



Center Montessori School

E2 Classroom Handbook

2016-2017

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Elementary 2 Curriculum Overview

- **Mathematics:** Math encompasses arithmetic operations on whole numbers and fractions. Children work with problems having one-, two- and three-digit divisors, fractions, decimals, percentages, algebra, squares, square roots, geometry, graphs, measurement, time, and money. This curriculum is covered by most children in the two-year cycle.
- **Science:** Sciences included botany, zoology, and physical science. In zoology we study human anatomy, environmental studies, reproduction, botany and marine biology. Physical science includes the study of simple machines, electricity, magnetism, energy, atoms, the periodic table of elements, and compounds.
- **Language:** The language curriculum includes reading, literature circles, writing of all kinds, grammar, language mechanics, vocabulary, and spelling. Children continue to read independently for pleasure as well as for gaining information.

Literature Circles give the students opportunities to read together and discuss their readings. The students are introduced to many types of writing. We use the 6+1 Trait® Writing analytical model for assessing and teaching general writing. We also use a program called Power Writing, a method for developing organizational skills in expository writing. Lastly, children learn how to write stories and poetry.

In grammar the students review the parts of speech and study sentence analysis. Language mechanics stresses punctuation. The children work on expanding their vocabularies. And finally, language includes lessons on spelling skills.

- **Cultural:** In a Montessori classroom such as ours, the subjects called cultural studies include the subjects of social studies, history, and geography. Our emphasis on history includes early humans, early civilizations, and the ancient Greeks through Alexander the Great. Geography covers mapping skills, using an atlas, and individual continent research.

School Day:

We open the classroom for drop off beginning at 8:20am. Pick up for E2 students is 3:10pm.

Birthday Celebrations:

Students conduct their own celebrations using a timeline of their lives. Please contact our classroom assistant, Tricia Hackworth to schedule your child's celebration. Birthday celebrations will be conducted on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30pm to 3:10pm. Traditionally the birthday child brings a treat to share with the class.

Because there are so many activities at the end of the school year we will not schedule celebrations during the month of May. We ask that where possible summer birthdays be scheduled on the student's half-birthday.

As part of the celebration, we ask that new students bring in one birth picture and one picture for each year of their life. We will assemble the timeline prior to their celebration. Existing students should bring in one new picture.

Book Reports:

Periodically, students will be assigned a book report. They will receive a set of directions for doing the book report. Children can make book selections from the classroom library for book reports. Library books and Kindle books are permitted with prior approval.

Book Report Guidelines:

- A guideline will be sent home for any book reports assigned throughout the year. Guidelines are handed out at the beginning of the month and will have a due date. Please read our weekly newsletter to know when these assignments are given out to the students.
- The child should initially compose the book report, but parents are encouraged to help him or her with organization, revisions, and the final edit.
- Book report books should be chosen from the classroom library. If your child's choice is from home or from a local library, it needs to be approved by the teacher. We encourage students to choose a Newbery Medal book.
- If you have any questions about book reports please contact Susan Rouwhorst at srouwhorst@centermontessori.org or Jayne Cobb at jcobb@centermontessori.org

Reading Assignments:

Literature Circles will occur a number of times throughout the school year. Each circle group has the same book. (Book fees will be collected at the beginning of the school year.) Students read these books both at home and at school. Encouraging students to keep their reading books in their back packs is most helpful. For more information consult the following link: <http://www.litcircles.org/Overview/overview.html#what>

At Home (AH) books are also a part of our ongoing reading program. Students choose books from our library or get approval for other books. These books can be read at school and at home. Students regularly respond to this reading through in class writing.

Special Events:

November: Greek or Early Humans Play

Spring: Montessori Education Week

Each November our class puts on a Greek or Early Human play, alternating each year. The students learn and rehearse their lines and work on props and costumes.

Each February our school celebrates Montessori Education Week, culminating in a school-wide program at the end of the week. Our students prepare a project to participate in the program.

Technology:

Students have use of our classroom computers and tablets. Personal cell phones and electronics are not permitted. Non-Internet electronic books, like Kindle, are allowed.

Conferences:

Academic conferences with students, teachers and parents, will be scheduled for November/December and April/May. Your child's progress will be discussed and you will receive his/her progress report.

Parents are also encouraged to call and meet with us at any time during the school year. Please contact us before or after school if you would like to schedule a meeting.

Field Trips:

We make every effort to coordinate field trips that have a connection with our curriculum. We feel that these trips are an important part of the Montessori curriculum. Field trip notices, permission forms, and fees will be sent home prior to the trip.

