

Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions

What is the three year cycle and why should the kindergartener complete it?

The preprimary environment is made of three, four and five year olds. Three year olds focus on concrete materials that develop their senses and motor skills. Four year olds are very interested in socialization, not only making friends, but learning how to negotiate to keep the friends they make. Their fine motor skills are becoming stronger, as is their beginning awareness of symbols. Critical learning habits are being developed for both three and four year olds such as having a sense of order, deeper concentration, and completion of tasks. The third year is the culmination of all the preparation that has come before and the kindergartener truly “blossoms”. He or she is ready now for more abstract learning and has a special position in the multi-age classroom as the one of the older children that he or she will not have again.

Wouldn't it be better to adjust to a new school as a kindergartener rather as a first grader?

By kindergarten a child from a Montessori school is ready for academic work. Many are reading and writing and working with math processes. There is the possibility that a traditional kindergarten might not be set up to accommodate such a strongly motivated child. Just as important is the nurturing of the sense of self confidence and community that has gone on during the first two preprimary years. This continuity through the kindergarten year will make the transition to a new school the following year a smoother one.

What is the Kindergarten Enrichment program?

At Canton Montessori School the kindergarteners from each of the morning preprimary programs have a chance to come together every afternoon and work as a group. In addition to extending the Montessori lessons there is time set aside for art, music, foreign languages, field trips, and visits to the elementary class. Kindergarten requirements as prescribed by the Ohio Dept. of Education are met in the morning classes, so the afternoon is optional; however, most parents choose to take advantage of the extra opportunities offered in the afternoon enrichment program.