

# GUNSTON MONTESSORI



**Gunston Middle School Montessori Program  
Arlington County Public Schools**

# GROWTH OF MONTESSORI AT GUNSTON

**Program Started at Gunston: School Year '08-'09**

One teacher taught all core subjects to two students.

**3rd Teacher Hired in 2014**

Teacher taught reading to 6th grade and co-taught science.

**Part-time Teacher Hired: SY '18-'19**

Teacher was hired to teach reading to the 6th grade students.

**2nd Teacher Hired: SY '11-'12**

1 Math and Science Teacher  
1 History and Language Arts Teacher

**Two separate communities were formed & fourth teacher hired: SY '15-'16**

**SY '19-'20**

4 full-time teachers

1 part-time teacher

85 students

# THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING IN THE MONTESSORI PROGRAM

## Our Mission

- To provide opportunities for adolescents to be self-confident and gain self-knowledge, to belong to a community, to learn to be adaptable, to be academically competent and challenged, and to create a vision for their personal future; thus, to empower early adolescents.

## Community Concept

- Montessori Communities are families!

## Cosmic Curriculum

- All subjects are interrelated and topics are introduced as greater parts of the whole.



# ROLE OF THE GUIDE AND THE ADOLESCENT

The role of the guide/teacher:

- facilitators for learning
- consultants for the students
- creators of a positive climate for learning
- communicators with parents, school and community
- Our guides:
  - **Nikole Joshi, Kathy Schwab, Nicole Hambleton, Kara Garcia, Shilo Lucyk**

The role of the adolescent:

- an active, self-directed learner
- a vital member of the class, school, county and global community
- a vital member of the teacher-student-parent team (student-led conferences)
- responsible for keeping commitments, being honest, and respectful





# MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT

## THE STRUCTURE OF SCHOOL

- a learner-centered environment
- multi-age groupings of 10-14 year olds
- large blocks of uninterrupted work time



- peer and cross-age teaching
- structured transitioning to traditional programs
- integration of current research in human development, the trends and issues in education, and the Montessori philosophy
- meets / supersedes Virginia State Standards requirements
- a developmentally-responsive curriculum and teaching team of Montessori teachers with additional adults as resources
- parent-teacher-student partnerships

# SUCCESS IN THE MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT

## · Montessori students appreciate...

- A self-directed approach to learning
- The ability to work and make choices independently
- Working in multi-age groups
- A creative approach to learning

- Having various opportunities and methods of explaining mastery
- Working at a different pace than their peers
- Peer-teaching and peer-learning
- Being a community leader
- Caring for the environment



# MONTSSORI THROUGH THE YEARS



## 6th Grade

TA  
English  
Reading  
History  
Science  
Math (except 6/7/8  
pre-algebra)

Out: Elective & PE

## 7th Grade

TA  
English  
History  
Science  
Math

Out: Elective, PE &  
Algebra/Geometry

## 8th Grade

TA  
English  
Science  
Math 8

Out: Electives, PE,  
World Geo,  
Algebra/Geometry

# MONTESSORI TA (TEACHER ADVISORY) COMMUNITIES



Gunston middle school has 30-minutes of TA built into th schedule each day. Montessori TA's have all three grade levels combined.

This time allows for...

- ❖ Students to form bonds and friendships through community meetings
- ❖ Opportunities to complete their responsibilities in preparing the classroom for the day
- ❖ Shared meals- TA breakfast
- ❖ Allows students time to receive additional academic or emotional support.
- ❖ Time for the community to celebrate and recognize each individual student.
- ❖ Handwork Fridays



# QUARTER THEMES 2019-2020

Montessori classes operate on a two-year cycle of themes centered around topics relating to the social and emotional development of the adolescent.

