



What to Expect from the Primary Community

The Classroom

- There are three Primary classrooms that occupy between 25-30 children.
- The children in these classrooms range from 2.5 – 6 years of age.
- The Montessori Primary experience is designed to end at the age of 6 when the child is ready for **first grade** and is a 3 to 3 ½ year commitment.
- Each classroom has one Montessori Certified Lead and 2-3 assistants during the work cycle.
- All of the Primary environments have the following areas:
 - **Practical Life**- Care of self, others, and environment/Interacting with grace and courtesy
 - **Sensorial** – Learning to classify the objects of their environment using the five senses
 - **Language** – Focused on the development of phonetics, writing, as well as a love of reading and books
 - **Mathematics**- Moving from the concrete to the abstract through quantity and numeration
 - **Science** – Exploration of physics and classification of species and concepts
 - **Art**- Creative exploration focused on developing fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination
 - **Geography**- Study of maps as well as culture and climate
 - **Peace**- Conflict resolutions, negotiations, and respect for one's self as a citizen of the world
- Children work both independently and in small groups. They are free to choose where they want to sit and what work they want to do within the boundaries of having already received a lesson by an older peer or adult. At this age, a child may choose to observe the work or lesson of another child without interacting directly with the material.

The Program

- Our base program is five days a week from 8:15-3:30. You can add morning and/or afternoon care if you choose.
- Class starts promptly at 8:30 each morning.
- We offer 3 different carpool lanes at 8:15-8:30, 3:15-3:30, 4:30-4:45.
- Children rest/nap within the classrooms starting at 1:00-2:45/3:00. Older children who have grown out of naps will have the opportunity to have another small work cycle starting at 1:30 within the Afternoon Classroom. This classroom is for the more mature child who will do more group and theme-based projects.
- All children under the age of five are required to rest for a minimum of 30 minutes, per state law.
- The Primary classrooms have staggered outside times. There are too many children for them to all be on the playground at once. Please check with your child's lead teacher regarding the daily schedule.

Lunch and Snacks

- The school provides a morning and afternoon snack. We strive for a full organic or natural menu. Organic milk or water is provided by the school and served at lunch. Lunch is to be provided daily by the families.
 - We do not offer snack substitutions for children with allergies—these will need to come from home. We are a nut sensitive school.
- Morning snack is set out as a "Snack Work". This means that there is a designated table where a set amount of children sit and have snack. It is available throughout the work cycle so that children can choose to have snack when they are hungry. The snack work provides the children the opportunity to serve and clean up their own meal.

Aftercare

- All children typically stay within their own classroom after 3:30 for our aftercare program until 5:30.
- Centennial provides ancillary programs each day of the week beginning at 3:30 and typically ending at 5:15. Children are split into 2 groups, please contact your aftercare teachers for which group your child is in. By 5:15 each day, the remaining children gather in one classroom for final pickups. **(Due to COVID-19, ancillaries are on hold until further notice).**