



The Elementary Program – Ages 6 through 12 years

The Elementary Child

Elementary children are social beings who have an innate and natural ability to reason, which is unsurpassed at any age. The combined power of their reasoning intellect and imagination are so potent that virtually any concept or system—no matter how abstract—can be presented in such a way that they can begin integrating knowledge of the universe from all directions through all disciplines. Our elementary children work at their own pace in a non-competitive atmosphere. We will work with your child to help him or her gain an understanding of self, develop sensitivity to others, and master the tools and skills needed to pursue knowledge on their own.

The Elementary Program

The Montessori School of Maui's Elementary Program operates from the understanding that an important challenge at this developmental stage is for children to discover their place within a group and within society as a whole. Thus, much of the activity at the elementary level takes place in groups, with children sharing, collaborating, and passionately exploring material together. The buzz of debate, discussion, and disagreement fill the elementary classroom.

Our Elementary Program is divided into two multi-age settings. The Lower Elementary includes children ages six through nine years and the Upper Elementary includes children ages ten through twelve years. There are three Lower Elementary and two Upper Elementary classrooms.

School Hours: M, T, TH, F 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Extended Day is available from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at an additional charge.

The Prepared Environment

Materials are uniquely presented in an elementary classroom beginning globally and historically, and working towards the local and present. Timelines, impressionistic charts, and experiments inspire systematic research into broad areas of learning.

The Montessori School of Maui elementary classroom is designed to encourage children to wonder and explore. Our students are encouraged to investigate and fulfill their natural curiosity about the world around them. Computers, a library, eating areas, private reading nooks, and group spaces are contained within the four walls of each of our elementary classrooms. Our elementary curriculum supports the academic disciplines of Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Science, Art and Music combined with the physical and emotional development of the student.



“The passage to the second level of education is the passage from the sensorial material level to the abstract. A turning toward the intellectual and moral sides of life occurs at the age of seven.”

~ Maria Montessori

The Montessori Teacher

Our teachers are Montessori trained professionals in elementary education. The elementary teacher is a generalist who opens the doors to whole fields of study, igniting and then fanning the flame of imagination in each student.

“The greatest gift we have given our children is a Montessori education.”

A Montessori child is an active participant in their world.

They always feel competent and comfortable flexing their natural intellect because their creativity is always nurtured and appreciated.”

Elementary
Parent

The following areas of study are included in our Elementary Program:

Language Arts

As language serves as a foundation for much of what the child learns in all other areas, reading, writing and oral expression are fundamentally important. Through the student's earlier experience with sound, phonics and writing, plus sensorial experience with grammar, children begin to develop an almost instinctive sense of language. With this foundation, teachers encourage children to pursue reading, to write creatively, to interpret drama, and to improve their reading skills as they explore all disciplines.

Mathematics

Montessori mathematics integrates arithmetic, algebra and geometry into a system where each illuminates the other. Called "psycho-mathematics," the child begins with concrete learning materials to understand basic concepts (computations, base system, square roots) and is then capable of exploring mathematics more abstractly as his or her interests and abilities develop.

Cultural Areas

Children learn about other disciplines by starting at the beginning; the origins of the universe; the formation of the stars, planets, the sun, and the earth. Time lines, charts and research cards on the advancement of civilization help children study areas of personal interest—geology, biology, geography, and history. Different periods of history are often explored broadly. We celebrate cultures from around the world with costumes, food, and ceremonies.

The Living Classroom

The Living Classroom includes the entire campus both indoors and outdoors. We provide our students with a beautiful outdoor garden with 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.

Integrated Art, Foreign Language and Physical Education

Art, music, foreign language, and physical education provided by Resource Teachers are an energizing part 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 students. Physical education is also integrated into the school day.

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, Earth Day, and Lei Day festivities. In addition, classrooms produce theatrical performances.

Food

Providing home lunch is an opportunity for children to bring a part of home to school each day. Students bring their own healthy snacks for the day. Our Middle School and Upper Elementary students partner in a business venture to provide a lunch program for the elementary and middle school students, with the option for Primary students to participate on Fridays. There is an extra charge for this service.

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"

Students participate in classroom field trips, cultural activities and community service in an effort to pursue their interests and to learn about the community in which they live. "Going Out" is integral to the elementary child's need to explore the world beyond the classroom and, as examples, may involve trips to the grocery store, pet store or plant nursery. Elementary students will participate in a variety of field trips designed to complement our curriculum goals.