

ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY

“If the idea of the universe is presented to the child in the right way, it will do more for him than just arouse his interest, for it will create in him admiration and wonder, a feeling loftier than any interest and more satisfying. Maria Montessori



Children from six to 12 years of age make up our elementary community. These children are embarking on the “intellectual period” with a strong appetite for knowledge. These children have a multitude of questions and want to seek their answers. The environment encourages them to imagine and explore our interconnected world. This is a very strong stage for moral development and they are developing their value systems. The word “fair” is often used in their vocabulary.

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*ADDITIONAL MATERIALS
REGARDING MONTESSORI
EDUCATION MAY BE FOUND AT:*

WWW.OKEMOSMONTESSORI.COM





ELEMENTARY MATERIALS



Starting in the left corner, moving clockwise: the box of sticks, globe, and a research project underway.



ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES

Montessori education honors and respects the child's development of all intelligences. We use a holistic approach to learning by providing the child with a wide variety of experiences. The child is exposed to information from all areas of life, which allows them to develop to their fullest potential in each of the competencies.

For the older child, our elementary program involves the child in continued studies of all subject areas. Going-out experiences allow the child to explore beyond the classroom environment and into the community. The child is developing a strong awareness of their place within the school community and society. They are learning to be responsible for their education.

Our elementary children still participate in practical life experiences. For example, the children host bagel breakfasts for the school community, in which they gain practical experience working with scheduling, ordering supplies, serving food and taking money. Money they earn from this business venture has been used to help others in the community.

SOCIALIZATION

Small group learning through integrated classroom studies gives our students a way to collaborate, communicate, problem solve, and develop the love of gaining knowledge. Montessori children often form enduring friendships with each other because they have been allowed to be supportive of each other instead of competitive. They cultivate appreciation and compassion for others. The classroom encourages the children to find the answers to the numerous questions they pose along with validating their ownership in the learning process.



ELEMENTARY ENVIRONMENT

The elementary aged child continues on their journey, moving from concrete understanding of concepts to a more abstract way of thinking. Just as the materials meet the developmental needs of the younger Montessori child, the elementary classroom has many hands-on materials that engage the child in their learning. The materials assist in the total development of the child and help to foster imagination and creativity. The cultural materials give the child a full view of the world and how it is interrelated. The child grows in knowledge, independence, and self-reliance as they learn to make choices in the community, evaluate their work pattern and show responsibility in the classroom.

AREAS OF STUDY

The elementary classroom, rich in materials of math, geometry, language, history, zoology, botany, geography, music and art provide an integrated springboard for understanding concepts of our international world. The child at this stage is engaged in project-based research and things that spark the imagination. Not only are they studying various forms of communication and signs, they are asking questions about where these signs originated.

