

Transitioning from Lower Elementary to Upper Elementary:

Children who are approaching 9 years of age are peaking the second plane of development. At this time, they are preparing to transition to the Upper Elementary environment, which consists of 9-12 year olds. In an Upper Elementary classroom students continue through the American Montessori Society (AMS) curriculum sequence but will gradually use less materials as they work towards abstraction. Diving deeper into subject matter, completing research individually and in small groups, and working on large-scale group projects are important components in this stage of learning and growth.



Here are the traits students must demonstrate consistently in order to be successful in the MSCU 9-12 classroom:

Social/Emotional

- Understands, participates in, and mediates conflict resolution
- Displays a love of learning and shows curiosity
- Demonstrates grace and courtesy towards classmates and adults on a consistent basis
- Respects others, self, and school property
- Exhibits self-control and self-discipline with very few redirections from an adult
- Shows consistent leadership abilities
- Works independently and manages time efficiently
- Chooses appropriately challenging work
- Demonstrates sustained attention to a single task without adult redirection
- Works effectively and cooperatively in small groups

Math

- Has mastered all basic math facts of addition, subtraction, and multiplication
- Has practiced “long” multiplication with carrying from one place value to another
- Can tell time on an analog clock
- Understands the place value system
- Can add and subtract quantities of US money with the decimal point
- Can do mental math problem solving

Reading

- Can read and comprehend material at a 3rd grade level or higher
- Can read a chapter book, participate in a discussion, and exhibit ample comprehension of the text

Writing

- Holds a pencil correctly and handwriting is easily legible
- Knows all uppercase and lowercase cursive letters
- Has worked with basic spelling rules
- Can write a story or summary in paragraph form
- Is familiar with capitalization and punctuation and uses them properly on a regular basis

Cultural

- Has been introduced to the chart of human needs and understands its significance
- Has been introduced to all of the Great Lessons and related experiments/timelines
- Has been introduced to many of the Montessori geography charts
- Has worked with parts, function, and varieties of animals and plants
- Is familiar with the location and names of continents as well as geographic concepts
- Has been introduced to the 6 kingdoms and their lower classifications
- Can complete a basic research project on a topic of interest or one that has been assigned