Quarter 1 & 2:

Identity and  
Conflict

Quarter 3 & 4:

Interdependence  
and Empathy



# ENGLISH BLOCK

- ▶ Mixed grade class with 6th and 7th grade combined
- ▶ Reading
- ▶ Poetry
- ▶ Mixed grade class with 6th and 7th graders
- ▶ The work of writers and the Writer's Notebook
- ▶ Apprentice Texts and Grammar
- ▶ The Writing Process and Individualized Writing Instruction
- ▶ Writing for curriculum areas
- ▶ Writing to solve internal and external issues
- ▶ Writing to create change





# SCIENCE BLOCK

- Earth Science and Life Science are on a rotating schedule and in a mixed grade setting for 6th and 7th grade students.
- Physical Science is a study of chemistry and physics and is taught only to 8th graders.
- 8th Grade Science SOL combines 6/7/8 curriculum.
- Montessori Community Science Fair and the Gunston Science Fair.
- Science writing with VJAS (Virginia Junior Academy of Science).



# MATH BLOCK

Math classes taught in the Montessori Community:

★ Math 6

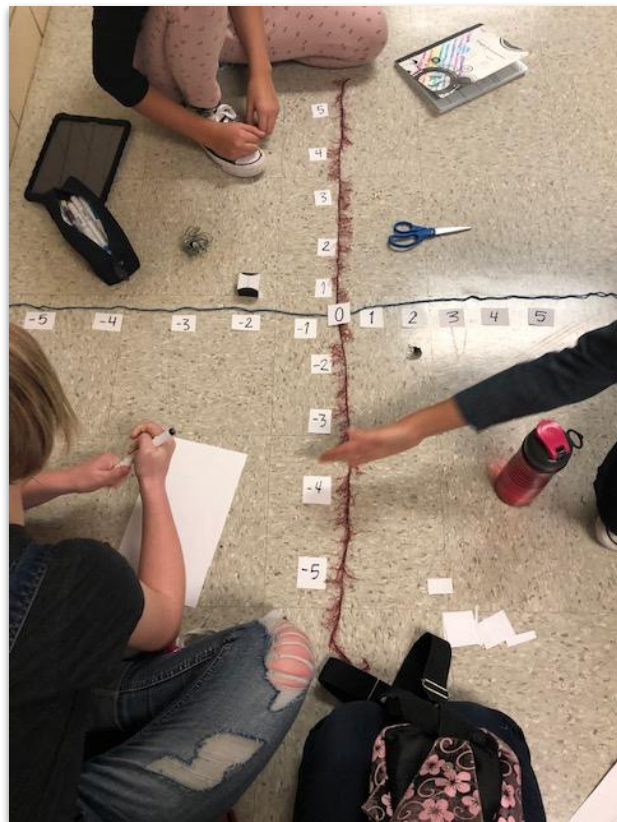
★ Math 7

★ Math 8

★ Pre-Algebra for 7th graders

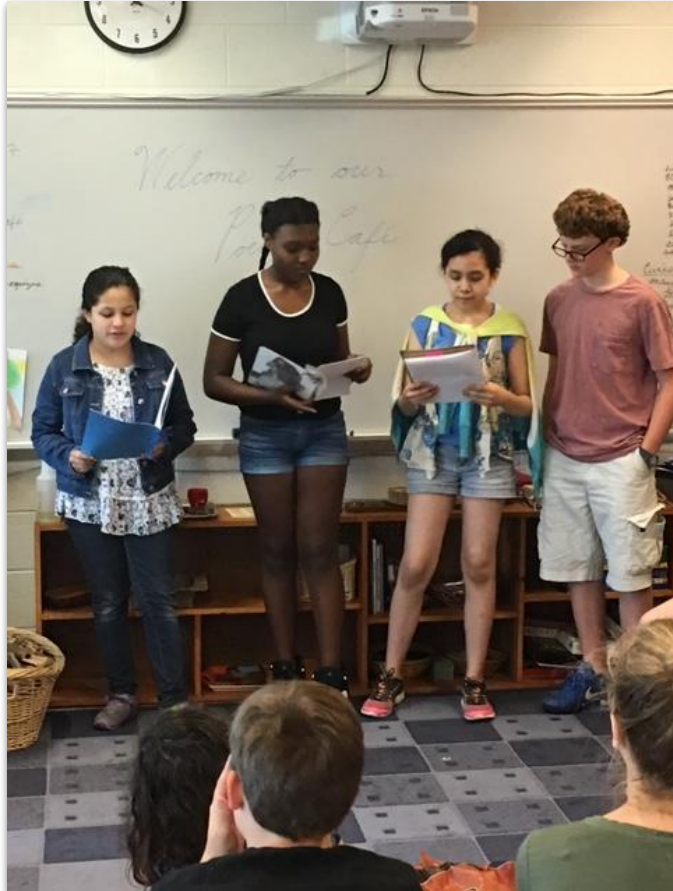
Montessori math...

