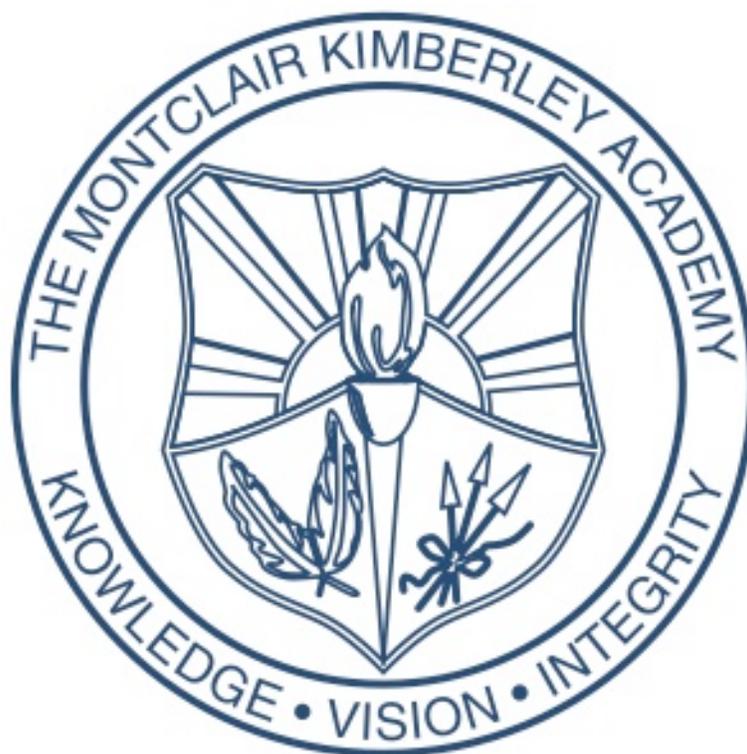


Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum Overview



Montclair Kimberley Academy

Pre-Kindergarten

The pre-kindergarten classroom provides a child-centered, developmentally-appropriate environment in which teachers facilitate and encourage active, experimental learning. Development of positive social relationships and individual growth are emphasized in an atmosphere of caring and support. We have adopted the Emilia Reggio philosophy that children learn through guided play, that integrates language arts, including daily writing workshop, social studies, mathematics and foreign language.

The overall goals of the pre-kindergarten program are to foster the development of the child's holistic sense emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically and to create the foundations for children to view learning as an exciting journey through life.

Below, you will find a more concrete explanation of the pre-kindergarten curriculum:

Language Arts: The language arts curriculum at the pre-kindergarten level is designed to facilitate children's active involvement in meaningful language experiences including speaking, listening, reading and writing in order to build positive attitudes toward self, language and literacy. The teachers will model for the children by verbalizing their thought processes and, at the same time, gently challenge the children to support their ideas. The teachers will also model appropriate social language, which will allow children to negotiate peer conflicts. Throughout their pre-kindergarten year, the children will be exposed to many

different types of reading experiences. Picture books, poetry, chants and rhymes will be read. A variety of charts and graphs will be made with the teachers. The children will engage in activities that will encourage them to discuss books and stories and to make connections to their own lives through literature.

Writing Workshop: The pre-kindergarten children will learn to establish good writing habits during Writing Workshop. The students will learn that they can create their own stories by recalling details from personal experiences and writing them down. Their writing will include representational and non-representational illustrations, letter strings, environmental print and inventive spelling. Throughout the year, the children's writing is celebrated at publishing parties with the older grades.

Math: The mathematics curriculum is based on the understanding that children learn at their own rates and through their own interests. This is facilitated through a variety of concrete, meaningful experiences and materials to be explored at learning centers and in small group settings. By providing a stimulating environment and encouraging children to ask questions, the children will discover relationships and practice problem solving in classroom situations.

World Language: The world language program is introduced at the pre-kindergarten level. This year's class will follow an uninterrupted sequence of Spanish throughout their duration at the Primary School. The children will study Spanish Monday through Thursday for 15-minute sessions. A variety of techniques, including games, finger plays and songs, will foster the children's active learning.

Science: The science curriculum is designed to encourage exploration through open-ended materials in learning centers, demonstrations, experiments, class projects and related literature. The students will explore concepts such as living and non-living things, matter and energy forces, and weather and seasonal change.

Social Studies: The aim of the social studies curriculum is to foster an understanding of self, school and family. A multi-cultural perspective is employed to generate an understanding and appreciation of different cultures and holidays.