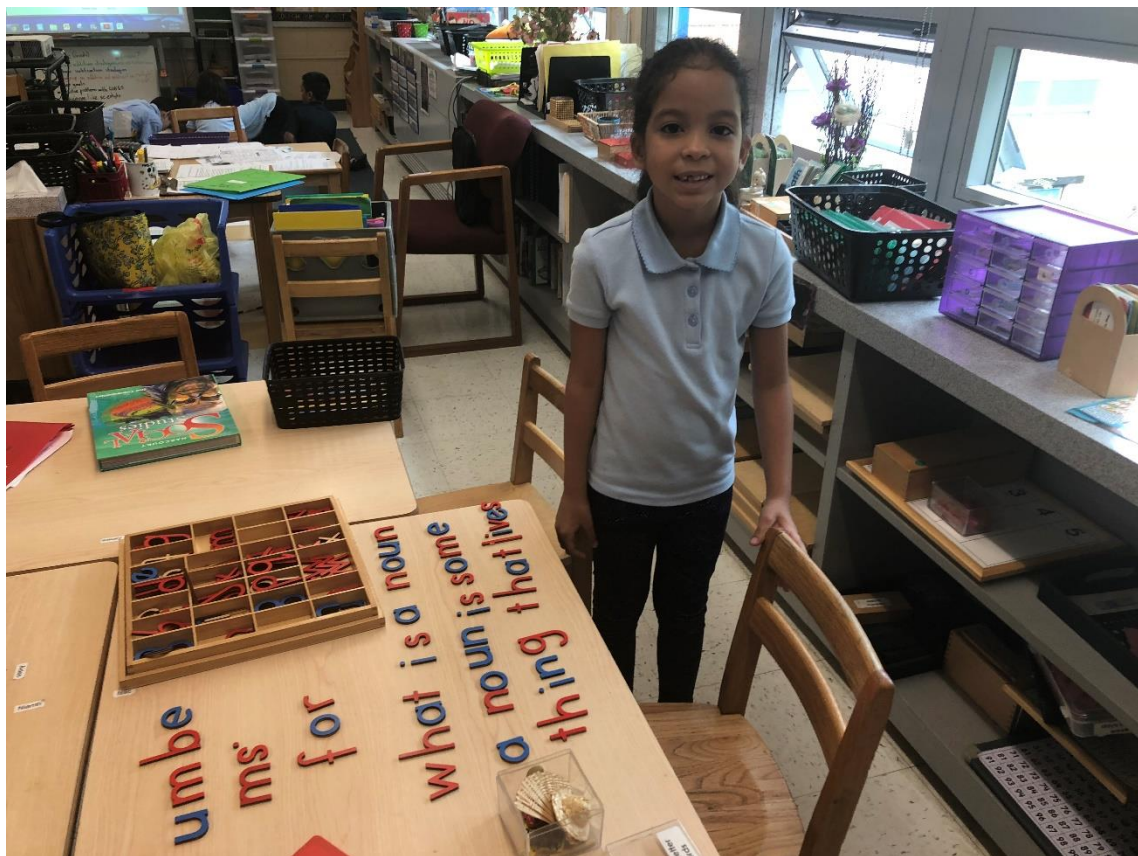


Montessori Language

We tackle the Next Generation Learning focus on depth of studies by laying the foundation for language and reading. Materials such as the Small Movable Alphabet support phonics and fluency, leading to an ability to focus on content rather than decoding the words themselves.



Montessori Math

It is in the primary grade years that we hone our skills. Knowing why we calculate the way that we do allows us to be better problem solvers.

Montessori materials such as the Golden Beads and the Stamp Game bring us from concrete representations of numbers to abstract thinking. Students use these materials to conquer higher level arithmetic while being able to place the focus more heavily on problem solving.



Montessori in Science

It is so important to use our skills in the content areas. Montessori provides children an opportunity to use what we have learned in the areas of Reading and English Language Arts to better understand the world around us. External parts and body functions of common vertebrates help us to learn about the classification of plants and animals. This leads to an ability to relate to the world around us and an appreciation of the importance of all of nature.



Montessori Cultural Studies

We use our reading, writing, and mathematics skills to create research documents starting in first grade. With the help of the Montessori Puzzle maps, the organization of our planet is opened up to us. Puzzle maps are used to learn about geography and our place in the world. They are also used to research countries, using our ELA skills in to discover more about the real world.



Montessori and Community

We learn how to problem solve and work together as a team using the Montessori Community building format. This give us life skills such as working toward consensus and gathering input from all members of the community. It builds respect and a feeling of safety within our classrooms. This environment leads to greater risk taking and support among peers.



Montessori Philosophy

A Montessori Education

By Dr. Ginny Riga

Montessori education is a system for the education of children from birth through age eighteen. It is based upon principals developed by Dr. Maria Montessori throughout her life.

The focus of this system is the development of materials, educational techniques, and observations, which support the natural development of children. The teacher in a Montessori classroom serves less as an “instructor” and more as a guide and facilitator. Children are encouraged to “learn how to learn,” thus gaining independence and self-confidence. Because the method is based upon developmentally appropriate activities, the child often learns through the process of education by doing.

The Montessori classroom is designed to accommodate various stages of development in children, which occurs in roughly three-year cycles. From birth to three years of age the child is absorbing directly from the environment, almost as a sponge. It is during this phase that many language and motor skills are acquired without formal instruction.

During the second phase from 3-6 years of age, the child reaches a different stage in which repetition and manipulation of the environment are critical to the development of concentration, coordination, independence, and a sense of order. The child learns skills for everyday living, sorting, grading, classifying – all of which lead to the development of writing, reading, and a mathematical mind.

When the child reaches the next phase of development, ages 6-9, the imagination of the child is the key to learning. At this age there is an increasing awareness of the world and an interest in its wonders. The classroom can now excite the child by using this increased imagination to explore the universe. During this phase the child is presented with “the big picture,” an overview of the relationship of things. The curriculum works from the large concept to the more refined. Concepts are introduced through hands-on materials that encourage and engage the child and assist in an understanding of concepts before they are committed to memory.

As the child enters the next phase, from 9-12 years, the world is an ever-expanding place. The horizons of the imagination increase and concepts may be presented and abstracted with fewer manipulative materials. The students’ hands-on activities broaden in scope and include practical application outside the classroom. Projects become more involved and diverse in nature.

Because the child goes through these various stages, Montessori classrooms are organized into three-year age groupings. This allows a greater flexibility in meeting each child’s individual needs and permits the child to develop with fewer social transitions. The environment becomes the “teacher,” with the child as the initiator of his/her own education

Primary Grades 1, 2, and 3