Montessori Oaks' Primary Music Curriculum

Ages 3 to 6 years

Overview:
Music is integrated into the environment and curriculum in Montessori early childhood settings. It is not treated as something separate and taught only by music experts. It is a form of human expression open to everyone.

In the Primary Communities children are introduced to four parallel series of music activities and exercises in each of the following areas:

- singing
- music appreciation
- music literacy (pitch) with the Montessori bells
- rhythm
- playing of instruments

For Pre-primary and Primary communities, The music materials in Montessori early childhood settings have the following features:

- They are always available for the children (except for the percussion instruments).
- They are prepared so children can use them independently.
- They allow for repetition.
- They are designed to lead to concentration, perseverance, success, and confidence.
- They are an integral and constant part of the environment.

In the Primary communities music and movement are integrated with activities that include:
Skill: Learn to appreciate a variety of music in the world
Activities:

- Independent listening to recordings of selected pieces of music
- Learning about the instruments of the orchestra
- Listening to different instruments
- Using musical vocabulary and listening to/reading age-appropriate stories and/or
- Reference material about music and musicians.

Skill: Singing
Activities:

- Sing to a range of music
- Sing varying the volume and pitch (loud/soft; high/low)
- Enjoy singing simple songs and melodies
- Sing the scale
- Express oneself through singing
- Develop pitch recognition
- Singing without accompaniment
- Singing with accompaniment including the Montessori bells.

Skill: Auditory discrimination
Activities:

- Explore differences in sound and sound qualities
- Learn the language to talk about sound e.g., soft/loud, high/low, and the comparatives
- and superlatives
- Apply knowledge and understanding of sound to the outside world.
- Sound games e.g., indicating the direction of sound, describing sounds
- Silence game

Skill: Listen to and play simple instruments
Activities:

- Listening to and playing instruments

Skill: Understand and Identify Pitch

- Activities:
- Sensorial matching and grading activities with the bells
- Playing and singing simple songs
- Composing using the bells

Resources:

- Simple songs
- Folk songs
- Recordings of music from around the world labeled with the name of the piece,
- composer, and type of music.
- Percussion and other simple instruments