

Sunrise Middle School
1750 NE 14th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

MONTESSORI MAGNET PROGRAM
Guidelines and Requirements
2021 – 2022



Vision Statement

Our vision is to foster a community of life-long learners who will be prepared to participate in a culturally diverse society.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Montessori Magnet Program is to deliver a rigorous course of academic study through a curriculum that integrates Montessori philosophy and contemporary methods of education. With an emphasis on independent learning, we endeavor to provide a physically and emotionally safe environment where students will excel academically and approach their lives and work with well-developed critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Guidelines and Requirements

Dear Montessori Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Thank you for choosing the Montessori Magnet Program at Sunrise Middle School. The Montessori curriculum is based on the Florida State Standards and the essential components of early adolescent development: trust building, self-expression, self-reflection, commitment, and responsibility. These essential components of early adolescence are integrated into an advanced curriculum through enrichment projects, curriculum guides, community meetings, trust builders, community service activities, student-led conferences, a moving up ceremony, and field studies.

The Montessori Program is based on the educational philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori. Dr. Montessori was a visionary and a brilliant scholar. In 1896, she was granted a degree of doctor of medicine, which made her the first woman to graduate from medical school in Italy. Her job as a volunteer assistant at the University of Rome included work in insane asylums with mentally handicapped children. This experience fostered in her an interest in psychology and human behavior. By 1906, she resigned her position as professor of anthropology at the University of Rome to work with children of working families. This is where she developed her educational methods, which became so successful that even children considered in a disadvantage began to pass examinations meant for children of more affluent resources and opportunities. Dr. Montessori soon discovered that when children are exposed to hands-on, stimulating, real life experiences they inherently know what they need to learn and are capable of collecting tremendous amounts of information and wisdom about the world around them. Dr. Montessori's revolutionary principles about children and the process of learning have changed education around the world. Today, there are more than 4,000 Montessori programs in this country and over 2,000 worldwide.

The Montessori Program at Sunrise Middle School runs on a two-person team teaching approach. One of the teachers teaches Math, Science and an academic elective, while the other teacher teaches Language Arts, Social Studies and an academic elective course. This concept assists our students with the transition from elementary to middle school by limiting the number of teachers they have on a daily basis, while at the same time fostering the relationship between teacher and student. It allows the teachers to get to know the students' strengths and weaknesses so they can monitor the progress students make throughout the year. They adjust instruction when necessary to meet the needs of their students and take advantage of their learning strengths. This relationship is further enhanced by looping the students with the same teachers, where our teachers spend two years with each one of their students to enable their learning growth.

The course work in the Montessori Magnet Program is rigorous and challenging. The learning process is divided into three periods: Period one provides teachers with the opportunity to deliver the lesson, period two affords students time to demonstrate understanding of the concept being taught and period three includes blocks of extended time to investigate the lessons being discussed, team up with their peers to discuss projects, as well as make presentations to the rest of the class. Academic electives are offered to help students develop leadership skills, increase community involvement, learn about career choices available to them, strengthen their public speaking skills, and improve their writing skills.

Projects, field trips and other activities are embedded in the lessons. Enrichment electives are provided for the personal growth of students.

Students in the Montessori Program are required to participate in the following:

Some events or activities might be modified or suspended temporarily so that we can follow CDC guidelines.

Curriculum Guides: Curriculum guides are similar to a syllabi. They let the students know what they will be doing throughout the quarter. The curriculum guides are divided into individual activities and group projects. Due dates are assigned by the teacher. Students are expected to adhere to the deadlines. The assignments in the curriculum guides include a variety of challenging and rigorous activities, which encompass the various learning modes of the students, provide opportunities for choices and enrichment, and afford students the opportunity for self-expression, commitment, self-reflection, responsibility, and leadership.

Community Meetings: Community meetings are held daily in the Montessori classrooms. The meetings are composed of five parts: announcements, sharing, acknowledgements, questions and concerns and PACE (physical activities). The meetings are run by a student, called “the leader”. The teacher is a participant in the meeting with the rest of the students. During this time students can share anything they like, they acknowledge each other for positive behaviors, engage in brain stimulating activities and participate in exercises designed to get them ready for the classroom activities of the day. Participants are expected to listen and be respectful of their peers.

Community meetings provide students with the opportunity to develop leadership and communication skills, build trust and learn to accept and acknowledge individual differences.

Service Learning: “Service Learning” provides students with the opportunity to become involved in their community. Our students receive satisfaction by helping others through various community projects. This involvement can be in the form of beach clean-up, school beautification, visiting the elderly, visiting people at the hospital, assisting at a soup kitchen, or any of the other worthwhile causes commonly available in the community. Service learning fosters acceptance and compassion for different types of people.

