



The Middle School Program—Ages 12 through 14

The Adolescent

Adolescence is a powerful age, an age of explosive growth and change on all levels – physical, social, emotional and intellectual. At the Montessori School of Maui, we recognize the tremendous power and potential of this age and provide a nurturing academic community, which positively supports and challenges adolescents. The Montessori School of Maui seeks to satisfy a teenager's commanding needs: the need to work at activities that have meaning and that educate; the need to be involved in social and political relationships; and the need to experience the land.

The Middle School Program

The Middle School's curriculum and instructional design is developed so that within the island environment, each student is exposed to, and well versed in, knowledge and skills common to pre-collegiate curriculum. When students graduate from the Montessori School of Maui's Middle School, they will find themselves prepared for their high school years.

The Middle School Program offers students an environment to explore all aspects of society. Communication, orientation, classification, and working within the community are all integral to the adolescent's healthy development. Community service, apprenticeships, and work on the land, supported by a solid academic foundation, provides the gateway to the development of the personality and social organization.

Our Middle School program includes students in grades 7 and 8.

School Hours: M, T, TH, F 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Extended Day is available from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at an additional charge.

The Prepared Environment

The Montessori School of Maui strives to provide a setting where adolescents are respected and loved; a place where they can struggle, work hard, be challenged, be responsible, and have the opportunity to understand themselves. Students are encouraged to maintain a community within the classroom where they are taught to deal honestly and sincerely with one another. Because adolescents need to test and respond to challenges, it is essential that their academic life be expansive and in-depth. It is our goal to provide the kind of education that prepares children to think, to be both intellectually independent and interdependent, and to be aware and share ideas and ways of thinking.



The school must be an experience in the elements of social life. An environment created to assist the adolescent to achieve independence and to recognize that manual and intellectual work are equally essential for a civilized society.

~ Maria Montessori

The Montessori Teacher

Our Middle School teacher is a Montessori trained professional with experience in literature, science, history, mathematics, and the humanities. Students also work with Resource Teachers and professionals from the Maui community in Spanish, art, drama, physical education, organic gardening, and music.

With bodies growing, language skills blooming, social skills tested daily and their need for clear concise information, adolescence is a time when, as a parent, you want to encourage all of that within the context of a safe and nurturing environment.

For our Family, the MO-MI Middle School has met and exceeded all of our expectations.

Middle School Parent

The following areas of study comprise the core of the Middle School curriculum:

Language

The major emphasis of the language program is writing – creative writing, editing, and research/composition skills. We also emphasize reading comprehension skills. Titles and topics vary widely – classical and modern (Asian, American, and European). We use an interdisciplinary humanities approach.

Science

MOMI's science program is based on experiential learning. Students study energy and recycling, the geology of the Hawaiian Islands, archaeology, weather, astronomy, chemistry, physics, the human body, ecology, and environmental ethics.

Mathematics

Students study math, algebra, and geometry. There is an emphasis on applying math skills to “real life” activities.

History, Civics, Economics, Geography

Students study local and state government, as well as national and world governments. The fundamental principles of economics, natural resources, economic leadership, and the stock market are also covered in the curriculum. Geography is studied from a local level to a global level.

Humanities

Students explore the study of ethics, literature, history, art, and music. The use of “seminar” discussions is the main component of the Montessori Middle School classroom.

Philosophy

Middle School students are engaged in studying and practicing logic, ethics, reasoning, argumentation, and clear thinking in an introduction to the discipline of philosophy.

Integrated Art, Foreign Language and Physical Education

Art, music, foreign language, and physical education are energizing parts of the integrated Montessori environment. Art projects reinforce and expand academic and artistic skills, and are a natural extension of the students' classroom work. The Montessori approach to music includes the study of sound recognition, tonal relationships, music composition, and instrument instruction. Conversational Spanish is introduced into the curriculum for the Elementary and Middle School students. Physical education is also integrated into the school day.

Evaluation

Student Led Conferences are held twice a year. Teachers and Resources Teachers provide a qualitative evaluation of each student's development, taking into account the whole child. Students also receive a written Progress Report. In addition, Upper Elementary and Middle School students participate in national standardized testing.

Field Trips and “Going Out”

The Middle School student will participate in a variety of field trips designed to complement our curriculum goals. Outings are a regular part of life in the Middle School. A research project may call for a visit to libraries, exhibits and trips to do interviews. The Middle School Odyssey is a journey that takes place at the beginning of the school year and provides students the opportunity to begin a healthy classroom community. The students, together with the teacher, plan the Odyssey. During the trip, students take on leadership roles, i.e., deciding on daily activities, and arranging for transportation. In-state or out-of-state travel destinations will vary from year to year. Studies related to the Odyssey are integrated into the Middle School curriculum.

Celebrations and Performances

The Montessori School of Maui's celebrations contribute to our sense of community. Annual events include a PTO Potluck, a classroom Thanksgiving Feast, Kupuna Day, Student Video Premier, Earth Day, and Lei Day festivities.

Student Initiated Business Endeavors

The Middle School students own and operate their own small business. Lesson involving real life experiences and particularly those that relate to money management are some of the most powerful, meaningful, and unforgettable experiences for these students. They learn to calculate gross sales, cost of sales, and net income. The students gain skills, knowledge, and experience in marketing public relations, promotion, record keeping, problem solving, committee work, accountability, presentation, and mathematics.

Living Classroom

The Living Classroom includes the entire campus both indoors and outdoors. We provide our students with a beautiful outdoor garden which includes a lava rock 'auwai used to irrigate the vegetable, herb, flower, and taro gardens. An integrated curriculum allows for lessons in mathematics, botany, art, reading, and practical life skills to be introduced in one setting and continued in another.