We are grateful to our parent chaperones who help make the field trips possible. You will receive volunteer hours for your participation. If you sign up to drive, assume that you are chaperoning unless we contact you to advise otherwise. In certain cases we need to limit chaperones on a first come first served basis and if that occurs we will contact you.

Homework:

All homework should be checked and initialed by a parent.

- Students are encouraged to have do one or two pages of math for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Math assignments may change with prior notice. Initially students will have Key to Measurement workbooks.
- Students have vocabulary flash cards due one Friday and a vocabulary worksheet due the following Friday.
- The vocabulary homework worksheet involves using the twelve vocabulary words in sentences and making a set of 3x5 flash cards with the word on one side and the definition(s) on the other. The children should use these cards as a study aid. (It's important to SAVE these cards throughout the year to use for reviews.) Students will be tested every other Friday. Home support with test preparation is advised.
- Students will have a book report assigned periodically throughout the school year.
- Parent support in helping a child stay current with his/her homework is encouraged.
- Some children may need extra practice with their cursive handwriting. This homework will be assigned as needed.

Lunch:

A healthy cold lunch packed in reusable containers is encouraged. Additionally, students have access to a microwave. We request that you keep sugar to a minimum.

Our school is a nut-free zone. Any foods containing nuts or peanuts are NOT allowed.

Snow Cones:

Thursdays After School 2:10pm - 3:40pm

Parent and Student-Run Classroom Business

The Elementary 2 Class has an ongoing business. Our snow cone sales help generate money for transportation to our annual overnight trip held each May and the experience of running the business provides students practical life lessons about customer service.

The snow cone parent coordinator will organize the weekly parent volunteer schedule for Thursday sale days. We ask that parent volunteers arrive at school at 2:10pm on sale days to help students get set up and deliver snow cones to the primary classes. Please call our classroom before arriving to make sure there is ice available for that day. Parent volunteers need to stay until about 3:40pm to help supervise students with snow cone clean up.

Specials:

Band with Alicia Kennedy

Physical Education with Kathy Bixby

Spanish and Art with Magnolia Rios.

Students attend and participate in all specials, including art, music, P.E., and Spanish. Specials are one of the ways we ensure the education of the whole child, one of the essential components of a Montessori education.

Stanford Achievement Testing:

Stanford Achievement Tests will be administered in April to all Elementary 2 students. These tests are nationally normed, which means the scores are based on the performance of all students that took this test in the United States. At this time most states design and administer their own tests based on their curriculum.

Testing will be administered each morning for four days. Please make sure your child arrives on time and has a good breakfast. Make-up tests will be arranged as needed. If at all possible, please do not schedule dentist or doctor appointments during the mornings of this week.

Telephone School-Wide Policy:

If you have a message for your child or need to speak with your child please contact the office and they will take a message or connect you to our classroom. Cell phone use by students is not permitted.

Tutorial:

Tutorial is held from 3:10pm until 4:10pm on most Tuesday afternoons. Students are invited on an individual basis. We usually have a theme for tutorial. One week we could work with students needing support in math and in other weeks we might work with students needing help with a writing project.

Unfinished weekly work:

One of the most challenging things your child will learn this year is time management skills. The children will have opportunities to learn how to be responsible for figuring out what to do when, determine what needs to get finished first, set daily goals, complete work before going on to something different, and choose work partners who will help them meet goals.

Classroom Community:

We encourage parents and students alike to see the E2 classroom as a community. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. In this way we can have a most happy and productive year.

Student Supply List:

One of the big changes from Elementary 1 to Elementary 2 is the student must now be responsible for his or her own personal supplies. Please bring the following items the first day of school. If you have any difficulty finding anything please feel free to email or call and ask about them. All of these items can be found at Office Depot or Staples.

- *3 black inking pens (Ultra Fine Sanford)

- *2 marbled composition books-wide rule (These books have a sewn binding and a marbled cardboard cover.)

- *3 pocket folders with fasteners (one for homework, one for work in progress and one for finished work)

- *Berol Prismacolor Scholar soft colored pencils- 2 sets of 12 or 24. These pencils are expensive, however, they are important for the production of quality products. Please do NOT get the hard Verithin version. If you would prefer purchasing them from the school store in August, they are about \$20.00 a package.

- *Pencil box (Should be small enough to fit inside the desk. The boxes without dividers work best because a variety of loose items will fit in them better.)

- *Manual pencil sharpener

- *Glue sticks (3)

- *Scissors

- *Index card ring notebook for storing vocabulary cards for vocabulary homework. Please purchase the type that can add extra cards.

- 1-Five subject spiral notebook with pockets for Spanish