



## Lower Elementary Guidelines 2025-2026

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***Please see TMS School Wide Guidelines for a comprehensive list of all Guidelines.***

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### Welcome

We hope the following information will help you with the customs and traditions of the Lower Elementary classroom.

### Supplies

**\*Please Note Outdoor and Indoor Sneaker Requirements\***

- Extra Clothing - shirts, pants, pair of underwear, and socks, that are seasonally appropriate.
- Outdoor SNEAKERS - old sneakers that can get muddy.
- Indoor SNEAKERS.
- Boots - seasonally appropriate for either rain or snow.
- Appropriate outdoor clothing for the seasonal weather (raincoat, hat, gloves, etc.).
- Students should come to school already wearing sunscreen and insect repellent if deemed appropriate by the parent.
- Classrooms can sometimes be chilly so it is a good idea to keep an extra sweatshirt/sweater/fleece, which can be worn inside comfortably.

### Work Cycle

The Lower Elementary school week centers around completion of weekly work across all curricular areas. Students manage their independent and collaborative work time to complete assigned work as well as projects of personal interest. Most weekly work (with the exception of long term projects and “big reports”) is to be completed by the end of the school week. Students receive individual, small group and whole group lessons pertaining to curricular topics and complete weekly work extensions of those lessons. Students will bring home a portion of their written work prior to fall and spring conferences.

## Homework

Lower Elementary homework consists of reading and math facts practice. Daily reading in a book at your child's level is important and expected. At least once or twice a week ask your child to read aloud to you or to a sibling within your earshot—this will help you know if they are reading a book that is right—neither too easy nor too hard for them. Please continue to read aloud to them yourself.

Math facts practice can be "mad minute" pages, flash cards, computer games, or any other method that appeals to them. <https://www.mathfactcafe.com/> allows you to create customized fact practice worksheets. Begin with addition facts to 18, and once they are secure in those, continue on to subtraction, multiplication, and division. For occasional variety, practicing to tell analog time and/or money counting is also helpful.

## Specials

Lower Elementary students will attend art, music, Spanish and physical education during the course of each week.

## Show and Tell

Once a week there will be a day children are invited to bring interesting artifacts to show the other members of the class. Items related to extracurricular activities, special events, trips or hobbies are welcome. They can also tell about something interesting that they've experienced, or tell a joke.

## Time Outdoors

Children spend time outdoors each day as often as possible. All children need to be appropriately dressed to go out.

- Please apply sunscreen and bug repellent prior to arriving at school if necessary.
- Wet weather requires raincoats and boots or extra shoes which may get muddy.
- Cold weather requires hats, gloves, and jackets.
- Snow requires boots and snow pants.
- Footwear appropriate for outdoor physical activity is preferred.

## Screen Time, Social Media & Online

## Communication

As students are spending a greater amount of time with screens, for both education and social purposes, consider turning them off when possible. "I'm bored" is nothing to fear at home—children have to be driven to boredom sometimes to initiate their own entertainment—there is great value in "dead time" for children—this is partly the reasoning behind our modest homework expectations.

Lower Elementary children are social beings. A large part of the work in Lower Elementary is learning to navigate social situations and communicate effectively and respectfully. This often requires adult guidance and support. Texting and online communication through social media can be even more difficult for children this age, and we strongly encourage adult supervision for **ALL** technology use.

## Snack/Lunch

Children are welcome to bring a morning snack into the classroom upon arrival. Each classroom has a small refrigerator for keeping snacks such as yogurt, cheese, fruit, etc. cold. Preparing and packing their own lunches and snacks is excellent practical life work for Lower Elementary students.

## Birthdays

We will celebrate student birthdays with singing and the lighting of our class birthday candles.

## Reaching Us

If you need to reach us during the school day, please email ([office@themontessorischool.us](mailto:office@themontessorischool.us)) or call the school directly (484-872-2300).

We will routinely check email messages before and after school:

- Lara Magge—[lmagge@themontessorischool.us](mailto:lmagge@themontessorischool.us)
- Amy Robinson—[arobinson@themontessorischool.us](mailto:arobinson@themontessorischool.us)

We thank you for all you do to support your child's school life.

Lara Magge, Lower Elementary Guide  
Amy Robinson, Lower Elementary Guide