



# TMEMMS 6-9 Level

Information about our 1st - 3rd grade group and  
The Montessori Elementary & Middle School

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# Who we are



## History of our school

Established in 2005, The Montessori Elementary & Middle School (TMEMS) is a charter school through the Public Education Commission (PEC) in the State of New Mexico. TMEMS currently serves students from kindergarten through eighth grade from Albuquerque and the surrounding areas. Our classes incorporate the Montessori philosophy and curriculum, with weekly Suzuki music lessons and Visual Art classes. All students, beginning in 2nd grade, and their parents participate in the Suzuki Strings program, taking lessons in violin, cello or violas.

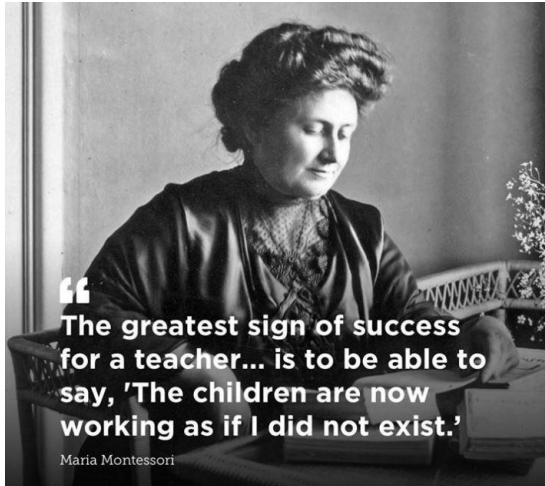
## Our Mission

We believe that learning is best achieved within a positive social atmosphere that supports each individual's unique development. TMEMS offers an accelerated program by providing a strong Montessori academic curriculum combined with a unique fine arts program including Suzuki Method and Visual Arts. The mission of TMEMS is to encourage students grades K-8 to become responsible citizens who have the ability and desire to fulfill lifelong educational and social goals.

# We are a free, public school, teaching with the Montessori Method

## General Overview:

- Our teachers are NM State certified teachers that also have additional training in the Montessori Method of teaching.
- We use genuine Montessori materials in our classrooms.
- Students are taught the same curriculum they would receive in a traditional public school, enhanced by teaching the curriculum through the Montessori method (mixed age classrooms, large, open classroom environments, etc).
- TMEMS teachers and staff adhere to the Common Core Standards, standardized testing, and NMPED requirements.
- Our 6-9 Level classrooms have a full time Lead Teacher, along with an Educational Assistant.
- Our professional staff is dedicated to providing a warm, loving, academically enriched environment that fosters the development and growth of happy well-adjusted children.



“  
The greatest sign of success  
for a teacher... is to be able to  
say, 'The children are now  
working as if I did not exist.'”

Maria Montessori

# Here are just some of the many wonderful aspects of TMEMS!

## TMEMS highlights:

- **We are a FREE public charter school!** *Our students receive a world-class education as a New Mexico state chartered public school.*
- **Student centered learning** *We meet the needs of our students through our age appropriate, supportive, and close-knit community.*
- **Strong parent involvement** *Our staff is in close contact with parents to ensure that we work as a team for the best interest of each student.*
- **Strong focus on character building** *Students have the opportunity to strengthen their character through our fine arts, community service, peer-teaching, and peace education.*
- **Fine Arts for everyone!** *Not only do students receive a free Montessori education, we also have a strong Fine Arts program at all levels.*
- **Frequent field trips & overnight trips** *We believe in extending the classroom education experience to areas outside of our school!*

## The Montessori curriculum fosters and supports the child's growth in the following ways:

**Social:** Grace and courtesy lessons help with the development of compassion, respect and helpfulness. Children become cooperative members of the classroom community.

**Emotional:** Children gain a sense of competence and experience self-respect as they master new skills. They make choices and practice appropriate and effective communication.

**Physical:** Specially designed materials and lessons help children develop fine and large motor control, and coordination.

**Intellectual:** Lessons and materials promote independence, concentration, and academic development. Children work with lessons that include Language, Mathematics, Geography, Science and Art.

## 6-9 Level Students

Students in our 'Lower Elementary' level at TMEMS are in grades 1st - 3rd and are 6 to 9 years old. We have five 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade mixed age classrooms and two 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms.



### Specific Indicators for Success

1. The child must be no younger than six years old **on or before September 1** of the school year. *(This is a state statute for NM Public Schools and no exceptions are granted.)*
2. The child must be capable of attending to a given task for a specific time period. (Time varies with task).
3. The child must demonstrate self-motivation and self control.
4. The child's maturity and emotional development are appropriate for 1st grade or above.

