

A Skeletal Outline of the Montessori Lower Elementary Curriculum
 This is an impressionistic aid for parents, not a literal scope and sequence!

CMS Curriculum	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept & process in operations of + and - • Skip counting: sequence of numbers • Introductions to fractions • Coin values/recognition • Word problems • Simple graphing • Time • Place value to thousands • Memorization of + facts • Measurement: length • Critical thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept & process in operations of - and x • Skip counting: powers of numbers; memorization • +/- of like fractions • Addition of coins; making change • Word problems • Venn diagrams • Time • Graphs • Equivalence of fractions • Place value to millions • Memorization of - facts • Measurement: length, weight, temperature • Critical thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept & process in operations of x and + • Multiples and factors • +/- of like fractions • Pre-algebra: parentheses etc. • Mixed word problems • Graphs • Place value to billions • Memorization of x and + facts • Measurement: length, weight, temperature, volume • Critical thinking • Money work: coins, bills, word problems, making change
Geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic concepts: point, line, surface and solid • Names of geometric solids • Study of lines: parts of lines; positions of one straight line; relations of two straight lines • Complex geometric shapes; quadrilaterals, polygons, triangles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of angles: whole, straight, right, acute, obtuse; convex/reflex angles; angles formed by a transversal • Names of plane figures, including triangles & polygons • Using constructive triangles to create various quadrilaterals and triangles • Study of triangles: sides, angles • Uses geometry sticks to create various triangles and quadrilaterals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed study of triangles • Study of quadrilaterals (parallelogram, trapezoid, rhombus, rectangle, square) • Study of polygons (pentagon through decagon) • Similarity, congruence, and equivalence • Measurement: area, perimeter • Study of angles: angles formed by a transversal
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word study: classifying, compound words, alpha order • Mechanics: periods and capitals • Phonics: short and long vowels, consonant digraphs • Poetry and dramatic recitals • Print handwriting • The history of writing • Spelling tests • Journal writing • Creative writing: beginning, middle, end, sentence expansion, outlines • Reading groups: leveled by ability • Public speaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word study: synonyms, suffixes, prefixes, antonyms • Mechanics: periods, quotations marks, commas • Phonics: blends, vowel digraphs; spelling tests • Poetry and dramatic recitals • Cursive handwriting begins • Spelling tests • Journal writing • Creative writing: beginning, middle, end, outlines • Reading groups: leveled by ability • Public speaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word study: homophones, homonyms, homographs, guide words • Mechanics: apostrophes for contraction and possession • Poetry and dramatic recitals • Cursive handwriting • Spelling tests • Journal writing • Creative writing: paragraphing, informative, persuasive, narrative, outlines, editing • Literature groups: leveled by ability • Public speaking • Phonics
Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The function of the "noun family": article, adjective, noun • The function of the verb • Introduction to sentence structure: "asking" vs. "telling" sentences; concept of a sentence as a complete thought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Function of prepositions • Function of adverbs • Function of conjunctions • Function of pronouns • Function of interjections • The four types of sentences: declarative, imperative, interrogative, exclamatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of style: analyzing simple texts for frequency of parts of speech • Sentence analysis: simple sentences with predicate, subject and object; indirect object, adverbial extensions

Zoology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of five classes of vertebrates: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals • Classification of vertebrates & invertebrates • Characteristics of and stories about animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of invertebrates • Beginning research into animals • Body functions of animals: movement, protection, support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxonomy: classification of animals according to a 5 kingdom model • Research and guided report writing • Body functions of animals: nutrition, circulation
Botany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of plants: seaweed, moss, ferns, pine trees, flowering plants, fungi • Characteristics of and stories about plants • Gardening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functions of the plant • Study of parts of the plant/ leaf/root • Beginning research into plants • Gardening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced botany nomenclature (e.g. types of leaf margins, types of fruits, etc.) • Research and guided report writing • Gardening
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts of time: noticing changes in seasons, telling time • Graphing child's family ages • Passage of years: making a personal timeline of child's life • History of names of days of the week and months of year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of fundamental human needs of various cultures • Roman numerals • The Gregorian calendar and BC/AD or CE/BCE timeline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "long black line" (an impressionistic overview of earth history) • The "Clock of the Eras" • The Time Line of Life: detailed research into the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, Cenozoic and Neozoic Eras
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of maps; puzzle mapping; cardinal directions • Basic land & water forms • Study of 2 continents per year based on biomes and needs of man • Study of atmosphere • Study of hydrosphere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of a flag; study of flags • Beginning basic research on land & water forms • Study of atmosphere • Study of hydrosphere • Study of 2 continents per year based on biomes and needs of man 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced land & water forms • Study of 2 continents per year • Study of atmosphere • Study of hydrosphere • Mapping skills: latitude & longitude, making maps • Research and guided report writing
Physical Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work of water & wind (water cycle, erosion, etc.) • Physics experiments: relating to the formation of the universe, gravity, inertia, volcanism, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun and earth • Work of water & wind • Nature of the elements • Physics experiments: relating to the formation of the universe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics experiments: relating to the formation of the universe • Work of water & wind
Astronomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the solar system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the solar system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the solar system
Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layers & movements of the earth • Composition of the earth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layers & movements of the earth • Composition of the earth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Island project • Layers & movements of the earth • Composition of the earth
Practical Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food preparation • Sewing activities • Animal care • Care of the environment • Host/hostess duties • Escorting Primary children to classes • Reading to Primary students • Grace and courtesy • Human values: peace, integrity, honesty, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food preparation • Sewing activities • Animal care • Care of the environment • Host/hostess duties • Escorting Primary children to classes • Reading to Primary students • Grace and courtesy • Human values: peace, integrity, honesty, etc. (continues on into 3rd level) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food preparation • Sewing activities • Animal care • Care of the environment • Host/hostess duties • Escorting Primary children to classes • Reading to Primary students • Stock market game: simulated stock portfolios • Floating lab: marine science experiments on field trip
Personal Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities of self: concentration, task completion, use of time, independence organization • Responsibilities to group: respect for rules, cooperation, contribution to the group, leadership skills • Responsibilities to environment: care of plants & pets, environment, cleaning, lunch preparation, keeping individual work space tidy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of responsibilities which began in 1st year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solidifying responsibilities which began in 1st year