



## Erdkinder “Earth-Children”

Ms. Emily

**Course Description:** In older societies, peoples mark the passage into adulthood by various ceremonies. Inuit boys go on a vision quest. In other cultures, taking part in one's first game hunt marked the entry into adulthood.

Most modern societies are now virtually without any meaningful markers of this kind. Instead, we have created something new called 'the teen years', where someone is not really a child but not yet an adult. Maria Montessori was astonished that during the time of physical, emotional, and intellectual turmoil called adolescence, most cultures immobilize children behind desks rather than let them put their energies into meaningful projects.

The Erdkinder method, by contrast, empowers adolescents with the knowledge that they must take responsibility for their own care and that their activities, pursuits and actions have a very real effect on their fellow students, instructors, home and community. Lessons about economics, environmental sciences, domestic arts are acquired through hands-on work and the intellect is developed by reading, by community discussion, by enriching interactions with art, music and nature.

**Course Expectations:** In this class we strive for academic expectations, community involvement, and an atmosphere of respect. This class will help to prepare students for high school and for productive adult lives. We believe in creativity and innovation in education and emphasize every student doing their best quality work at all times. Students are expected to participate in activities and assignments.

**Textbooks and Materials:** Each student will have a spiral bound notebook to use as a journal. This notebook will remain housed in the classroom.

### Grading Plan:

A	94-100	C	74-79
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	F	Below 64
C+	77-79		



## Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

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### Course Policies:

Portfolio: Students are expected to present a portfolio of their work at each parent conference throughout the year.

Group Activities: Many assignments will include group work. Groups may be chosen randomly at the discretion of the teacher. Students are expected to work together cooperatively.

Homework Expectations: Students are expected to bring their learning home through conversations with parents, siblings and friends about the concepts they learn in this class.

Extra Credit: Extra credit will not be offered.

Absences & Citizenship Grade: Daily learning cannot be replicated for those who are absent. Make up work will consist of a one page reflection of time spent outside of this course. Learning is never ending journey and only through reflection do we find our true nature. If a student misses due to a doctor appointment, vacation or illness students will

Frequent absences and tardies will result in a lowered citizenship grade.

**Class Rules:** Respect equipment and allow others to work. If the right to learn is being intruded upon, a verbal warning will be given so that the student is made aware of the behavior. If the behavior continues, the student will be asked to stay after class or after school in order to review the expectation. If more support is needed a letter will be sent home identifying the behavior in question, which will need to be signed by a parent and returned the next day. Unreturned letters will warrant a phone call home.

### Class Materials:

All students will need the following: spiral bound notebook, writing utensils.

Donations of the following items are much appreciated:

Chicken wire, chicken feed, potting soil, pots, plants, books about gardening, farming, etc.

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**I have read and understand the rules for \_\_\_\_\_ class.**

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_