- covers all Virginia Standards of Learning,
- uses concrete materials to make connections between elementary and middle school curriculum,
- incorporates collaborative learning and peer teaching,
- transitions students to confidently manage time, assignments and grades
- provides additional support for students during and after school.





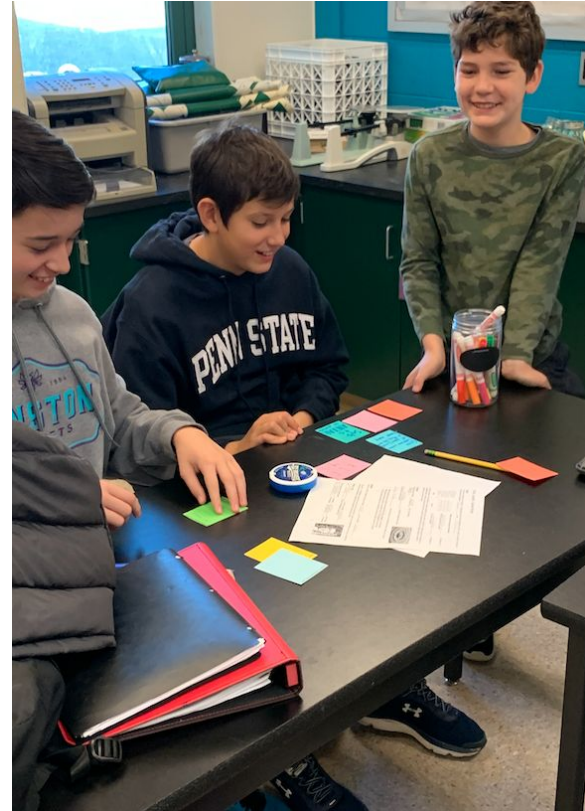
# READING FOR 6TH GRADE



- ▶ Book Groups
- ▶ 7 Habits of highly effective teens
- ▶ Meta-learning
- ▶ Personal Learning Styles and Intelligence
- ▶ Studying and test taking skills
- ▶ Listening and Asking Questions
- ▶ Memory Skills
- ▶ Active Reading
- ▶ Book Talks

# HISTORY 6&7, CIVICS AND ECONOMICS

- ▶ Focus on Changes, Causes and Effects throughout History in a Global Context
- ▶ Our Role in the Community
- ▶ Governments
- ▶ Economic Systems
- ▶ Social Injustice, Discrimination, & Human Rights
- ▶ Globalization: The Interdependence of America
- ▶ The Characteristics of Wars and how to create Peace (Social Issues = Global Issues)
- ▶ Exploration
- ▶ Immigration: world, american and personal



# COMMUNITY WIDE EVENTS



- Fundraising Events- popcorn palace and chocolate
- Sandy Spring Adventure Park- Bonding Day
- Zoo/Botanical Gardens
- 8th Grade Culminating Trip
- Celebration of Light
- 8th Grade Send-Off
- Turkey Assembly Line
- Service Learning
- All grade-level trips

QUESTIONS?!