



MONTESORI AT MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

2021 to 2022

Curriculum Guide

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Embracing the Magic of Childhood

Montessori at Mountain School is a traditional Montessori program for preschool through kindergarten-aged children at the Telluride Mountain School. The Montessori program is a welcoming community where children are known and loved in an educational environment designed for the development of the whole child.

Philosophy

Through a Montessori curriculum, children enjoy the magic of childhood with the freedom to explore their innate curiosities in a safe and carefully prepared indoor and outdoor environment. Children are encouraged to be independent lifelong learners and problem solvers. Montessori at the Mountain School embodies core Montessori principles while incorporating many aspects of outdoor and experiential learning.

Multi- Age Community

The three-year cycle is an intentional part of Montessori education, allowing the youngest child to look to their older peers as guides and role models and giving the older children the opportunity to take responsibility for their learning and share it with other children. Through this model, children learn empathy, kindness, and independence from adult direction.

The Montessori Classroom

The Montessori classroom is located on its own floor that spills out onto a spacious play yard overlooking the awe-inspiring San Juan mountain range. Two large, sunny classrooms are filled with a comprehensive collection of high quality Montessori materials and brightly colored art. The environment is perfectly designed for children ages three to six.

Montessori Teachers

The classrooms are staffed with highly trained and certified Montessori teachers who hold bachelors or masters degrees to provide the highest level of early childhood education. Teachers are supported by qualified and experienced assistants.

Why Montessori?

- Individualized lessons meet children with their own unique development
- Multi-age classrooms foster collaboration, compassion and motivation as children learn from one another
- Highly trained teachers have a deep understanding of the Montessori method and child development
- Materials provide a concrete, hands-on experience for learning and building a foundation for advanced academics
- Carefully prepared classroom environments with natural materials entice purposeful and meaningful experiences for children
- Opportunities develop a love of nature and the world around us, both locally and globally. We strive to be model citizens of a global community and to help children prepare themselves for life. As stewards of the earth, we share the belief expressed by Dr. Maria Montessori that within each child lies the fate of the future

Curriculum

Practical Life

Practical Life activities include pre-academic exercises that help children gain independence, control of movement, and coordination. The practical life activities are carefully prepared and purposeful activities that help children adapt to their environment. Most importantly, practical life exercises give children a sense of accomplishment by engaging in meaningful work with tangible results. The familiar home-like setting of the practical life area allows children to gain independence and confidence as they carry out thoughtfully prepared activities, similar to those a child would participate in at home. A focus is brought to care of self and the environment through pouring, sweeping, sewing, and food preparation. The result is an innate sense of order, the ability to be independent, the development of hand-eye coordination, large and small muscle control, and the ability to concentrate through completing a task.

Sensorial

Children explore color, size, shape, form, sound, touch, taste, and smell through the sensorial materials. The sensorial materials help children to clarify, classify and comprehend the world around them. Along with refining the senses, the exercises introduce precise vocabulary and concepts of comparison. The sensorial materials are a stepping stone to the math materials and even give a sensorial impression of algebraic concepts and geometry. Physical geography is an additional component of the sensorial curriculum. These are very appealing materials to the children, and learning naturally results from their curiosity and desire to explore.

Language

The young child quickly absorbs language in all forms. The Montessori language curriculum is designed to develop this lifelong love of language and all its parts. Beautiful books are accessible throughout the classroom, and children enjoy listening to stories and poetry aloud. The sequence of the language curriculum first emphasizes the development of spoken language and the acquisition of vocabulary. Simultaneously, the teacher presents activities that prepare children for reading and writing with materials that develop fine motor control. Direct preparation for reading and writing begins as the child establishes the sound-symbol correspondence and a sense of letter shape by moving their fingers and exploring the sandpaper letters. After acquiring and becoming confident with the oral language and its sounds, the child will typically jump from reading and writing single phonetic words into sentences and stories. At this point, we begin a study of the English language, including; vocabulary, spelling rules, and grammar. Most children completing the kindergarten year in the Montessori program will read and write short phonetic words, words with blends and digraphs, read short phonetic primers with common sight words and enjoy a range of language activities. The Montessori classroom provides materials and resources for the child no matter what stage of learning to ensure a challenging yet comfortable space.

Math

Young children have naturally mathematical minds. The concrete Montessori math materials support the children's natural interest in exploring and learning about dimension, size, number, shape, and sequence. The math materials build on each other with increasing complexity, allowing the children to experience the thrill of discovery throughout the progression. With the use of increasingly abstract materials, children make the passage from concrete experience to paper and pencil exercises, all the while relying on the foundation of understanding built through their direct experiences. With the array of math materials available, children can advance through the materials at their own individual rate. They begin with noticing differences and similarities, grading, rote counting, and recognizing quantities and symbols. They gain an understanding of the base-ten system from zero to 9,999 and practice linear counting to 1,000. The idea of the four operations

is introduced, and finally, the concept of fractions. Throughout this progression, there are many materials and opportunities to practice and master at each level.

Cultural

We place a great emphasis on the natural world, exploring the outdoors through frequent hikes and adventures. Exploring the outdoors in tangent with exploring the classroom materials helps the children to develop a love and respect of nature and inquisitive minds to learn more about the universe and their special place in it. Teachers develop activities and projects related to art, music, movement, food preparation, geography, and science throughout the year. The school year is divided into seven short terms, with cultural activities, themes, and materials rotating with each change. Additionally, the children explore a new continent, and cultural activities extend the physical and cultural geography lessons that are integral in the primary program. Exploring the world's continents, oceans, animals, and people leads children to a deep appreciation and understanding of the world.

Spanish

As part of Telluride Mountain School's commitment to global education, students in the Montessori program begin studying Spanish. Daily lessons in the classroom include songs, vocabulary games, and conversational Spanish. Kindergartners also benefit from twice-weekly group lessons in Spanish based on the teaching methodologies of the Total Physical Response (TPR) program. As with all primary programming, lessons include activities, movements, songs, and games that help young children acquire speaking and listening skills.

Kindergarten

The kindergarten year is a special time in a child's Montessori education. It is during this third year that the children flourish in a familiar environment with materials that encourage repetition and concentration. The kindergarteners have the opportunity to solidify their learning by teaching others and have practiced perseverance with materials that require a lengthy sequence. In the kindergarten year, students participate in two classes of direct spanish instruction, two art specific classes and weekly Ski PE lessons throughout the winter. Kindergarteners also participate in many activities outside of the classroom. They explore the community around them on field trips, through community outreach, learning about the geography, fauna and flora and world around them. Kindergarteners begin to branch out, learning ways to support and engage with the larger community.

Aftercare

Montessori at Mountain School offers an afterschool program, where children can attend on a sign-up basis. The Aftercare program extends the day from 2:45-5:15 p.m. Activities include art projects, drama, cooking, outdoor play, music and continued fun with their friends.

- Mondays - Thursdays
- Billed monthly based on actual attendance
- The cost is \$20/day for the first student and \$10/day for an additional sibling

Summer Programs

The summer program runs from 9:00-1:00 p.m. during designated weeks in the summer. Each week has a theme, which includes; gardening, science, music and plenty of exciting outdoor adventures.

- Monday - Thursday
- The cost is \$195/week/student
- Financial aid is not available for the summer programs
- Please call (970) 728-1969 xt14 for more information