All students are required to complete five (5) community service hours per quarter. Community service hours can be completed in the community or if the opportunity arises, in the school. Students must turn in a log sheet to their teachers with a written reflection related to their experience by the assigned due date for a grade in their Language Arts class. Length of the reflection will be determined by the teacher.

Student-Led Conference (SLC) – Student-Led Conferences are held twice a year at the school. This parent-student meeting gives the student the opportunity to showcase their best work. It also allows the parents to experience the growth shown by their child during the formal parent-student conference. The student attends the meeting with a prepared portfolio that has goals for the year, inventories of how the student learns best, samples of work for each core class and reflections of what has been learned up to the time the meeting takes place. Parents are asked to write a letter to their child reflecting on the experience. This letter is then added to the portfolio and turned in to the teacher for a grade in their academic elective class. The objective of this activity is to teach students leadership and

organizational skills, goal setting, self-reflection, and self-evaluation. Also, SLC allows students to improve their self-esteem and open lines of communication with parents regarding academic life.

Moving-Up Ceremony (MUC): Students work hard throughout the year to master skills expected of them. Therefore, at the end of the year we celebrate “students’ success” through the MUC. For this event we invite all of our students and eighth grade parents to celebrate the promotion to the next

grade level. This event is highlighted by students symbolically moving from their current grade level to the next grade level.

Trust Builders (TB): Montessori students participate in higher order thinking games called trust builders. Through these activities we intend to teach students effective communication skills, trust building, and leadership skills. TB also stimulates creativity and higher order thinking. Through the TB students learn how to work cooperatively in a group. They also learn how to be reliable and to depend on others to achieve a common goal. TB are used individually and within group projects. They enhance the family atmosphere in the Montessori teams from teacher to student to group.

Classroom Responsibilities/Leadership Program: In keeping with the Montessori philosophy, students are grouped into different teams with specific tasks. Students remain in these teams for a period of nine (9) weeks before they rotate to another team. Among their responsibilities, students care for the environment, are responsible for setting up for any activity requiring the use of technology and lead community meetings. Through these activities, students learn to cooperate with others, communicate, negotiate and solve problems. This is a true preparation for life!

Behavior and Academic Expectations: Students in the Montessori Program must maintain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA or higher, exhibit proper behavior, and must participate to his/her fullest potential in the academic and behavioral areas in order to remain in the program. Students not meeting the required behavioral or academic criteria will be asked to return to their home school.

Field Studies: the Montessori Program offers a variety of local field studies related to the concept being studied and for cultural and personal enrichment. Students also have a choice of an overnight field trip to Central Florida and/or North Florida depending on the year. Students going on the overnight field studies will visit different universities to get them thinking about their future college options and stop at one of the theme parks in Central Florida. **Students are required to wear school uniform when attending field trips.** Field trips vary according to curriculum and student interest.

Curriculum: Standardized test scores and grades determine appropriate placement in Core Courses. Students will participate in the following courses: Advanced Language Arts, Advanced Math or GEM Math (depending on the Math and ELA FSA scores), Advanced Social Studies, Advanced Science. In addition, students have a choice of 2 elective courses daily.

SMS utilizes a block schedule format designed to provide students with a block of 1.5 hours of uninterrupted academic time in each period. The schedule is divided into “Gold Day” and “Green Day.” Students will partake of one Personal World class, one Social World class and two electives on Green Day and one Personal World class, one Social World class and two electives on Gold Day.

Academic Elective Choices: Global Perspective (Cambridge), STEM, Engaged Citizenship, Speech and Debate, Personal Financial Literacy, Emerging Leaders.

Enrichment Elective Choices:

Wheel 1 – 4 choices from the following options: Art, Drama, Computer Applications, Introduction to Spanish, Technology, and Physical Education. Each course is one semester.

Wheel 2 – Band (whole year course) + 2 choices from the following options: Art, Drama, Computer Applications, Introduction to Spanish, Technology and Physical Education.

A Day in the Life of a Montessori Student

- I. *Personal World:*
 - a. Language Arts
 - b. Math
 - c. First elective
- II. Lunch (.5 hour)
- III. Second Elective
- IV. *Social World:*
 - a. World History
 - b. Earth Science

There are many possible scenarios of schedules. Below are some examples of possible 6th grade schedules:

Sample Schedule - 1:

Green Day

Period 1 – Advanced Language Arts
Period 2 – Speech and Debate
Lunch
Period 3 – Art
Period 4 – Advanced Math

Gold Day

Period 5 – Advanced Social Studies (World History)
Period 6 – STEM
Lunch
Period 7 – Introduction to Spanish
Period 8 – Advanced Science (Earth and Space Science)

Sample Schedule - 2:

Green Day

Period 1 – Advanced Language Arts
Period 2 – Global Perspective (Cambridge)
Lunch
Period 3 – Physical Education
Period 4 – GEM Math

Gold Day

Period 5 – Advanced Social Studies (World History)
Period 6 – Personal Financial Literacy
Lunch
Period 7 – Computer Applications (Microsoft PP)
Period 8 – Advanced Science (Earth and Space Science)

Textbooks/Workbooks

Students can access textbooks at home using “Clever.” Students must handle class textbooks/workbooks with care as they will only be given one book in class to use. Books that are lost or damaged will not be replaced and the parent(s) will have to pay a lost or damaged book fee.

