STUDIO ART

Art is one of the many ways children express themselves. In the Montessori environment, students will have the opportunity to create open-ended art activities that help them explore and use their creativity. The environment is prepared to provide a rich art area where students can choose their medium: paints, markers, crayons, clay. Fine motor skills are developed through gluing, cutting with scissors, tearing paper and sculpting in three dimensions. In addition to open-ended art, stories are a form of inspiration for students. They are allowed to reflect and process the intent of their art work after hearing a story. In the Primary Classroom, students are ready to learn about great Famous Artists through whole classroom instruction. Students are then given the opportunity to recreate an art piece using the same or similar technique of the artist.

MUSIC

Music in the Montessori environment is designed to comprise many skills. It develops concentration, counting, listening, self-discipline, memory, and coordination. Our Music curriculum includes music theory, discovering musical instruments, learning about composers through history, or making musical instruments using crafts. Children sing, dance, and play percussion instruments. They improvise melodies, rhythms, and creative movement as they encounter familiar musical elements in various genres of music. As they sing or play instruments in ensembles, children build their skills and understanding of music conventions.

MOVEMENT

Gross motor development is an important focus for children as they learn awareness about their bodies. Students use purposeful movement throughout their work cycle. Movement permits the brain to reset and focus as they learn. In addition to the movement that lends itself through Montessori materials, we practice “natural gymnastic movements.” The encouragement of these movements leads to essential exercises such as balance, standing with good posture, walking, and developing endurance in walking, running, jumping, moving, and lifting weights.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Maria Montessori’s term “sowing the seeds of interest” could well be used to describe the overall goal for the primary foreign language program. This means creating enjoyment, awareness, and an eagerness to learn more. The primary program focuses on developing listening and speaking skills. Early exposure to other languages creates a facility for understanding and speaking, as well as greater ease in later study. It also creates an early consciousness of culture - the richness of our many ways of being human.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian component of our curriculum is provided by Godly Play®. It’s an imaginative approach to Christian Education developed by Jerome Berryman. It is what he calls “his interpretation of Montessori religious education.” With the Godly Play® lessons, the students will be taught Bible Stories and Liturgical action stories. During these lessons, children hear the story and respond through a guided, related art lesson. The Godly Play lesson is ended with “the feast” which is their communion experience.