



Mission

We provide a warm, safe, and supportive community that nurtures a lifelong love of learning. We honor each child's path as they become independent, confident, and compassionate individuals, while learning to care for themselves, others, and the world.

Elementary Curriculum for Children Ages 6 to 12 Years Old

Amherst Montessori School's Elementary program unites Lower (grades 1 through 3) and Upper Elementary (grades 4 through 6) students in one classroom providing Montessori's characteristic mixed aged environment where peer-to-peer mentoring, leadership, and collaboration abound. The intentionally intimate learning environment with under twenty students means that each child's learning is individualized.

Inquiry is the hallmark of a Montessori Elementary education. This is a time for students to use the skills they have gained in our program to answer their many questions about how they fit into their surrounding environment - in the Elementary classroom and the greater world around them.

Children ages 6 to 12 are constantly thinking about the why and how of what they encounter in the world and the Montessori Elementary curriculum capitalizes on this natural enthusiasm for learning in numerous ways, but is grounded in what we call the Great Lessons. These incredible lessons are part experiment, part dramatic storytelling, and are designed to ignite each student's curiosity about the past, present, and future of our world. The Great Lessons introduce our main curriculum areas - culture (biology, geography, and history), mathematics, and language - and are presented multiple times during a child's elementary tenure to offer increasingly deeper explorations of all areas of the curriculum throughout first through sixth grades.

Many parents considering Montessori may think of the hands-on materials used in our classrooms. Concrete materials are offered throughout our Elementary program as students are introduced to new concepts in mathematics, geometry, grammar, word study, language, and the cultural curriculum. Younger elementary students continue to use concrete, self-correcting materials, while older students who begin to reach abstract level thinking shed concrete materials when no longer needed.

Elementary children are often concerned with fairness and equity, and explore moral behavior through games and organized social activities, complete with rules and hierarchies, often invented together on the playground and during recess. As one of our teachers likes to say, "Fair isn't always equal." In addition to the academic curriculum, students in the Amherst Montessori Elementary program benefit from a robust social emotional curriculum to explore these concepts and help each child learn to self-advocate, develop flexible thinking skills, respectfully disagree, and truly listen with empathy and understanding.

The Enrichment curricula serve to support the whole child in body, mind, and spirit. Elementary students participate weekly in art, physical education, Spanish, and a hands-on creative exploration of self-sufficiency through "Homesteading."

The entire school community - teaching staff, administrators, and specialists - embraces the spirit of the elementary child and works to encourage the development of independence, compassion, and confidence throughout the 6 to 12 curriculum.

Upon completion of the Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary three-year cycles, children are expected to be meeting the following outcomes. These outcomes meet or exceed the Massachusetts Common Core curriculum standards.

Grace and Courtesy and Community Building Skills

<i>Lower Elementary</i>	<i>Continuing in Upper Elementary</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take initiative with new learning experiences ● Focus independently ● Express emotions in respectful and meaningful ways ● Care for and respect the wishes and needs of others while also attending to their own ● Empathize and understand that fair and equal are not the same thing, and that different rules apply to different situations ● Understand that limits and boundaries of each individual differ and deserve respect ● Communicate respectfully with adult members of the community ● Be accountable for their own decisions and actions ● Take actions that benefit the community ● Understand that flexibility, risk-taking, and trust are necessary for best work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Navigate group work through the use of compromise, problem solving skills with a solution oriented attitude ● Engage in respectful conversation without the need for teacher intervention ● Regulate self in a group discussion of a prescribed subject matter ● Demonstrate presentation skills by communicating the outcome of a large project in a succinct and effective way with clarity, poise and confidence, understanding the audience and keeping its attention

Work Habits and Executive Functioning Skills

<i>Lower Elementary</i>	<i>Continuing in Upper Elementary</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accept direction as needed and gain independence as ready ● Organize papers, binders, notebooks, and cubbies in a manner that supports their learning style and level of independence ● Track and complete assignments in partnership with the Guide ● Manage a daily and/or weekly agenda in partnership with the Guide ● Form questions and organize research on a topic in partnership with a Guide ● Reflect on learning strengths and areas for growth ● Follows a task through to completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manage time throughout the day, week, month through the use of an agenda ● Set academic goals for oneself and reflect on accomplishment ● Apply research to deepen understanding of a concept ● Use various sources including books and internet sites ● Discern a reliable from an unreliable source ● Take notes from a seminar and research ● Manage a large scale project through successful time and resource management

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Mathematics and Geometry Concepts

