



Elementary

6 to 12 Years Old



Learning Rooted in Experiences and Environment

Activity is crucial. That is a key principle in Montessori learning - a method founded by Dr. Maria Montessori in 1907. She believed that individual pacing, paired with physical movement, was the key to unlocking critical thinking and responsibility.

All Montessori schools are crafted to feel more like homes than institutions. This creates a comfortable, community-based approach to learning.

Montessori schools create a trio of teachers: a mixed-age group of children, a hands-on environment, and an adult guide (or teacher). Each of these elements plays a crucial role in the classic Montessori style.

Rather than structuring by single grade levels, Montessori classrooms are organized by developmental stages. Children of mixed ages work together in the same classroom and are encouraged to collaborate, rather than learn solely in grade-level groupings. This inclusive setting provides rich opportunities for spontaneous learning, especially in the “elementary” years.

Every student is an important member of the Montessori classroom community, regardless of their age or abilities. The groupings, teachers, and settings stay consistent every day to create an environment where children can grow and thrive both individually and as a community.

The Importance of Activity

During her revolutionary years in the education field, Dr. Montessori fiercely promoted the importance of movement in the classroom. She believed educators needed to break conventional molds to support children's natural desires to learn through activity.

Not only does our Montessori school promote physical movement, but it also offers a methodically planned setting for youthful learning. The "prepared environment" includes all of the materials needed for natural and spontaneous exploration.

The Montessori method encourages self directed learning and physical activity, rather than restricting it like so many schools. Our goal is to invite constructive activity and help children unlock possibilities - not to demand conformity. It's a beautiful but simple system.

In such an environment, children feel fulfilled. They have the chance to use their surrounding environment to change themselves, as well as learn about the world and complex concepts.



Elementary

Our elementary classrooms are broken into two sections: lower and upper.

Lower (Grades 1-3, Ages 6-9)

Upper (Grades 4-6, Ages 9-12)

Tuition and Fees

Visit wsmontessori.org/admissions for more info or click Submit an Inquiry to receive details about our tuition and fees.

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Lower Elementary

Grades 1-3, Ages 6-9

The lower elementary classrooms are created for children who would typically be grouped into first, second and third grades in traditional school settings. At a Montessori school the classrooms are mixed in ages corresponding to the developmental cycle, yet the content meets or exceeds state and national standards in all curricular areas.

Our Montessori educators use an interdisciplinary curriculum that stresses connections between different subjects of study. The Montessori “Great Lessons” create an interdisciplinary approach and encourage young children to investigate details for themselves, across the curriculum and then relate them to larger concepts.

The lower elementary classrooms also use impressionistic charts and evocative materials to give children a sense of the size and age of the observable universe, the steady progression of life on Earth, and our planet’s climates and terrain. Project based work encourages individual contributions, as well as active listening and compromising skills.

Upper Elementary

Grades 4-6, Ages 9-12

In this developmental stage, children become abstract thinkers. Therefore, we tailor our curriculum to meet the need for challenging interdisciplinary studies, emphasizing the transition from the concrete to the abstract.

Our upper elementary students have the opportunity to take overnight trips, as well as move their studies into the community. From science fair projects to interviews with professionals, their assignments encourage them to learn in a real-world setting.

Four Great Lessons Framework

This framework promotes a rich understanding of the physical universe, as well as the world of nature and humans. Through the Great Lessons, we introduce:

- 1 A scientific approach to how everything is interrelated
- 2 A wholistic understanding of the world
- 3 Studies of ecology and nature
- 4 Curriculum that provokes the child's imagination

The Montessori approach brings children's previous knowledge together in a framework that transforms concrete experiences into comprehensive understanding.



Connected Interdisciplinary Studies

Every subject is integrated together in interdisciplinary themes. Children apply their skills in writing, science, social studies, the arts, even math is incorporated - all in an interdependent, connected way that is realized by the children in project work.

The Montessori approach places a strong emphasis on applying the content of studies to create a broader world view. Our educators challenge elementary students both academically and creatively to meet their ever-evolving developmental needs.



"What we call education of the senses is in reality an aid to the construction of the intelligence."

An Authentic Montessori School

A Montessori environment gives elementary students the tools to build a strong educational and critical thinking foundation. The inviting, homelike setting includes soft rugs, warm colors, and a calm, inviting atmosphere. Every day, the space is organized, cleaned, and de-cluttered to ensure students can safely focus on what matters.



Philosophy

We believe a Montessori education is for life.



Psychology

Our methods are built upon a deep understanding of child development.



Method

We are responsive to children's individual needs and interests.



Philosophy

Dr. Montessori believed children were more powerful than others acknowledged. She saw them as the future of our society - and they truly are.

That's why Montessori teaching focuses on community service and a complex understanding of the world. If we want to build a successful and harmonious future for humankind, our efforts must begin with the youngest people.

Children are sponges - and the elementary years are critical. These students have a capacity for learning that allows them to soak up educational concepts, as well as moral and philosophical convictions.

