

Humanities Curriculum

“But the history of human achievements is real, a living witness to the greatness of man, and the children can easily be brought to thrill to the knowledge that there are millions of people like themselves, striving mentally and physically to solve the problems of life, and that all contribute to a solution though one may find it.”

-Maria Montessori, *To Educate the Human Potential*

The Adolescent Community Humanities curriculum spans the whole of human history each year. It tells the story of what it means to be human both thematically and chronologically, incorporating history, geography, literature, art, music, philosophy and more. As students examine the creation of human culture throughout time, they are able to think critically about the past and work toward constructing their own selves for the future. Montessori concepts drive the curriculum and scope, as each study addresses the following key themes:

- History as a scholarly pursuit
- Self-expression through music, drama and art
- Nature vs. supranature (humanity’s alteration of the natural world for its benefit)
- Elements of production and exchange
- Discoveries, inventions and explorations
- Migrations and invasions

The class also acknowledges Tennessee state social studies standards and addresses world, Unites States and Tennessee history accordingly. The Humanities curriculum is organized into four primary themes. All students receive the same key lessons on a given topic before engaging in individualized work. The themes, shown below, also include examples of specific course offerings. Only one topic will be available for any given cycle each year. These offerings are subject to change due to the needs and interests of the community.

Cycle I: Early Agriculture	Cycle II: Classical Civilizations	Cycle III: Societies in Transition	Cycle IV: Issues of Modern Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Native Americans *The Maya *Mesopotamia *Ancient Egypt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Heian Japan *Classical China *Ancient Greece *U.S. Nationhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Westward Expansion *Exploration and Colonization *The Middle Ages *The Civil War 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *U.S. Immigration *The Labor Movement *The Civil Rights Movement *Climate Change

