North Star Montessori Academy - Curriculum

READING

NAMC Montessori Curriculum K-5th Grade

- **Early Childhood:** The Language Arts manual comprises an active writing and reading program that is based on phonetics and is enriched with a broad range of activities that are dynamic, interactive, and fun. Including all of Dr. Montessori's original activities, this is a fully integrated program in which all of the materials and resources support each other in a cohesive manner. Starting with oral language development and progressing to associating sounds and symbols and experiencing the function of grammar, the program guides the child toward fluent reading. Oral language activities build a wide range of skills, and focus on vocabulary enrichment, language training, visual discrimination, sounds games, and classification
- **Lower Elementary:** Language Arts curriculum manual builds on the strong foundation of the early childhood program, continuing the students' work with Montessori materials such as the Grammar Symbols and introducing new materials such as the Grammar Boxes and Sentence Analysis Chart I. In addition to mastering the skills of writing, reading, and penmanship, students extensively explore word study, the mechanics of writing, and grammar to further enhance their understanding of language and their ability to communicate effectively.
- **Upper Elementary:** Furthering the solid skills developed in the Montessori lower elementary program, NAMC's upper elementary Language Arts 1 curriculum manual fosters a love of reading and communicating. At the core of this curriculum is skill development in speaking and listening, handwriting, and grammar. The activities related to speaking and listening are especially important for this age group. They provide practice in public speaking, drama, interviewing, and debate — preparing students to feel comfortable and confident communicating their ideas. NAMC's Language Arts 2 curriculum manual centers on reading and writing, beginning with the study and analysis of literature in a range of forms — novels, poetry, biographies, plays, and more. After discovering how amazing the written word can be, students are then invited to write their own words with creative writing activities and then to learn more about the mechanics of writing, word study, and spelling. The final section of the manual focuses on the cross-curricular skill of writing essays and research reports.

UFLI Supplemental Curriculum K-3rd Grade (Intervention for 4th & 5th Grade)

- UFLI Foundations is an explicit and systematic program that teaches students the foundational skills necessary for proficient reading. It follows a carefully developed scope and sequence designed to ensure that students systematically acquire each skill needed and learn to apply each skill with automaticity and confidence. The program is designed to be used for core instruction in the primary grades or for intervention with struggling students in any grade.

Bookworms Supplemental Curriculum 1st - 5th Grade

- The Bookworms curriculum distills research-based best practices into straightforward lesson structures that support reading through careful attention to foundational skills, language comprehension, and composition based on grade-level expectations and the individual needs of each student. The instructional routines build classroom communities through the use of strategies such as teacher modeling, shared reading, evidence-based writing, discussion, and intentional vocabulary instruction.

Teacher Created Novel Studies: Middle School

- Structured learning units where an entire class reads the same novel together, guided by the teacher through various activities and discussions to deeply analyze the text, develop critical thinking skills, and explore literary elements like character development, plot, theme, and symbolism, all tailored to the specific needs and interests of middle school students; this often includes pre-reading activities, comprehension checks, vocabulary building, creative writing prompts, and culminating projects related to the novel

Orton-Gillingham Intervention

- The Orton-Gillingham (OG) approach is a direct, multisensory, structured, and sequential method for teaching reading and spelling, especially effective for students with dyslexia, that combines explicit phonics with touch, sight, hearing, and movement to build strong literacy foundations. It breaks language into small skills, teaching letter sounds and patterns systematically, and builds a strong foundation by progressing from simple to complex concepts, integrating reading, writing, and spelling into a cohesive understanding of language structure.

Anita Archer Supplemental Intervention Reading Support 3rd-8th Grade

- Phonics for Reading is an intervention program designed for older students. It provides a lifeline to learners who are struggling to read by equipping them with the tools necessary to become independent readers. Highlights of the program include: Content and illustrations that are developmentally appropriate for older students, Routine-based instruction that addresses phonics skills gaps, Teacher Guide that includes guidance and predictability, making it simple to implement and Research-based best practices that produce proficient readers.