Our Montessori schools embrace this youthful ability to learn and understand in a way that no adult can. Using modern brain research and Dr. Montessori's early theories, our school creates learning experiences that challenge, support, and push elementary students.

wsmontessori.org/programs/elementary



"We often forget that the imagination is a force for the discovery of truth." - Kalekshetra

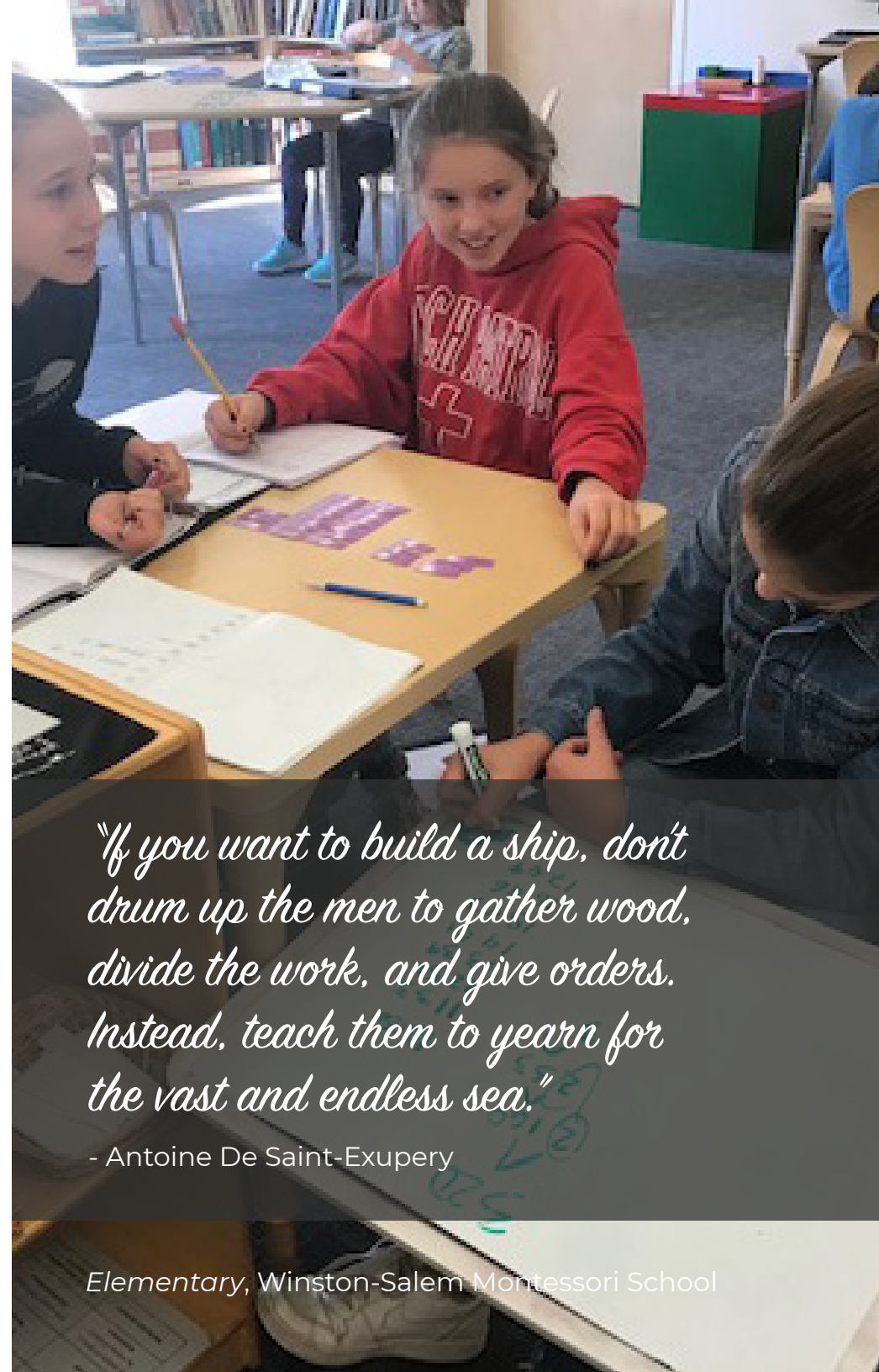


Psychology

The psychology of Montessori learning revolves around four stages of child development. According to Dr. Montessori, the first and third stages are times of tremendous change, while the second and fourth are calmer.

These stages are also broken down into half stages - which is why our school doesn't operate by "grade levels." We strive to understand and target students' "sub-planes," which allows us to provide five levels of educational environments in three-year spans.

Montessori classrooms meet the needs of every child - regardless of their age. We care far more about understanding and creativity than about rote learning and conformity to rigid structures.



"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea."

- Antoine De Saint-Exupery



Method

The Montessori method is seeing a new awakening in modern America. Parents and teachers are beginning to understand how crucial active, developmentally-based learning is - especially for the elementary years.

Dr. Montessori facilitated learning that was based on spontaneous choices in a safe, practical environment. She trained educators to create and adapt this environment in response to individual children's needs and learning styles, and that's what we still do to this day.

At our schools, we believe educational environments should be inspired by children instead of curriculum - not the other way around. We cater all of our classrooms to individual needs, as well as children's preferences and interests. This allows elementary students to progress at their own rates while still participating in a welcoming and inclusive community.





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