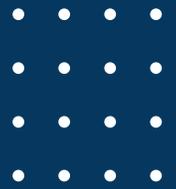


# THE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM



Children in grades 1-6 are building key mental frameworks for understanding the world. The Montessori approach, Cosmic Education, uses overarching stories to help children see interconnections between all subjects and feel how each learning area touches their own lives.



*"The secret of good teaching is to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flaming imagination. Our aim therefore is not merely to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his inmost core."*

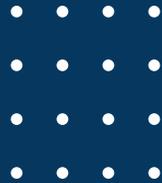
--Dr. Maria Montessori, *To Educate the Human Potential*



Montessori Partnerships for Georgia

# Language Arts

The Story of the Ox and the House awakens children to the amazing power of the alphabet to allow people to share ideas across time and space. Language Arts is woven throughout each child's day, with support for developing fluent reading, expressive and correct writing, an understanding of grammatical structures, and confident speaking and listening skills.



The Montessori language arts curriculum includes:

- A phonics-based approach to reading
- Writing in all subject areas
- Opportunities for self-expression
- English grammar and sentence construction
- Student-driven research on topics of interest
- Practice giving oral presentations



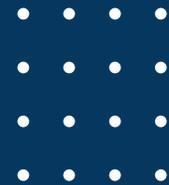
# Mathematics

The math curriculum is introduced by the Story of Signs and Symbols, which connects children to the power that mathematical understanding has brought to humans since the earliest times. Math lessons cover arithmetic, geometry, and algebra. Children can work at their own pace through carefully structured learning sequences in each area, developing deep understanding as they exercise their naturally mathematical minds.



Montessori math work includes:

- Activities for understanding the **decimal system and place value**
- Engaging, varied activities for understanding **addition, subtraction, multiplication and division** and **memorizing math facts**
- Hands-on materials for exploring and understanding **multiples, squaring, cubing, fractions, decimals, algebra and geometry**



# Science and Social Studies

*"The stars, earth, stones, life of all kinds form a whole in relation to each other, and so close is this relation that we cannot understand a stone without some understanding of the great sun! No matter what we touch, an atom or a cell, we cannot explain it without knowledge of the wide universe. What better answer can we give to those seekers for knowledge?"*

—Dr. Maria Montessori, *To Educate the Human Potential*

Two great stories— The Story of the Coming of the Universe and the Story of Life— lay the groundwork for all our work in history, geography, earth science and life science. Children conduct experiments, research historical figures, and explore timelines as they develop a deep understanding of the Earth, its living and nonliving parts, and human history.



Photo courtesy of Kulima Montessori School

The Montessori curriculum takes full advantage of children's powerful imagination, using stories and picture charts to help students imagine events far away in space and time.

Montessori guides (teachers) offer key lessons that unlock broad areas of learning, leaving lots of room for curiosity and wonder. Then they support children's own research and explorations to fill in the details.

# Field Studies



Photo courtesy of Kulima Montessori School

The four walls of a classroom are not large enough to satisfy an elementary child's curiosity and hunger for learning! Throughout the year, small groups of students plan field studies to go out into the community and learn more about a topic they are investigating.

With adult guidance, the children identify a place they would like to go, plan their transportation, make a budget request to the class, make the phone calls to arrange the visit, and lead their trip (accompanied but not directed by an adult).

Planning and carrying out a field study is a tremendous boost to children's skills and confidence!