



2009-2010

MONTAGE

Life Preparatory Academy

As we expand into our upper grades we will begin our Life Preparatory Program for 4th—8th Graders. Those grade levels will experience less Montessori time and more individualized advanced studies.

Every student in this program will be using a laptop and be on-line with many of their courses, able to move at their own pace through Reading, Phonics, Foreign Language, Key Curriculum Math Courses and testing, Word Smart Vocabulary Development, Typing, PowerPoint Presentations, History, Geography, and Science Research through ASSET, etc. Great Fun! I wish I was a 'kid' in school these days!

As Dylan so famously put it:
"OH, the times...they are a changin'!"

Young Authors Program

Our Literature and Book Club Program expands next year into 2 Semester Publications of student Art and Prose. The Young Author's Club members will collect, screen, and produce on the computer the student masterpieces.

The culmination of this year-long project will be our Beatnik Coffeehouse/Art Show where we will get to snap our fingers to student poetry readings while we sit around lava lamps wearing our tie dye singing songs from the 70's

GROOVY MAN!

GIFTED Program

As we move into more older students with a solid foundation in the basics and sound individualized study habits, we find we can bring back our GIFTED Program. Students will have the opportunity to progress individually through a national standards curriculum. Testing is required to qualify for this program, but it offers some tremendous opportunities for students ready to handle this kind of challenge. Contact the office to find out more.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

One of the most important skills that can be provided beginning learners is that of Foreign Language. It is best as auditory learning when children are infants-5 and then developed visually in ages 6-12. Our program will expand next year to:

1. continue with our daily conversational Spanish Program.
2. focus on a Romance Language Immersion Program 1st Semester with Preschoolers getting it every day, and Elementary students living the language during the mornings during Focus Weeks. (French will be the focus next year.)
3. And then move into an Asian Language during the second semester, with our focus next year being Chinese.

The Preparatory students will be connected to Rosetta Stone through their individual laptops for auditory correction and a more individualized progression.

Conversation Packets will come home with all of the students to practice applying the language to daily living situations.

C'est Magnifique!

FOCUS WEEKS

2009-2010 will see the ever popular Focus Weeks transition into an alternating program to where we will keep the kinds of learning experiences we had this year every other month. On the alternating months we will be spending more time with Mr. Science in our Science Lab every afternoon, applying Math to real-life situations in our Life-Learning Lab, and a return of our Improv/Theater training.

We were doing "Who's Line is it Anyway?" way before the show came on the air. It is fabulous life-skill training in communication....thinking on your feet...and best of all, learning to listen carefully to what the other person is saying because you have to build off of what has just happened or been said.

The method approach we use is called Essential Theater where-in students have to apply their Improv within a group setting.....very challenging. For example: 1 student in the group begins to tell the story through acting, not speaking, then the next person adds to that with another action or sound moving the story-line along, each person coming in without cue and then all working together to somehow know when and how to end the story together.....without anyone directing the finish. We find our students develop tremendous teambuilding skills through this approach. Stay tuned!