

St. Anthony Catholic School
Montessori Class Prospectus
2011-2012

Teacher: Velma Gonzales

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Class: Montessori Pre-Kinder

Conference Time: Monday – Friday 9:00-9:45a.m.

Overview

A Montessori classroom provides a prepared environment that invites children to work and learn. A child's love for learning is nurtured by giving them the opportunity to engage in meaningful activities. The goal is for the child to gain their independence and self-discipline, develop concentration level and coordination skills, and give them a sense of internal order. Lessons are presented to the child in a simple and concrete manner. As the child's interest grows lessons are introduced in a more abstract and complex presentations. A Montessori classroom consists of the following areas: Religion (Atrium), Practical Life, Sensorial, Handwriting, Cultural, Language, and Math. In these areas, each piece of work has a direct aim for each subject.

Religion (Atrium): *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is rich in content. The lessons are presented in accordance with the liturgical year. The materials used are meant to facilitate meditation and lead to prayer. Through the various activities of the atrium, children are helped to know "the great realities of life as a Christian".*

Practical Life: *Practical life exercises allow the child the repetitive and manipulative work with real objects which involve Order (develops order of math and left to right for reading), Coordination (develops gross and fine motor skills for writing), Concentration (prepares the child for all future learning), and Independence (child achieves self-confident, self-discipline and a positive self-image. The Practical Life area is vital to the Montessori classroom.*

Sensorial: *Sensorial work will enable the child to concentrate on refinement of all his or her senses from visual to stereognostic. The purpose and aim is for the child to acquire clear conscious information and be able to then make classifications in their environment.*

Handwriting: *In the Handwriting area the child will practice D'Nealian Handwriting. Students will learn how to grip and guide the writing instrument.*

Cultural: *The Cultural area provides individual activities, which helps the child to acquire knowledge in Geography (physical & political), Biology (botany & zoology), History and Science.*

Language: *This section in the classroom has materials to enhance vocabulary, learn the sounds of the letters, learn how to write letters, and introduce reading skills.*

Math: *In this area, we begin by helping the child master their numbers from 0-10. They will learn about quantity, symbol and the sequence of numbers. The introduction to concrete materials, then to corresponding symbols and finally to quantity and symbol is the foundation of moving from the concrete to the abstract in Math.*

Assessment:

Montessori does not assign traditional grades. Children are continuously assessed and observed to ensure that they are progressing intellectually, socially, and emotionally. By assessing an individual, instructors are able to provide new challenges or more support as needed. Students do not have to ‘wait for the rest of the class to catch up’ to receive a new lesson or feel penalized if they need extra time to master a skill or concept. Assessment occurs in many ways...

- Daily observation and record-keeping
- Control of error built into materials
- Portfolios

Report cards are sent in the fall and in the spring. The evaluation key that is used is as follows:

I – Introduced

Introduction to a concept by means of a lecture, lesson, something read in a book, etc.

D- Developing

Processing the information, developing an understanding of the concept through work, group activities and creation

M- Mastered

Possessing an understanding of a concept that was introduced

Mastery of skills and knowledge

Classroom Information:

1. Morning Arrival- I ask that you begin by making morning drop-off a loving, yet brief time. This ensures that all of the Montessori teachers can start their day at a consistent time, one which the students will begin to look forward to every day. We know the separation can be difficult at first, but the children will adapt very quickly. The children will reach a point where they will rely on this routine and it is because of your support and patience they accomplish this.
2. Mission Money- Money for the needy will be collected on a daily basis. Any amount of money sent with your child will be greatly appreciated. At the end of each month, the school will bring all the money together and donate it to a local charity.
3. Lunch- Please make sure that your child's lunch box is labeled. We would like to encourage each child to help as much as possible in the preparation of his/her nutritious lunch. Please do not send any candy or carbonated drinks.
4. Rest time- All children who are three or four years old will rest in the afternoon for about an hour and a half. This will enable the teachers ample time to prepare the children (5yr. olds) who are going to Kinder.
5. Extra Clothing- Each child needs to have a change of clothing sent in a ziploc bag. This includes underwear, socks, shirt and shorts. The bag should be labeled with his/her name.
6. Birthdays- Birthdays are called a "Celebration of Life" and are celebrated on your child's birthday. Special refreshments may be served (cupcakes and juice or milk). Please do not send balloons or presents. Please see me one week before your child's birthday to discuss details.
7. Snacks- In regard to snacks, we want to give parents a choice in providing snacks for their child's class. If you are interested, you may sign up with your child's teacher so that you may provide a snack for a designated week. We want to encourage parents to send a healthy snack. Remember that it is strictly optional and your input is always welcomed. If your child has a food allergy please notify the teacher.
8. Show & Tell- we will have show and tell on Fridays after mass. Each week we will have the "Letter of the Week." On Friday your child will need to bring an item that begins with the "Letter of the Week" (Until the end of the 3rd quarter). For the 4th quarter, we will have the "Color of the Week."
9. Thursday Folders- Every Thursday you will receive a folder containing your child's school work and other important information. You may keep your child's work, sign the folder, and return it on Friday.
10. Conferences- If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the office and make an appointment to see your child's teacher. Conference time for Pre-Kinder is from 9:00-9:45a.m. Monday through Friday.

