



Kindergarten at Clementine

What is Kindergarten?

Kindergarten is the third year of a Montessori primary education. It is when the seeds sown during the first two years really blossom academically, socially and emotionally. In a mixed age classroom, the Kindergarten students are both leaders and role models to their younger peers.

In order to reap the benefits of the multi-age grouping while also providing a unique and enriched Kindergarten experience, the Kindergartners will have an enhanced curriculum. They remain with their classroom teachers for the morning and afternoon, to enable them to complete larger more complicated works and encourage them to move through the curriculum more seamlessly with the teachers who know them best. The afternoons are further enriched as the Kindergartners work with our Kindergarten Curriculum Coordinator, who ensures that their academic, leadership and social skills have the opportunity to blossom to their fullest potential.



The Kindergarten Curriculum Coordinator

Theresa Lipinski, who has taught the Kindergarten class since Clementine opened, is our Kindergarten Curriculum Coordinator.

Theresa earned a BS in Elementary Education from Cabrini College and an AMS Montessori Certification from Chestnut Hill College. She then launched a 30-plus year career in Montessori education and was the founding teacher at Clementine Montessori. Her wealth of knowledge and experience contributed to the success and growth of our young school.



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The Enhanced Kindergarten Curriculum

The Culture Curriculum

Every Monday, the Kindergarteners will meet with Mrs. Lipinski for a cultural lesson. These lessons open the opportunities to further discuss and research different topics of study such as the world they live in, the phases of the moon, the water cycle, peace makers such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Dr. Maria Montessori, and special days during the year such as International Day of Peace. This special time allows Kindergarten children to listen, reflect, ask questions and discuss more advanced ideas with their peers.



The Readers Curriculum

On Tuesdays and Fridays the Kindergartners meet with Mrs. Lipinski to explore the wonderful world of chapter books. As the children enter their next plain of development, they are moving from concrete thinking to more abstract and therefore pictures are less needed for comprehension. Venturing into chapter books also requires significant concentration and self control. The concept of a story progressing from the beginning, to the middle and then to the end becomes more apparent. The children also begin to understand and process the plot line as well as become aware of different characters' development within each book.



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The Enhanced Kindergarten Curriculum

The Character Curriculum

In addition to the Montessori work in the classroom, each Thursday there will be a focus on character building. Kindergarteners will learn about important character traits such as respect, honesty, responsibility, fairness, citizenship and self-regulation. These traits will be discussed as a Kindergarten class and practiced so the children feel comfortable bringing these lessons into their classrooms, their homes and their communities.



The Community Project/Ambassador Curriculum

Global citizenship is a key component to Montessori's cosmic education. Our Kindergartners will further develop a universal understanding and care for others, through being Clementine ambassadors and participating in special projects. Special projects include, but are not limited to, greeting new students during phase-in, making snack for the entire school, running our school-wide recycling project, and assisting with school events such as International Children's Day.



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The Calendar of Events

Being a Kindergartener comes with added responsibility but it also comes with added privileges and perks!

There will be eight Kindergarten field trips and eleven library trips throughout the school year. Kindergarteners will be taking public transport and learning how to conduct themselves with grace and courtesy outside of our school, as well as having time to bond with their Clementine Kindergarten peers. The skills they acquire on these trips will further prepare them for elementary school.

September 27, 2019	Library Trip
October 8, 2019	Field Trip to Bartram's Garden
October 18, 2019	Library Trip
November 8, 2019	Library Trip
November 14, 2019	Field Trip to the Clay Studio
December 6, 2019	Library Trip
January 10, 2020	Library Trip
January 16, 2020	Field Trip to the Magic Gardens
January 31, 2020	Library Trip
February 7, 2020	Field Trip to the Walnut Street Theater
February 21, 2020	Library Trip
March 4, 2020	Field Trip to Fairmount Waterworks
March 13, 2020	Library Trip
April 15, 2020	Field Trip to Shofuso Japanese House
April 24, 2020	Library Trip
May 6, 2020	Field Trip to the Schuylkill Nature Center
May 15, 2020	Library Trip
May 27, 2020	TENTATIVE Moving up Field Trip
May 26, 2020	Library Trip

*All of the Kindergarten events, specifically the off-campus field trips, are a privilege for our Kindergarteners. This means that in an event of being unsafe or poor behavior, this privilege may be taken away.