

Light of the World Academy

KDG/Elementary Curriculum

Reading and Writing

Reading is of fundamental importance during the kindergarten and elementary years. Our goal is that each child will become a fluent, confident and independent reader, who enjoys reading. The Montessori phonic and whole language approach is used to teach children at their own individual level. The reading material is carefully integrated into all parts of the curriculum.

We use modern curriculum press and the SRA Reading Program. The children will also learn how to do book reports, both written and oral. Children will participate in writing, which will include reading response and free writing.

Grammar

The student is presented with the functions of all nine parts of speech: noun, article, adjective, verb, adverb, conjunction, preposition, pronoun and interjection. Later, the student is presented with the work of the Grammar Boxes. This work reinforces the function of each part of speech.

Penmanship

We use the complete "Handwriting without Tears" program from preschool through the elementary level. After they've mastered each printing step, they will move on to cursive writing.

Mathematics

The single most important concept for a young math student to learn is the organization of the decimal system. This concept is first presented in preschool and strengthened through a variety of materials at the elementary level.

The student is introduced to the concept of all of the operations of arithmetic: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. As the child's mathematical skills evolve, the student works more intensely with multiplication. With the Montessori materials within the child's reach, the principles of squaring and cubing are taught.

When the student has a firm understanding of an operation he or she begins to move toward abstraction. As always, the most important part of any lesson in a Montessori classroom is the concept.

Geometry

The student brings with him or her a rich experience from the preschool years, the child already has had a great deal of sensorial experience with geometric shapes. The student works through the geometric nomenclature learning the name, etymology and definition of the following basic concepts: lines, angles, figures, triangles and quadrilaterals. The child has the opportunity to construct and explore these principles using the Geometric Stick Box. Once again, the emphasis is on the child's exploration.

History

In many ways, history is the core of the elementary curriculum. History is taught from the big picture to the small. The child begins with the study of the universe and ends up with the study of specific peoples and cultures. The student becomes familiar with the distinction between B.C. and A.D. Later, the child studies the Fundamental Needs of People throughout time. By tracing how people have met their physical and spiritual needs, the child moves through time. Ancient civilizations and American history is part of the curriculum.

Geography

The student will learn basic knowledge of the earth's physical features as they appear on a globe: land and water, the continents and the oceans. After understanding the globe, the child moves to a planisphere and once again labels the continents and oceans. The student continues his/her work with the maps of the world.

Later, the student chooses a continent and does an in-depth study of it: the countries, capitals, languages, economics (products), government and cultures. He/she also puts to use the knowledge of land forms by building a topographical map.

Science

The science emphasis for the student in the classroom is biology - both botany and zoology. The student is introduced to the Five Kingdoms - the most recent scientific classification system. He/she then works with the vertebrates, invertebrates and botany nomenclature. They'll have experience maintaining a vegetable and flower garden from seed to harvest. Students will also make full use of the school's Nature Trail, identifying the various plants, trees, and other living things.

Later, he/she will study chemistry, the periodic table, and atoms. He/she will be able to conduct many science experiments, as well as physics, force, and motion.

Technology

Each elementary student will have their own laptop. Technology instruction includes the use and care for their in-school computer. Setting bookmarks, writing letters using Written Wizard, choosing fonts, letter size, colors, and margins is explored. Each student will do power points and slide shows and learn to download from the Internet.

Foreign Language

The student will continue the Spanish curriculum that started at the kindergarten level. The student will have weekly instruction.

Music and Art

The student will participate in music instruction a minimum of once a week. The main focus of music class is to teach each student how to sing with an appropriate and healthy singing voice. The student is exposed to dozens of other musical activities ranging from listening/dancing to music, playing instruments, reading and composing music and learning about the backgrounds of the various American and multi-cultural songs that we sing. All activities fall under the MENC National Standards for Music Education.

The student will be introduced to both art and art appreciation. In art class, he/she will have opportunities to explore a variety of mediums including weaving, painting, drawing, sculpting,

and more. As we study the masters, the students will have the chance to create their own masterpiece in the style of Picasso, Van Gogh, etc.

Physical Education

Physical Education is an important part of our curriculum. Physical education is broken up into six-week units, engaging in a different activity during each one. The units include karate, swimming, soccer, aerobics and more.

Practical Life

Practical Life is one of the most important parts of the preschool curriculum. It retains its importance at the elementary level. In the class, practical life means caring for the environment completely. The students clean their rooms daily. In addition, they may be responsible for animal and plant care. They'll also share responsibility for playground and the nature trail maintenance. They'll also be introduced to different techniques for sewing, knitting, and crocheting, and will learn about cooking and following recipes.

Time Management/Organizational Skills

Each child will receive an age-appropriate Day Planner. The teacher will write a weekly schedule in each child's planner and the student will be expected to carry out those daily tasks. These are referred to as "Must-Do's." The student will then note in the Day Planner when each of those tasks are completed (and have it initialed by a teacher), which teaches time-management, organizational skills and responsibility.