

# Effective Grading

Geist Montessori Academy

Lorena Vaughn, SPED Candidate



# How do we best manage student work?

“Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed” - Maria Montessori



# Grading Systems

- ❑ We use an individualized approach to assess each students' abilities and achievements.
- ❑ According to Montessori for Today, "Grading in Montessori schools does not consist of letter or number grades. Children who learn the Montessori way get encouragement and progress reports rather than letter grades. Rather than being measured in comparison to peers, Montessori children are allowed to work on things at their own pace and are evaluated on individual progress."(Jones, 2022)
- ❑ The teachers grade their students with constructive criticism and feedback on what they do, guidance and encouragement, and self-assessment.
- ❑ Once a semester we send report cards home that rate children's learning on scales of 1 to 4.
- ❑ State-mandated testing like NWEA also provides us with some feedback on how the children are doing in comparison to peers at area schools.

**Montessori schools do not use traditional grading systems.**

# Student Engagement

## Differentiate Work

Work is given to students based on their level.

## Check in often

Teachers circulate the room checking student work during entire work cycle

## Create a safe & supportive classroom

All students are valued and encouraged.  
Our focus is on consistent, hard work versus grades and tests.

## Montessori Materials

The classroom is full of beautiful Montessori materials and a pleasant environment.





- ❖ Our overall goal for the children is that they are self-motivated learners with the life skills needed for their future. These skills include the ability to study areas of interest, independent work habits, organizational skills, and acceptable social skills.
- ❖ Children are given small group, large group and individual lessons. They practice the lessons through individual and partner work. At this level, works become more involved and may take longer to complete. In Middle Elementary we are focusing on the quality of the child's work and encouraging them to take pride in their work rather than how quickly they complete the work.
- ❖ During the Work Cycle the children are guided to make their own choices of what to work on by planning out their works on their work plan and using it to keep track of the works completed. Students can self-check work but once at least three works have been completed they must be checked by a teacher.
- ❖ We do still adhere to Indiana State Standards. Within these guidelines we will provide instruction related to the standards so that students can feel confident on tests and within outside peer groups.

# Student Work

## Public Montessori Methods

A hybrid of public with Montessori methods.

Week of January 5, 2015					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Journal	Daily Journal	Daily Journal	Daily Journal	Daily Journal	Daily Journal
Cultural	Virtues: Confidence and Perseverance	Identifying and Naming Parts of a Tortoise (Reptiles)	Chapter four from the Story of the World	Art Project: Sand-cube Step Pyramid	Finding Capital Cities of Australia
Excel Math	Lesson 64: Complete Homework	Lesson 65	Lesson 66: Complete Homework	Lesson 67: Complete Homework	Assesment 12
Montessori Math	Multiplication with bead bars	Multiplication with bead bars	Multiplication with bead bars	Multiplication with bead bars	Multiplication with bead bars
Language	Lesson: Introducing the Question Mark	Question sheet	Choose 10 phrases from the grammar symbol tray and symbolize in your language journal	Question sheet	Write 15 of your own questions in your language journal
Reading	SRA Reading Lab 1B	Free choice chapter book	SRA	Free choice chapter book	SRA Reading Lab 1B
Spelling	Write spelling words in Language Journal	Write each spelling word in a sentence in your language journal	Read your spelling list	Write spelling words in Language Journal	Spelling Assessment

# Assignments

## Example workplan

-This is an example of a Montessori workplan. Students are given individualized workplans with work being introduced at the appropriate level for that student.

-Every day students have a 3-hour work cycle in which they are expected to complete a certain number of works each day. In the afternoon students do recess, specials and some group lessons, the class meeting or activity.



# Impact on Grade Level & Content Area

## 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> Grades in One Classroom

Standardized tests such as I-READ, I-Learn and NWEA 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades provide more outside pressure and accountability during these years.

At GMA we have two grade levels in each classroom so that students may align with the levels that are most appropriate (outside of testing).



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

# Circle Time

## Brief, important routine each day

- At Circle Time students are given the opportunity each morning to practice certain roles such as chairperson, meteorologist, jester and more.
- During the last portion of Circle Time the teacher gives announcements
- A large group lesson often will take place to review “morning work” .
- Students complete “morning work” during the first 15 minutes of the school day.





## References



Jones, S. (2022, October 4). Everything you should know about grading in Montessori Schools. *Montessori For Today*. <https://montessorifortoday.com/everything-you-should-know-about-grading-in-montessori-schools/>