Gradebook

Using the electronic gradebook “Pinnacle” or the e-Learning app “Canvas,” parents can assess their child’s grades, attendance, and other important information from the convenience of their home or any other location. To access Broward Schools’ Pinnacle or Canvas use the Clever website. It is

recommended that parent check their child's account weekly for grade updates and assignment submissions.

How to Access BCPS Student Single Sign-On:

Go to: <https://clever.com/in/broward>

Student username: student ID # + @mybrowardschools.com

Example: 0612345678@mybrowardschools.com

Student password: Pmm/dd/yyyy

Example: P01/01/2001

Late Work or Make-Up Work

In order to teach students responsibility, classwork and homework assignments are due by the assigned date. Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) late homework policy will be followed for late assignments resulting from an excused absence. *Work assigned prior to the excused absence is due at the time the student returns to class.* A late assignment that does not meet BCPS late homework policy may receive a penalty. Late work/make-up work policy will be determined by the student's team teachers.

Supply List: The following list is a generic list of supplies. Additional items might be requested by your child's team teachers.

Pencils (mechanical or wooden)	Hand-held sharpener or extra lead
Glue sticks (1 pkg. of 4)	Flash drive (1 – 4 GB or higher)
Colored pencils	Colored markers
Ruler (measures in centimeters)	Student scissors
Loose leaf-wide rule paper	Headphones/Earbuds (1 pair for computer work)
3-inch 3-ring binder (hard cover) (1)	Notebook dividers (1 pkg. with 10)
Plastic sheet protectors (at least 50)	Small individual rug

We would greatly appreciate the donation of the following supplies for students to use in the classroom:

Assorted color copy paper (pastels or bright colors)	Clorox or Lysol wipes
Boxes of tissue	Bottle of hand sanitizer

Technology

Cell Phone Policy:

Parents please be aware of District and School policy regarding student possession and use of cell phones:

- Your child may bring a phone to school, but the phone must be kept out of sight. We strongly encourage students to put away their phones in their backpacks, purse, etc., upon arrival on campus.
 - The phone must not be allowed to ring or make any sound on school ground.
 - No phones in the classroom, hallways or restrooms

- If a student chooses to keep their phone in their pocket and accidentally falls out of the pocket, it will be confiscated.
- Parents who need to reach their child or vice versa must do so through the Guidance Office.
- A student will be given a consequence for violating the cell phone policy.
- The phone will be held in the security office until a parent/guardian picks it up or makes another arrangement.
- Phones can be picked between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM

Electronic Device Usage Policy

Sunrise will adhere to the District technology policy which states that the use of computers, networks, the Internet and online communication and information systems must be related to students’ educational activities

- Students must recognize that computers, networks, and equipment used to support online learning are shared devices and agree to use them in ways which will maintain their continued operability for all users
- No illegal activity may be conducted using the District’s computers, networks, or online communication and information systems
- Students must not access or distribute offensive, obscene, inflammatory, or pornographic materials, or participate in “sexting” (see Section II for the definition)
- Students shall not intentionally spread, or attempt to spread computer viruses, vandalize data, infiltrate systems, or degrade/disrupt computer and/or network performance
- All users of computers, networks, and online communications and information systems shall adhere to laws regarding copyright

School Wide Events and Activities:

Honor roll celebration	Student of Character recognition
Student of the Month recognition	Science Fair
Spirit Week activities	History Fair
Anti-Bullying assembly	Literary Fair
Book Fair	Math Competition
Dances	Spelling Bee
National Junior Young Leaders	California Pizza Kitchen Arts Night
Arts and Culture Night @ Barnes & Noble	End-of-Year Grade Level field trip

Clubs – school wide - Robotics Club, Book Club, Gardening, Step and Dance Club, Art Club, Chess Club, Mock Trial Club, Yearbook, Opportunity Knocks for Aspiring Youth (OKAY)(mentoring club), First Priority (Christian club), Florida Future Educators of America (FFEA), National Junior Honor Society, Montessori Model United Nations (MMU), Student Government (SGA)

Sports – school wide- Membership to sports is on a competitive basis. Parents must provide transportation back home. Sports offered: Basketball, Soccer, Flag Football, Volleyball, Track, Cross Country, Golf, Baseball, and Cheerleading

The After-School Program (ASP) runs until 6:30 PM.

This document will be updated from time to time and posted in the school website, browardschools.com/sunrise.