# 6-9 Level Curriculum

Designed around the broad interests of the elementary child, the six to nine year old program offers an enriched and exciting integrated curriculum that is sequential and cumulative. Language and math are core subjects that are integrated throughout the entire program, and all subject areas are presented in complement to each other. Great lessons involving the Timeline of Life, geography, zoology and botany are presented as to stir the imagination as they unveil the concept of order in the universe. The program goals are to develop within the child a sense of self worth, respect for others, and a quest for knowledge.



# A typical day in the 6-9 level:

Our students have a curriculum-rich day with whole group, small group and individual lessons with our Lead Teachers and EAs. Physical Education, Music and Visual Art are incorporated throughout the week. Although this is a typical schedule, it can vary depending on teacher, events, etc.







**Our average Teacher** (Lead & EA)/**Student ratio** in our 6-9 classrooms is approximately: **1/14.**

Time	A typical schedule in the 6-9 level (as of 22-23 SY):
6:45 - 8:20 am	Before Care (optional/subject to change)
8:20 - 8:45	Morning drop off/class begins
8:20 - 11:30	Morning work cycle
11:30 - noon	Recess
12:00 - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 - 2:00	Afternoon work cycle/workshops
2:00 - 2:15	Restore/closing circle
2:15 - 2:35	Dismissal
2:35 - 6:00 pm	After Care (optional/subject to change)

# A typical 'Montessori Work Plan' in our 6-9 classrooms:

At first, Montessori may look unstructured to some people, but it is actually quite structured at every level.

At the Lower Elementary level, students are given clear guidelines, structure, and the ability to work independently. Students are also able to pursue their specific interests, once their core subjects are completed. Thus students are able to follow more of their educational interests and passions.

Areas of the 6-9 classroom	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 language					
 reading					
 writing					
 math					
 cultural/sciences					
 free choice					



# Additional Day to Day info

**Lunch-** We do not have a lunchroom or a lunch program. Students should come to school every day with a healthy, packed lunch, plus a snack, and full water bottle.

**Allergies-** Each classroom has “allergy tables”. Anyone may sit at these tables as long as they do not have any items that students with allergies are allergic to. We do not ban types of foods in our classrooms due to allergies.

**Transportation-** It is the responsibility of TMEMS families to provide their own transportation to and from school every day. We do not have a bus service.

**Field trips-** Students in this level go on frequent field trips throughout the year that enhance their studies. At the end of their 3rd grade year, students are invited and encouraged to attend their first overnight trip with the 4th grade students to begin building community for the upcoming school year. We call that trip a “Moving Up” trip and is a long time tradition at TMEMS.

**Computers-** Students in the 6-9 level have daily access to various curriculum on the computer. Students participate in state mandated testing. *We do **not** have an opt-out option of standardized testing.*

**Homework-** Typically consists of practicing their instrument for 10 minutes a day (2nd & 3rd grade students), spelling words, reading, and the occasional at-home project.

**Fine Arts-** All students in this level participate in Visual Art in our classrooms. Beginning in 2nd grade, students also participate in our Strings program where they can choose to play either the violin or cello.

**Volunteering-** Each person that volunteers in the classroom or on field trips must get a background check prior to their service. We require each volunteer to have a FBI background check through our school. To learn more, please visit our website at: <https://tmesnm.com/school-life/background-check>. There will also be out-of-school volunteer opportunities such as: recycling, washing cloth mats, etc.

# Examples of 6-9 level work and projects



# Peace Education

## **TMEMS Statement on Peace Education:**

*Dr. Maria Montessori is a seminal figure in peace education and at TMEMS, we strive to continue her legacy by educating for peace. Our Peace Education curriculum is designed to create confident students, who will become peaceful members of their communities. Peace Education at TMEMS not only teaches peer mediation, conflict resolution skills and diversity, but also guides children toward developing the respect, empathy, collaborative spirit, self-awareness, kindness, curiosity, and sense of justice that is required to live in harmony with others. Maria Montessori said, "Education is the best weapon for peace" and at TMEMS, we will use that statement to educate students on the values of global citizenship, personal responsibility, and respect for diversity.*

## **Peace Education in the 6-9 Level:**

At the 6-9 level in particular, we teach peace curriculum through 'Grace and Courtesy' lessons, along with other various methods.

At the beginning of the school year we create a strong community through community building activities and other Normalization activities to create a positive culture in our classrooms. At TMEMS we use the Random Acts of Kindness curriculum and Mindfulness practices, in addition to Grace and Courtesy Montessori lessons during community meetings for our Peace Curriculum. All classrooms have a Peace Table and resources for problem solving and self-care strategies.

Education is the  
best weapon  
for peace.


*- Maria Montessori*





## Are we a good fit for your child?

We want your child to succeed, no matter where they go to school. We recognize that we may not be the best fit for every child or family. There is no *one* school that is right for *all* children. There are children who may thrive in a smaller classroom setting with a more teacher-directed program that offers fewer choices and more consistent external structure. Children who are easily overstimulated, or those who tend to be overly aggressive, may be examples of children who might not adapt as easily to a Montessori program. It is important to know the needs of your child and evaluate if our program may be a good fit for them, and your family.



