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The Montessori Middle School is a unique model, unlike any other settings currently available for this age group. The curriculum and schedule, based on standards established by the American Montessori Society, is designed to meet the educational, social, emotional and personal needs of this age group. Characteristics which distinguish Montessori Middle School include:

- Recognizes the work of this age group as formation of adulthood
- 2-year curriculum covering grades 7 & 8
- Six-week learning cycles. The final week of each cycle is spent at various off-site hands-on learning* experiences.
- Personal development curriculum for teens to explore themselves and their place in the world.
- Independent study model focus on personal responsibility.

* Types of off-site experience are land-lab outdoor learning at Nature's Classroom in Wisconsin, state & federal government experience in Springfield and Washington, DC, and career/community internships.

Curriculum

The Middle School curriculum is a two-year integrated program. Academic subject areas are:

Mathematics – Small group and individual instruction

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| • <u>Basic 7th Grade Mathematics</u> | • Algebra |
| • Pre-algebra | • Geometry |

Language Arts –

Writing Skills

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| • Daily Oral Language | • Critical reflection essays |
| • Vocabulary and Word origins | • Independent research |
| • Book Reports | • Variety of forms – poetry, short stories, persuasive, news |

Speech Skills

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Discussion & articulation of ideas | • Reading reflection |
| • Group & individual oral presentations | • Leading community meetings |

Literature (relate to cycle theme)

- | | |
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| • Anthologies | • Personal choice novels |
| • Theme novels | |

Curriculum Continued

Science –

*Natural World**

- Life Science – Characteristics of living things; Patterns of life; Genetics; Botany and Zoology; Environmental impact
- Physical science – Chemistry and chemical interaction; Motion, forces and energy; Electricity and magnetism; Sound and light; Environmental energy

Social Studies –

*Social World**

- History
- Geography
- Political science
- Economics

* The Natural and Social World curriculums are theme-based as follows:

Literature selections relate to each cycle theme

Year A Themes – Connections, Exploration, Identity, Systems, Interdependence.

Year B Themes – Structure, Forces, Power, Chance, Balance

Personal World -

A curriculum especially designed for teens to explore the physical and emotional changes they are undergoing, in relation to social expectations. MPA will use the “Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens” series.

Foreign Language -

- Spanish – Speaking, writing and reading skills, individually paced to student’s level

Fine Arts –

- Music
- Theater
- Art

Physical Education –

- Focus on body wellness and image, life fitness, sportsmanship and inclusion.

Student Assessment & Reporting

Montessori Middle School uses a variety of assessment and reporting tools including mastery standards of 90% or better for all academic material, student-designed rubrics for group and individual presentations and research, work completion logs, weekly and cycle completion self-evaluations and daily homework check-off. Student, parents and teacher meet regularly throughout the school year to exchange information.

Admission

Applications are now being accepted for highly-qualified students currently in Grade 6. Consistent with MPA standards for successful learning outcomes, qualities for students accepted in MPA Middle School include:

- A curious and inquisitive student working consistently at or above grade level.
- A young person who is motivated to understand and implement teacher-given instruction and act independently and responsibly.
- An individual with the ability to establish personal learning goals.
- One who possess the social and emotional maturity necessary to be successful.

Application Process

When a student seeks to enter Montessori Private Academy, careful assessment must be made to insure a successful match. In fairness to each individual, it is important to accept only those students for whom we can make a reasonable prediction of success in our program.

Parents should initiate the information and application process by contacting the MPA office at 815-332-8101 for an appointment to meet with our Admissions Coordinator, tour the school and observe the Middle School program.

After this appointment, parents will submit an Enrollment Application with a \$50 non-refundable fee. A date for the student and his or her parents to visit together will be made. Parents will be asked to complete “Release of Records” and “Permission to consult with current teacher/principal” forms. Other records or samples of current work may be requested.

If the student’s history indicates that Montessori may be a good match, then the student is scheduled for a classroom visit of one or several days. A final admission decision will be communicated to the parents after this visit.