



ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

GRADES 1 – 6

The Elementary Program at the Christian Montessori School at Lake Norman is individually paced, uses a multi-sensory approach to learning and provides many opportunities for students of diverse learning styles. The development of self-motivation, independence, curiosity and cooperation is promoted in a relaxed, but academic, atmosphere.

Practical Life

Practical Life Activities are unique in that they are purposeful and calming. If you were to observe a child during practical life work, you would notice a high level of concentration, a sense of order being developed, pride is taken in a job well done, there is an increased sense of independence by learning to care for oneself and the environment, there is respect for the environment, classmates and teachers, and there is a noticed improvement in fine motor movement.

Language Arts

Lower Elementary language arts combines Montessori manipulative materials and workbooks to reinforce language skills. Materials are designed to enable the student to build sequential skills and allow for needed repetition. Students learn from the materials, each other and adults.

Reading builds many different skills. Students begin decoding with the Montessori materials, progress to phonetic and then practice comprehension skills with SRA Readers and Steck Vaughn workbooks. They read first to themselves, then to classmates and adults. Daily activities include: teachers reading to the students, students reading silently and students checking out books to read at home in the evening. An incentive program helps to encourage leisure reading.

Writing begins as soon as the student can identify the sounds in words. They write about their pictures, make cards, notes and stories and copy definition labels and poems. In Writing Workshops, students write about what they know best – their own experiences. The first graders learn punctuation and capitalization. Students also learn to write simple reports, by incorporating facts they have heard or read.

Grammar is introduced through Montessori materials, games and exercises beginning in kindergarten, and continuing through the elementary school.

The Fourth, Fifth and Sixth graders are provided many opportunities to exercise their listening abilities through receiving information in oral form. Speech stimulation activities such as class discussion, report-giving, creative dramatics and conversations enable the students to become more proficient and comfortable in oral expression situations. Word attack and comprehension skills are stressed to foster independence in acquiring knowledge. Writing reinforces all other aspects of language arts. Spelling, punctuation and grammar skills help students gain writing proficiency developed by using a process approach from prewriting to authorship. Thus, through experience in a language-rich environment and the development of sequential skills the Upper Elementary student grows in language.

Mathematics

Montessori mathematics materials are the core of the Elementary math curriculum. The program emphasizes developing strong understanding of mathematical concepts and building computational skills after the concepts are in place.

The students manipulate rods, beads, wooden tiles, stamps and other materials to discover mathematical truths on their own. They touch and work with units, tens, hundreds and thousands before they associate the numerals with the quantities. The students use materials to perform all four operations until they understand the processes fully.

The materials are aesthetically pleasing, inviting and easily accessible. The students learn: one-to-one correspondence, numeration, processes of four operations, fractions, geometry, money, time, Roman numerals, equalities/inequalities, measurement and also how to solve simple word problems.

The Upper Elementary Students continue using the Montessori materials, which are rich in hands-on concrete experiences. Textbooks are used as supplementary resources and help reinforce skills. Games and logic problem solving are important are provided through individual and group experiences.

Christian Montessori School

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Science

Science at the Elementary level is basically experiential and involves working with and observing specimens of plants and animals in accordance with the Montessori syllabus. The Students learn to consider the needs of various plants and animals; ways these needs are satisfied; ways people can help plants and animals and ways they help us. Simple classification based on research include: the flora and fauna of various regions, the external parts of plants and their internal functions, vertebrates and invertebrates and their relationship to their environments. These areas of study are enhanced by field trips and hands on experiments. Upper Elementary extends this basic work by exploring the five kingdom classifications systems and conducting more extensive research projects.

Aspects of the physical sciences are also explored such as magnetism, and states of matter and gravity. Students are introduced to the technique of making predictions, observing, and recording data, illustrating and writing simple reports. Vocabulary development is an important part of this work. Science textbooks are also used to supplement our curriculum.

Social Studies

Social Studies is a cross-discipline program and is integrated with the student's daily reading, spelling, writing, math and science. Studies of other cultures and countries, both historic and present day, are explored through report making, projects, literature and field trips.

History

The history program includes the history of North Carolina and history of the United States, as well as Ancient Civilizations, African American History, Women's History and Native American History.

Computer Studies

The computer is an integral part of the elementary classroom. The computers are used as a resource in many areas; memorization of math facts, grammar, science, geography, creating reports, research spelling and reading composition.

Field Trips

All Elementary students participate in an overnight fall field trip to a regional facility designed specifically for the education of and enjoyment by children. The Upper Elementary levels (grades 4-6) will also participate in a spring trip typically related to the historical study of the year.

Special Events

Christian Montessori School feels it is important, as well as enjoyable, to include our students' families in such special events as: Parent Education Night, Peace Day, Thanksgiving, Parent/Grandparent Morning of Montessori, Celebration of Lights and other fun-filled occasions throughout the year.

Additional Education Opportunities

Christian Montessori School at Lake Norman also provides educational opportunities geared to cover the following areas of study: Physical Education, Music, Art, Spanish and Bible.

Elementary Community and Uniforms

Christian Montessori School believes that uniforms for the Primary age child, and older, allow for a more continuous learning environment and also encourages the student to find individuality within their inner self as opposed to outward appearances. For this reason, uniforms are required once the student enters the Primary classroom and through Elementary Levels. The school colors are navy and khaki.

Acceptable attire for boys are slacks, shorts, monogrammed navy or white turtlenecks, monogrammed short and long sleeve polo shirts. For girls: skirts, skorts, jumpers, slacks, shorts, monogrammed navy or white turtlenecks, monogrammed short and long sleeve polo shirts are acceptable as well as white blouses. White blouses and oxfords do not have to be monogrammed, if worn under a jumper. Monogrammed sweatshirts in navy and heather are acceptable for everyone. Monogrammed navy sweatpants, heather tee shirts and navy gym shorts are required for grades 1 thru 6th. These items are worn only on PE days.

Shoes are to be soft soled navy blue, black or brown. All white athletic tennis shoes are permissible.

Monogrammed wear may be obtained from our uniform vendor. More information regarding uniforms may be obtained from the school administration.