

Camino Montessori Elementary

Program Highlights

The elementary program offers a continuum built on the preschool experience. The environment reflects **a new stage of development** and offers the following:

-  **Integration of the arts, sciences, geography, history, and language** that evokes the native imagination and abstraction of the elementary child.
-  Presentation of the **formal scientific language** of zoology, botany, anthropology, geography, geology, etc., exposing the child to accurate, organized information and respecting the child's intelligence and interests.
-  The use of timelines, pictures, charts, and other **visual aids to provide a linguistic and visual overview** of the first principles of each discipline.
-  Presentation of **knowledge as part of a large-scale narrative** that unfolds the origins of the earth, life, human communities, and modern history, always in the context of the wholeness of life.
-  A **mathematics curriculum** presented with **concrete materials** that simultaneously reveal arithmetic, geometric, and algebraic correlations.
-  Emphasis on **open-ended research and in-depth study** using primary and secondary sources (no textbooks or worksheets) as well as other materials.
-  **Montessori-trained adults** who are "enlightened generalists" (teachers who are able to integrate the teaching of all subjects, not as isolated disciplines, but as part of a whole intellectual tradition).
-  **"Going out"** to make use of community resources beyond the four walls of the classroom.
-  The **Montessori materials** are a means to an end. They are intended to evoke the imagination, to aid abstraction, to generate a world view about the human task and purpose. The child works **within a philosophical system** asking questions about the origins of the universe, the nature of life, people and their differences, and so on. On a factual basis, interdisciplinary studies combine geological, biological, and anthropological science in the study of natural history and world ecology.
-  The program is made up of **connective narratives** that provide an inspiring overview as the organizing, integrating **"Great Lessons"**. Great Lessons span the history of the universe from the big bang theory of the origin of the solar system, earth, and life forms to the emergence of human cultures and the rise of civilization. Aided by impressionistic charts and timelines, the child's study of detail in reference to the Great Lessons leads to awe and respect for the totality of knowledge.
-  **Studies are integrated** not only in terms of subject matter but in terms of moral learning as well, resulting in appreciation and respect for life, moral empathy, and a fundamental belief in progress, the contribution of the individual, the universality of the human condition, and the meaning of true justice.