<i>Lower Elementary</i>	<i>Continuing in Upper Elementary</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math facts to 10 in all operations • Division showing all steps with materials • Multiplication with 2-digit multiplier with all steps using materials • Decimals in addition, multiplication and subtraction • Multiples and factors • Comparing numbers and fractions • Data and graphs • Fractions in addition, subtraction and multiplication with a whole number • Fraction equivalency • Word problems • Lines and angles • Negative integers in adding and subtracting • Add and subtract numbers into the millions without materials • Distributive multiplication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automaticity of math facts for (+-/x) • Long division with multiple digit divisor including decimals – no materials • Operations with positive and negative integers • Order of operations • Manipulation of variables in all operations (algebra) • Distributive property • Ratio • Fractions in all operations • Introduction to quadrants in Cartesian graphing • Simple probability • Positive and negative exponents in all operations • Square and cube rooting and understanding that that they are the inverse of squaring and cubing • Percent and its expression as fraction and decimal • Mean, median and mode • Generation and analysis patterns • Scientific notation • Absolute value • Perimeter of a variety of regular and irregular closed shapes • Area of polygons, circles and circular segments • Surface area of polyhedrons, spheres, cones, and cylinders • Use of protractor, compass and ruler

Language Concepts

<i>Lower Elementary</i>	<i>Continuing in Upper Elementary</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of speech (grammar boxes) • Compound words, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, prefixes and suffixes • Subject, direct object and predicate • Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences • With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing • Write five-paragraph informational essays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex sentences that include a variety of clauses • Parts of speech continues including verb types and conjugation • Write expository, persuasive, and descriptive essays: including introduction, organization of ideas, concepts and information, development of topic with relevant facts and providing a concluding statement; demonstration of editing skills and referencing texts to support analysis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons • Read at grade level and know and apply appropriate phonics, and word analysis in decoding words • Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson • Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers • Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language • Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events • Read fluently and accurately to support comprehension • Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization and punctuation: commas to separate items on a list, clauses and phrases and quotations, underlining, using italics or quotation marks to indicate titles • Spell words correctly, as appropriate for the child's grade • Use of Table of Contents, Index, Atlas, Dictionary, Thesaurus, Encyclopedia • Word study including spelling patterns, vowel teams, digraphs, blends, prefixes and roots • Print and cursive handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write narrative writing including techniques such as dialogue, pacing and description to develop events and characters, organizing an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically • MLA Bibliography format • Inference to understand literature more deeply • Simile, metaphor, symbolism, allusion, foreshadowing and able to recognize them in text • Comparing and contrasting multiple characters or settings and multiple texts within the same genre • Determining theme and how it is conveyed through particular details • Structure of a variety of texts including types of poetry, fiction and nonfiction • Integrating information from a variety of texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject • Multimedia components (graphics, sound) and visual displays in presentations when appropriate • Sequence ideas logically using appropriate facts and details • Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking including: conjunctions, prepositions, interjections, perfect, continuous and simple tense in all three times • Infer word meaning from context, etymology, or use appropriate support text to find meaning • Answer a question using paragraph form including an introductory and conclusion sentence
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Cultural Curriculum

<i>Lower Elementary</i>	<i>Continuing in Upper Elementary</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cultural themes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How humans affect change over time ○ Social evolution ○ Diversity in fulfilling human needs ○ Impacts of environment on human physical and social development ○ Impact of humans on the world ○ Impact of technology on human growth ○ Interdependence of all life forms 	
<p><u>History and Geography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continents, countries, cities, land and water forms 	<p><u>History and Geography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American History from Exploration in the Renaissance through the end of the

- Flag research
- How to read a map, use a legend and how to create a map
- Representing time
- The needs of humans and how they have changed over time
- The timeline of life with knowledge of concepts of geological change, evolution and climate change
- The sun and earth relationship (night and day, seasons, climate)
- Land forms
- Geological principles including types of rocks, rock cycle, volcanoes, tectonic plates, earthquakes, formation of mountains
- Nature of elements and their characteristics
- Economic geography
- Cultural studies

Physical Science

- Scientific method
- Energy and matter (states of matter, changes of states, inertia, gravity, buoyancy, density, chemical and physical change etc.)
- Simple machines

Biology

- External parts of animals and plants and their functions
- Classification of living things in Kingdoms
- Classification of animals to class

Revolutionary War

- The Middle Ages
- Ancient Civilizations in both the New World and the Old World
- First civilizations
- Human evolution
- Human migratory patterns
- How changes in land and water formations affect changes in civilizations
- Geographic and political boundaries

Physical Science

- Newton's Laws
- Matter and energy
- The periodic table of elements and how they interact with each other
- Biogeochemical cycles and the interconnectedness between living and non-living things

Biology

- Food chains/webs
- Photosynthesis
- Linnaean taxonomy
- Functions of the cell
- Functions of the systems of the human body
- Scientific method of inquiry
- Experimenting to prove a hypothesis