

LEELANAU MONTESSORI LOWER ELEMENTARY

ACADEMIC SKILLS

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

The areas of culture and science are studied in three-year cycles. Some concepts are touched on every year and others are studied once every three years. The time at which your child may study the different areas may vary. Some areas of study are of great interest, in which we allow time for further investigation. Others may not spark the children's interest, and the concept may only be touched on. The Montessori philosophy allows our curriculum to follow the children's interest.

HISTORY

The First Great Lesson, The Beginning

The Second Great Lesson, The Timeline of Life

The Third Great Lesson, The Coming of Humans

PASSAGE OF TIME

The student:

- Creates a personal timeline
- Creates a family tree
- Records a simple history of the classes year (daily temperature, weather)
- Uses a standard calendar
- Understands the concept of day and night, the earth's rotation and its consequences
- Understands the position and tilt of the earth in relation to the sun
- Understands the concept of a year and the seasons
- Studies the months of the year and the days of the week
- Understands that a year is the time it takes the earth to go around the sun
- Understands the effects of the earth's axis on the climate and seasons
- Describes how our area changes during each of the seasons
- Reads an analog clock
- Indicates what time it will be in 1-12 hours from now
- Studies of time zones
- Explains why we record dates as B.C. or A.D. (B.C.E. or C.E.)
- Participates in the observance of a variety of cultures historical holidays

PREHISTORY/EARTH HISTORY

- Uses the clock of Eras
- Briefly describes the “Big Bang” theory of the creation of the universe
- Briefly describes the differences of the geologic eras of the earth’s history
- Briefly describes the concept of continental drift and plate tectonics
- Describes the major forms of life that were found at each era
- Describes in general terms, the stages of human evolution
- Describes the fundamental human needs
- Observes and describes local and regional historical artifacts and generates questions about their function, construction and significance

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

- Studies ancient Greece, Egypt and the Middle Ages

NATIVE AMERICANS

- Participates in the Native American Cultural Experience
- Understands the Native American culture in terms of meeting basic human needs before the arrival of European settlers

AMERICAN HISTORY

- Studies American monuments, holidays, and symbols
- Describes main characters and their qualities after reading or listening to stories from America and around the world
- Describes qualities or traits after listening or reading about famous Americans
- Explains that Americans have a variety of different religious groups, family celebrations, and customs

CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

- Gives examples that show the meaning of: authority, fairness, justice, responsibility and rules
- Gives examples that show the meaning of: politeness, achievement, courage, honesty, and reliability
- Defines and give examples of rights and responsibilities that students as citizens have in the school
- Gives examples of fictional and real people who were good leaders and citizens and explain the qualities that made them admirable
- Gives examples of why it’s necessary for communities to have governments
- Gives examples of how people in a community can influence their local governments

ECONOMICS

- Gives examples of how people use money to directly or indirectly buy the things they need or want
- Gives examples of products that people buy and use
- Gives examples of services that people do for each other

- Gives examples of the choices people have about the goods or services that people buy
- Gives examples of people in the school and community that are either producers or consumers
- Explains what buyers and sellers are and give examples of services that are bought and sold in the community
- Defines what a tax is and the purpose for taxes
- Provides examples of currencies from different countries

GEOGRAPHY

PHYSICAL

- Studies the position of Earth in Space: Universe box, galaxy cards, parts of the solar system, parts of the sun
- Studies parts of the Earth
- Study's the layers of the atmosphere
- Identifies and study the continents of the world
- Identifies and study the oceans of the world
- Studies and understand the water cycle
- Studies types clouds
- Studies the land and water forms: lake/island, cape/bay, peninsula/gulf, isthmus/strait, archipelago/chain of lakes
- Studies rocks types and the rock cycle
- Studies parts of a volcano
- Studies the Land and Water Nomenclature of North America
- Studies local geographic nomenclature- river, pooled water, lakes
- Studies other geographic nomenclature of the world- river, mountain
- Explores land and water forms using the Imaginary Island

POLITICAL

- Studies the atmosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere
- Is introduced to the three globes
- Studies continents using puzzle maps
- Identifies the states of North America using pin map
- Studies the parts of the flag
- Studies the flags of the world
- Identifies and study a variety of maps and how to interpret them
- Interprets a map using information from its title, compass rose, scale and legend
- Studies the biomes of the world: parts of a biome, types of biomes, animals of a biome, people of a biome, climate zones

FUNCTIONAL

- Studies charts and complete experiments
- Understands laws of the universe
- Understands solar energy

- Understands movement of the earth and its consequences

SCIENCE

- Participate in LOC (Leelanau Outdoor Center) mobile and camp LOC programming

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

- Understands the concept of conservation and recycling
- Understands states of matter: solid, liquid, gas
- Understands the forms of energy: light, heat, sound, chemical, magnetism, and electricity
- Understands the use of simple machines

BIOLOGY

- Understands the interdependence of the universe
- Understands and studies living and non-living things
- Studies the six kingdoms

Botany

- Studies the botany charts and experiments
- Studies parts of the plant: root, stem, leaf, flower, fruit, seed
- Understands the process and participates in gardening
- Is introduced to the animal cell

Zoology

- Studies the animal kingdom charts
- Understands the difference vertebrates and invertebrates
- Studies the different classes of vertebrates
- Studies the different classes of invertebrates
- Is introduced to the animal cell