Class Schedule:

**Mrs. Gonzales & Mrs. Loya's
2011-2012
Class Schedule**

- 8:00-8:15 Prayer, Pledge & Announcements
- 8:15-8:45 Calendar & Circle Time
- 8:45-9:00 Snack
- 9:00-9:45 P.E. (Mrs. Gonzales' Conference Time)
- 9:45-11:00 Work Time- Group or Individual Presentations in Language, Math, Cultural, Sensorial, Practical Life & Prewriting Skills.
- 11:00-11:40 Lunch
- 11:40-12:00 Recess/ Water & Bathroom Break
- 12:00-12:25 Story time, & Songs
- 12:30-1:00 Religion Time
- 1:00-2:30 Work Time (5 Yr. Olds) Language, Math, Cultural and Prewriting Skills.
Nap Time (3&4 Yr. Olds)
- 2:30-3:15 Clean-up, Group Discussion, Prayer & Dismissal

*Monday- Music @ 9:55-10:25

*Tuesday- Library @9:45-10:15

*Wednesday-Computers @ 10:30-11:00

Classroom Management Plan:

In order to guarantee an educational climate, I have developed a classroom Management Plan that will be in effect at all times. When in my classroom, students must comply with the following rules:

CLASSROOM RULES

- 1) Respect ourselves, each other and our environment.
(Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.)
- 2) Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
- 3) Work quietly and by yourself in our classroom.
- 4) Practice your church manners in God's house.

CONSEQUENCES

- 1) Verbal Warning.
- 2) Observation Time (recess-lunch).
- 3) Note/Conference with parent.
- 4) Principal's Office.
- 5) Severity Clause: Will be sent immediately to the principal for
(Use of Profanity, Fighting, Physical assault, Harassment, or any other severe infraction noted in the Parent-Student Handbook.)

Supplies:

2011-2012
Teacher's Name: Mrs. Gonzales
Grade: Pre- Kinder

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| 1. Crayola Crayons 8 ct. | 2 boxes |
| 2. Crayola Coloring Pencils 12 ct. | 2 boxes |
| 3. Chubby Pencils | 1 box |
| 4. Fiskar Scissors (blunt tip) | 1 (Please label) |
| 5. Glue Sticks | 4 pkgs. |
| 6. Erasers (large) | 1 pkg. |
| 7. Crayola Markers | 1 box |
| 8. Watercolors | 1 |
| 9. Folders w/o prongs (red & blue) | 3 ea. |
| 10. Play Doh | 2 cans |
| 11. Dry Erase Expo Markers (Low Odor) | 2 (any color) |
| 12. Ream of copy paper | 1 pkg. |
| 13. Hand soap | 1 |
| 14. Sanitizer | 1 |
| 15. Paper towels | 2 rolls |
| 16. Ziploc bags (gallon/quart) | 1 ea. |
| 16. Clorox wipes | 2 boxes |
| 17. Kleenex | 2 boxes |
| 18. Dixie cups (3 oz.) | 1 pkg. |
| 19. Backpack (Large enough to fit folders) | |
| 20. Change of clothing in a Ziploc bag (Please label) | |
| 21. Nap Mat w/sm. Blanket (Please label) | |

*Please do not label school supplies with the exception of scissors, nap mat, blanket and change of clothing.

I (parent's signature) _____ have read and understand the Montessori Class Prospectus. I understand that the instructor reserves the right to modify the Class Prospectus at anytime to improve student achievement. My signature approves such understanding of the Class Prospectus for Montessori Pre-Kinder.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____