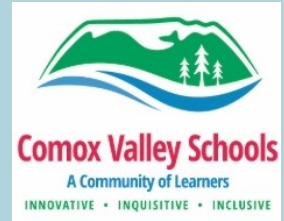


Montessori

Queneesh Elementary & Courtenay Elementary Community School



“Through stories and inquiries, students are presented with a big picture of the world in which they live”

For students in the Montessori kindergarten classes, days are consumed with learning the skills to organize themselves, consolidate their understanding of literacy and numeracy fundamentals, and establishing the social order necessary to carry them through their school years.



The lower-elementary classroom is where skills begin to take shape. The development of reading skills is nurtured through a sequentially designed language program, which includes manipulative word work with letters (Moveable Alphabet), pictures, and objects. Word work, spelling rules, and phonics lessons are often included in a Montessori reading program. Writing skills are fostered through a comprehensive grammar program, spelling work, sentence analysis, and research skills.

Materials which make abstract concepts concrete, aid skill development in mathematics. The sequence of mathematics materials allows children to progress at their own pace. The full complement of mathematics materials covers everything from place value and operations to fractions and geometry.

Cultural studies (science and social studies) are the heart of the Montessori program. Through stories and inquiries, stu-

dents are presented with a big picture of the world in which they live and opportunities to ask and answer questions about it. The Great Lessons are the hub of the cultural wheel, taking students back in time and beyond the place in which they reside and bringing their big-picture learning right back to the ground beneath their feet. As respected Montessorian Michael Dorier said, “stories have the powers to illuminate, elucidate, motivate, spark the creative imagination, and touch the spirit of the children.” Additional activities found in cultural studies include Puzzle Maps, the Botany Cabinet, and nomenclature cards, which support research. Many cross-curricular activities are explored through cultural studies including art, mathematics, and language arts.



The upper elementary classrooms build again on what has come before them. With the requisite organizational skills and subject matter fundamentals in place, students can expand upon and deepen their understanding of content through self-driven inquiry and group work. Students should leave the program primed for high school.

All the lessons and learning presented in the Montessori classrooms are informed by the B.C. curriculum as well as the scope and sequence of the Montessori curriculum.

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