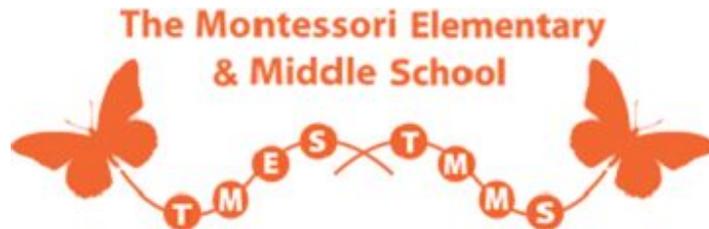




TMEMS 9-11 Level

Information about our 4th & 5th grade group and
The Montessori Elementary & Middle School

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.

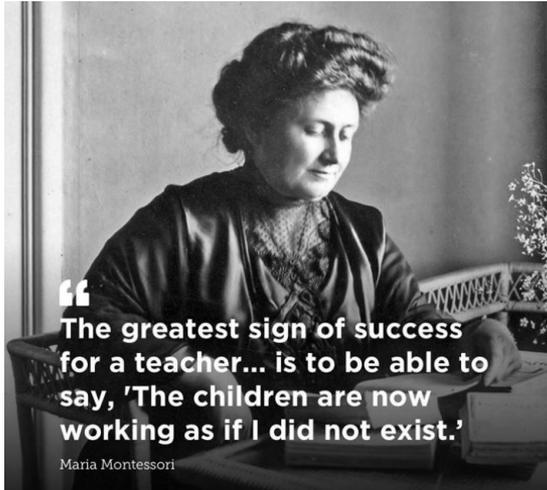
Our Mission

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 9-11 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.

9-11 Level Students

Students in our 'Upper Elementary' level are in grades 4th & 5th and are 9 to 11 years old. We have three mixed-aged classrooms in our 9-11 Level.



Specific Indicators for Success

1. The child must be no younger than nine years old.
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 fourth grade or above

9-11 Level Curriculum

Building on the six to nine year old curriculum and philosophy, the nine to eleven year old class extends academic and social concepts to higher levels of abstraction and sophistication. Children enjoy working with square root, beginning algebraic concepts, and geometry. Word functions, sentence diagramming, and clause and phrase analysis are just part of the integrated whole language approach. Great books and novel reading make language and reading skills fascinating. Early humans and great civilizations are a continuation of Time Line studies. Beginning chemistry is explored in relation to the origin of the universe. Music and performance opportunities enrich the curriculum in the nine to twelve year old classroom.



A typical day in the 9-11 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, special classes, etc.

Our average Teacher (Lead & EA)/Student ratio in our 9-11 classrooms is approximately: **1/16**.

Time	A typical day in the 9-11 level:
6:45 - 8:30 am	Before Care (optional/subject to change)
8:30 - 9:00	Morning drop off/class begins
9:00 - 9:15	Morning circle/greetings
9:15 - noon	Morning work cycle (rotation of lessons and students working independently)
12:00 pm - 12:30	Recess
12:30 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:30	Quiet book time
1:30 - 2:00	Independent afternoon work
2:00 - 3:00	Cultural studies or art
3:00 - 3:30	Restoring environment and closing circle
3:30 - 4:00	Dismissal
4:00 - 6:00 pm	After Care (optional/subject to change)

A typical 'Montessori Work Plan' in our 9-11 classrooms:

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

At the Upper 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. Once students have reached this level in their educational journey, they have typically transitioned from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn'. Therefore they are able to drive more of their educational interests and passions.

Areas of the 9-11 classroom	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 language					
 reading					
 writing					
 math					
 cultural					
 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, including a beginning of the year overnight trip and multiple day trips throughout the year that enhance their studies.

Computers- Students in the 9-11 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, spelling words, work not completed in class, and a quarterly at-home project.

Fine Arts- All students in this level participate in our Fine Arts program, including weekly lessons in Strings (violin, viola or cello) and visual art in our classrooms.

Volunteering- Each person that volunteers in the classroom or on a field trip 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

Education is the
best weapon
for peace.

- Maria Montessori



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 9-11 Level:

At the 9-11 level in particular, we do intentional team building for community awareness and harmony. We also use the Random Acts of Kindness curriculum on a weekly basis. In our level we work to create a safe learning environment and rapport with teachers, staff and peers. Our community regularly looks at historical examples of peacemakers and how we can be inspired by them in our lives. We incorporate community service because peace also involves giving to others in the community. When peer conflict occurs we promote an equitable way of communication and problem resolution, by using peace table style discussion.

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 9-11 Level?



- **Self-motivated:** Your child is able to stay organized, follow a work plan and complete assignments. Students are self-motivated to do their very best academically and socially.
- **Independent learning:** Your child enjoys the process of learning and challenging themselves.
- **Exploratory learner:** Your child is able to respectfully explore a classroom and use the materials with purpose.
- **Concentration:** Your child is able to concentrate with multiple distractions (conversations, movement, etc)
- **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.



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.”***



~ Dr. Maria Montessori

**2021-2022 Applications will be released
on Saturday, February 6, 2021.**

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

<https://tmesnm.com/admissions>

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

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