



Integrated Kindergarten (IK) at MAC



MAC's Integrated Kindergarten (IK) is a magical culmination of children's Primary years; it is the critical capstone of a Montessori early childhood education. Children have spent the beginning years in Primary building a foundation of skills that pave the way for their IK year. While IK students spend part of their day in a multi-age Primary classroom, our approach to their education is different than when they are in preschool, as they benefit by being leaders in the classroom and being part of their own cohort within the school. Dr. Montessori hypothesized (now confirmed by current research) that when children are five and six years old, they begin asking "why" instead of "what." They move from working with concrete materials to understanding concepts (such as math) abstractly. In addition, their social development is exploding; IK inherently nurtures this development naturally by offering small group and large group collaboration.

Our IK program is specifically designed to meet and empower every student to thrive.



More Focus on Academic Rigor

Because children in Montessori classrooms work at an individualized pace taught to them in the way that they learn best, they can soar without waiting for the rest of their peers. This ensures that students are engaged, especially in their IK year when their abilities are prime for laying academic foundations that last for life. There are many classroom materials that are only for IK children, and those works that students have used in preschool are ripe for extensions and new challenges. Children cement their curiosity, love of learning, and intellectual development through the IK program.



Development of Leadership

IK students develop their voices and role as leaders. In our multi-age environment, our oldest students have the unique opportunity to understand at a young age what it means to be a leader. Our teachers give direct instruction about the responsibility that accompanies leadership, and our IK students practice these skills each day. Whether it is assisting a younger child with a lesson or leading a small group, IK students leave Primary with the confidence that will endure throughout their schooling.



Expansion of Knowledge and Curiosity

In response to their rapidly developing fascination with digging deeper into subject matter, our IK students spend several afternoons each week with other IK and Lower Elementary students learning advanced Spanish, art, music, and physical education. These additional classes incorporate elements of history, cultural awareness, storytelling, and physical self-expression.

The Montessori Academy of Colorado is a metropolitan school that engages each child through innovative academics, exploration of character, and a fearless, forward mindset.

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IK is a pinnacle year for our students. At MAC, we track each child's growth carefully and use Transparent Classroom to keep detailed records to ensure the Montessori curriculum is aligned with common core standards. You can expect your IK student to experience a robust and comprehensive year.

IK Curriculum

Math

- Works with all operations using the decimal system (static and dynamic)
- Skip counting using the square bead chains
- Memorizes basic math facts
- Introduces fractions including equivalence, addition and subtraction
- Tell time to the nearest hour and half hour
- Recognizes numbers above 100
- Names geometric shapes (2D and 3D)

Language

- Has phonological awareness
- Names the letters of the alphabet in and out of sequence
- Identifies phonograms when reading and writing
- Writes name in cursive with proper letter formation
- Recognizes sight words
- Authorship - creates stories, writes letters
- Conducts research based on own interest
- Reads a variety of literature; poetry, fiction, non-fiction
- Word study; compound words, antonyms, synonyms, contractions

Geography/Cultural

- Labels the continents, countries in North America, and the states on the United States of America Map
- Labels and identifies land and water forms
- Identifies flags throughout the world
- Interest in learning about the world

Science

- Introduction to zoology and botany
- Classifies vertebrates and invertebrates
- Tends to vegetable gardens
- Studies life cycles: frog, butterfly, plant, flower

Spanish

- Responds to common personal questions and commands
- Cultural recognition of Spanish-speaking countries
- Knowledge of days of the week and months of the year in Spanish
- Practices writing the date in Spanish
- Willing to attempt singing and dancing in Spanish
- Phonetic awareness of the Spanish alphabet in sequence
- Knows primary and secondary colors in Spanish
- Knows numbers 1-31 in Spanish

Music

- Explores various instruments including the Montessori bells and Orff instruments
- Distinguishes between beat and rhythm
- Studies melodic contour: sounds move high-low or low-high
- Studies melodic patterns: so-mi-la
- Experiences listening music from various composers, genres, and cultural backgrounds

Art

- Demonstrates ability in using a variety of 2D and 3D media
- Compares and contrasts works of art
- Ask questions about works of art
- Recognizes artists have a role in communities
- Identifies that art tells stories, both personal and of others

Physical Education

- Practices locomotor movements: skipping, hopping, galloping, leaping, jumping
- Practices non-locomotor movements: twisting, bending, stretching
- Works on skills to enhance agility, strength, coordination, flexibility and endurance
- Uses manipulatives and balls to throw, catch, bounce, etc.

Social and Emotional

- Able to advocate for self
- Can clearly communicate a story, experience or idea
- Develops problem-solving techniques
- Practices self-regulation
- Works in pairs and small and large groups

Community

- Gives lessons to peers
- Participates in experiential learning explorations with Lower Elementary children
- Opportunities to work together in Kindergarten cohorts
- Going outs to the Blair Caldwell library each month

Integrated Kindergarten follows a typical school year, beginning in August. Children must be 5-years-old on or before October 1 of the year of enrollment to be eligible to join IK. This is consistent with most public and private schools.