MATH

NAMC Montessori Curriculum K-5th Grade

- **Early Childhood:** In math, children first explore numbers 1–10, learning about quantities and symbols, and how to associate the two. Through hands-on, incremental learning, the children systematically build on this foundation to learn about the decimal system, numbers to 100, and solving four-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division equations. The activities incorporate Dr. Montessori's carefully designed concrete materials to help children truly grasp and understand abstract mathematical concepts in a gradual and concrete manner.
- **Lower Elementary:** The **Lower Elementary Mathematics 1** manual continues the work that began in the Montessori early childhood environment, exploring basic math

facts and the four operations through the use of hands-on Montessori materials. The curriculum gives students the opportunity to work on increasingly complex and abstract arithmetic concepts, involving larger numbers and place value, by manipulating more abstract materials. **Mathematics 2** continues the students' exploration of mathematical concepts, focusing on fractions and geometry. The students gain a thorough understanding of fractions and then learn how to perform operations involving fractions using Fraction Skittles, Fraction Circles, and other hands-on Montessori materials. The geometry activities also focus on presenting new and increasingly complex ideas through the manipulation of Montessori materials. Concepts are presented in a concrete and sensorial manner through the use of a combination of familiar and new materials, including the Geometric Cabinet, Constructive Triangles, Geometry Sticks, Geometric Solids, and more.

- **Upper Elementary:** The **NAMC Mathematics 1** curriculum manual continues with the hands-on approach that is the hallmark of Montessori learning but affords the students more opportunities to enhance their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as they are ready to do so. Working with the activities in this manual, students learn more about numerical place value in the decimal system; operations with whole numbers; multiples, factors, and divisibility; and fractions. They are also introduced to the concepts of decimal fractions; percent, ratio, and proportion; and rounding off numbers. **NAMC's Mathematics 2** curriculum manual focuses on increasingly abstract mathematical concepts, including negative numbers; non-terminating decimals and irrational numbers; equalities and inequalities; pre-algebra; and bases. Although the concepts are complex, the manual presents the activities in a step-by-step manner that is easy to follow. Montessori teachers usually find that the activities in this manual are best suited to the oldest students in the upper elementary classroom. The **NAMC Mathematics 3** curriculum manual gives students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of geometry. Some of the materials and concepts will be familiar to students, allowing to them build on the knowledge they developed in the lower elementary program. Others, like the study of polyhedra, introduce students to new and fascinating concepts. Throughout the manual, students are encouraged to explore concepts through hands-on activities that incorporate a variety of Montessori materials. Although these are increasingly abstract concepts, the step-by-step presentations and the focus on student involvement foster high student success.

Math Expressions-HMH 2nd-5th Grade

- Math Expressions curriculum is an elementary math program designed to help students develop a deep conceptual understanding of math concepts by encouraging exploration, discussion, and multiple approaches to problem-solving, often using real-world situations and visual aids to facilitate learning, primarily focusing on building fluency in computation and mathematical reasoning

Into Math-HMH 6th-8th Grade

- "Into Math" is a mathematics curriculum published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) that focuses on student growth by providing differentiated instruction,

collaborative learning tasks, and integrated assessments, aiming to maximize every student's learning progression through a combination of teacher-led instruction, small group activities, and digital practice, all aligned with current math education research standards; it emphasizes conceptual understanding and reasoning skills alongside procedural practice, with a strong focus on supporting teachers with clear instructional pathways and ongoing data analysis to inform their teaching decisions.

SCIENCE

Mystery Science Kindergarten - 5th Grade

- Mystery Science is an inquiry-based, standards-aligned science curriculum primarily for grades K-5 that focuses on engaging students through "mystery" questions, using video-based lessons, guided discussions, and hands-on activities to explore scientific phenomena, aiming to foster natural curiosity and a deep understanding of scientific concepts by posing real-world questions that children commonly wonder about, all while utilizing readily available materials in the classroom or at home; essentially, it presents science learning as a process of discovery by investigating intriguing questions rather than simply providing answers.

Teacher Created Curriculum Following the Next Generation Science Standards

- Science lesson plans designed specifically by a middle school teacher, typically incorporating hands-on activities, inquiry-based learning, and relevant real-world applications to engage students in exploring key scientific concepts like life science, earth science, and physical science, often tailored to the specific needs and curriculum of their classroom. Teachers pay teachers: Laney Lee Middle School Science Resources are also used. All are aligned to Next Gen Science Standards

SOCIAL STUDIES

Michigan Open Book Project Kindergarten - 8th Grade

- MI Open Book Started in 2014 as part of the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) the MI Open Book project is designed to give kids a first exposure to the content that they will learn about in their social studies courses. Funded by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the MI Open Book resources were created by teachers from around the state who have taught their content for many years. They are edited and maintained by professionals from the field of Social Studies which include ISD consultants, university faculty, and district curriculum leaders who all have extensive background knowledge in their content. It is a true collaboration of k-12 and higher education.

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