



Erdkinder “Children of the Earth”

Ms. Emily

Course Description: In older societies, people marked 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. After this, the boy was considered a man by the culture and expected to assume all of the responsibilities of manhood.

Most modern societies are now virtually without any meaningful markers of this kind. Instead, we have created something new called 'the teen years', when someone is neither a child nor 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 team development, the problem solving & design process, and 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: Each student is expected to participate in daily chores which include caring for our egg laying hens, projects involving MMA grounds, establishing and maintaining a greenhouse, and other chores that the students feel will improve our school. In this class we strive to achieve academic expectations, play a part in establishing school community, and foster 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 all activities and assignments.

Grading Plan:

A	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	Below 60



Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

Course Policies:

Portfolio: Students are expected to present a portfolio of their work at each parent conference throughout the year. Students may select one work or reflection on a project to submit.

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 a 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 reflect on one experience of their choice. They will describe the situation, their choice and the associated consequence.

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 the student will receive a formal write up of the behavior and the parent will be contacted to determine the best next step.

Class Materials:

Donations of the following items are much appreciated:

Gardening gloves, plant pots for our spring planting, chicken feed

I have read and understand the rules for _____ class.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ Date:_____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address:_____ and/or _____

Student Signature:_____ Date:_____