One test  
of the  
correctness  
of  
educational  
procedure  
is the

*happiness  
of the  
child.*

- Maria Montessori

# What learning style works best for students specific to the 6-9 Level?




- **Independent learning:** Your child works well with limited adult support.
- **Exploratory learner:** Your child is able to respectfully explore a classroom and use the materials with purpose, respectfully.
- **Concentration:** Your child is able to concentrate with multiple distractions (conversations, movement, etc)
- **Self-motivated:** Your child is able to stay organized, follow a work plan and complete assignments with limited adult support.
- **Respectful:** Your child is able to be respectful to adults, peers and the classroom around them.
- **Multi-Age Grouping:** Your child enjoys learning in a mixed age group of children.
- **Strong Communication skills:** Your child should feel comfortable communicating with their teachers in regards to their social, emotional and academic needs.



***What are the Expectations of a TMEMS student?*** Typical Montessori students, throughout their years at TMEMS, are:

- 1) ***Respectful:*** The basis of the Montessori classroom is mutual respect to everyone, all the time. We also teach respect of the environment, in and out of the classroom. Respect is a major component of our 'Grace and Courtesy' lessons and is taught in every aspect of our school.
- 2) ***Responsible:*** In Montessori education, children take responsibility for their own learning. Time management is key and is a learning process throughout their educational experience. Our teachers will guide students through this important skill as they take ownership of their education. Montessori children are free to choose within limits, and have only as much freedom as they can handle with appropriate responsibility. It is important that families recognize this expectation and support their child in all aspects of their education.
- 3) ***Self-Disciplined & Self-Motivated:*** Montessori education is based on the idea that children want to learn; it's a natural instinct. Children receive an intrinsic reward (self-motivation, pride) from learning and from a feeling of personal progress. Children who are easily overstimulated may not adapt as easily to our sensory-rich Montessori environments. It is important to understand this aspect of our classrooms and know how your child does in this type of environment.
- 4) ***Independent:*** Class sizes in Montessori tend to be large, so that children can help each other in the multi-age class rather than rely on the teacher. This means, however, that a child who needs a lot of one-on-one adult direction may not get as much attention as they need. In Montessori, children are encouraged to work independently after brief presentations from the teacher. A child who needs more help may not be able to get that focused teacher/child interaction. Some children may find it difficult to focus, concentrate, and work on his/her own while others may find the freedom a way to thrive in their studies.
- 5) ***Organized:*** Organization is key in a Montessori classroom. The classroom environment is a consistent place that students know how to work in. The routines are reliable, the lessons are sequenced and the environment is predictable. Montessori students like routine and order, while having the responsibility to use that freedom to work within that order to advance in their studies.





The greatest gifts we can  
give our children are the  
roots of responsibility and  
the wings of independence.

-Maria Montessori

**Would you like to learn more  
about our philosophy for the  
elementary aged child?**

There is a lot to learn and understand about the Montessori philosophy and how that relates to elementary students at our school. We encourage you to learn more by visiting our website at:

<https://tmesnm.com/montessori-philosophy/montessori-elementary-program> .

# Are you interested in submitting an application for your child?

Please make sure to read our Admissions  
information, including the process and  
FAQ's, on our website at:

<https://tmesnm.com/admissions>

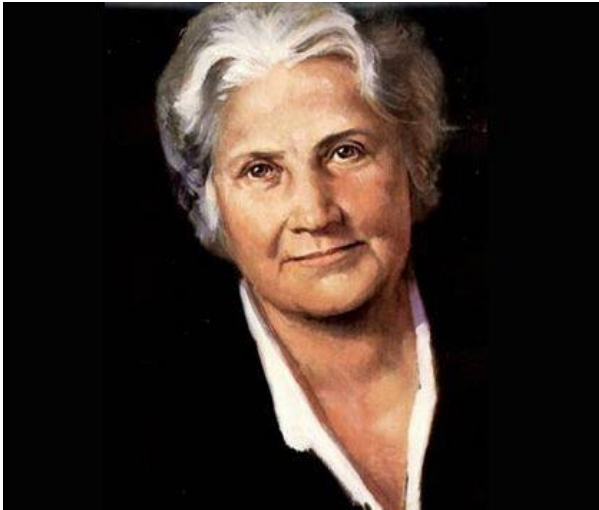
*"Within the child lies  
the fate of the future"*



**-Maria Montessori**



***“Montessori is an education for  
independence, preparing not just for  
school, but for life.”***



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~ Dr. Maria Montessori

**Applications will be released in January  
and our annual Open House is in February.**

For full details about our Admissions  
process, visit our website at:

<https://tmesnm.com/admissions>

**Thank you for your  
interest in our  
school!**

*Contact us:*

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