



Shrewsbury Montessori School

Growing Bright Minds from Age Three through Grade Six

Progression and Highlights when moving from Children's House to Elementary Years

| Children's House | Elementary |
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| Day ends at 2:30pm. | Day ends at 3:30pm. |
| Most lessons are taught individually. | Most lessons are taught in small groups, often differentiated by grade level. |
| Co-curricular classes are usually 30 minutes. | Co-curricular class increase up to an hour. |
| French is taught 1 time per week. | French is taught 4 times a week, Sixth Years study Latin. |
| Kindergarten has Makerspace class. | Students have Innovation Class with more technology exposure. |
| There are no screens. | Chromebooks are used for research. |
| Children learn print. | Cursive and touch typing are introduced. |
| Recess is two half hours a day. | Students go to Gym and Swim at YWCA every other Friday morning in addition to recess. |
| Children choose work which often can be completed in one or two sessions. | Students maintain work plans and begin to manage their own time as they work on longer projects, which can include homework. |
| Children are assessed through teacher lessons and observations. | In addition to teacher observations, students occasionally have formal assessments during class. Fourth-Sixth Year students take a standardized test each year. |
| Children remain on campus. | Students attend 4-6 field trips per year. UE students attend overnight trips including Nature's Classroom and The Island School in the Bahamas (Sixth Year). |
| Children are concrete learners; manipulatives are used for a majority of work. | Students move from concrete to abstract thinking. Manipulatives are used as transitional tools when learning new concepts. |
| Thematic Units are studied as a whole group. | Thematic Units include group lessons, and individual and group research, often culminating with presentations. |
| After school is self-contained. | Enrichment classes are offered in addition to the regular after school program (Chess, Lego Robotics, Basketball, Homework club etc.) |



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Both Programs:

- Provide a child-centered and teacher guided program with a focus on self-regulation, control, and choice.
- Offer a self-paced environment. Teachers observe students, and take detailed notes of work and progress of students.
- Have a 3-year age span.
- Provide a 2-3 hour uninterrupted work cycle.
- Maintain classroom environments that are naturally calm and peaceful.
- Prepare an orderly and purposefully organized environment where materials are arranged for children to access.
- Supports child focus with minimalist aesthetics and not visually distracting.
- Require teachers to be certified at Elementary level via a rigorous Montessori training program with national and international standards.
- Encourage children to socialize and work together.
- Planned parent conferences 2 times a year and regular communication.
- Foster imagination and creativity.
- Allow parents to visit classrooms to share special talents and activities.
- Can serve a wide range of children and learning styles.
- Prepare children to successfully transition into a wide range of middle school programs.