



NEW LEAF PREP ACADEMY

Controversial Curriculum Topics

Much like our individualized approach to academics we feel it is important to address student concerns and curiosities individually. We seek to create a space where children feel they are safe to ask questions and their teachers will assist them in discovering answers when they have concerns. Frequently this includes bringing parents into the discussion. New Leaf Prep Academy will follow a curriculum cohesive with the State Standards. When controversial topics naturally arise that are outside of our curriculum, teachers will defer student concerns to address them individually rather than discussing the topic with, or in front of, other students. While we will not engage in group discussion, we will not ignore student concerns. The teacher will address the students' concerns in a private one on one conversation. When these discussions arise within the studio a summary will be shared with parents to further discuss with their child. In anticipation of some potentially controversial topics and to include some frequently asked questions, the following policies have been established as outlined below:

Racial Diversity Including: Critical Race Theory 1619 Project	The State Standards will be taught through the Montessori Method. Critical Race Theory is not included. 1619 Project is not included. Students will discuss how we are all different and unique in our own ways. Race will be discussed when referencing different cultures. Students will never be made to feel ashamed when speaking about race or personal attributes that are out of their control. Student concerns will be addressed individually with each student.
Student Equity	New Leaf Prep Academy promotes equal treatment of all people. As per the Montessori Method all students will be provided the appropriate support necessary to be successful.
LGBTQ+ Including: Gender Identity and expression Restrooms Relationships	Student's birth certificate shall be used when determining legal name and gender. Teachers and staff will address students based on birth certificate details, and reasonable preferred names or nicknames as indicated on enrollment paperwork and approved by administration. Students are expected to comply with their birth certificate assigned gender for policies including but not limited to dress code and restroom usage. Marriage, relationship preference, intimacy and sexuality are outside the curriculum and are deferred to parents.
Constitution & Bill of Rights	The State Standards will be taught through the Montessori Method. The Constitution and Bill of Rights are both covered in US history.

Evolution	<p>The State Standards will be taught through the Montessori Method. Evolution is covered predominantly in the Life Science unit in grade 6.</p> <p>Evolution will be referenced as scientifically accepted, however students will be made aware that alternate theories and beliefs on the basis of the Human Race exist.</p>
Sexual Health Education and Physical Development.	<p>The State Standards will be taught through the Montessori Method. Human Growth & Development, and the reproductive system is included and will be covered in Body Systems.</p> <p>In 6th , 7th, and 8th grade a letter will be sent home to families with recommendations on information they should share with their student around physical development and Sexual Health Education that is developmentally appropriate. If parents do not wish to teach their child about these topics they can “opt-out” and they will be taught in school with prior parent permission. We feel that due to the nature of the topics it is best if the lesson is individualized to meet each student's developmental needs and families should be given the option to lead these conversations and provided with additional resources as needed.</p> <p>Parents will be notified prior to beginning the Body Systems unit.</p>
Cursive	Cursive will be taught
Keyboarding	While not fundamental to the Montessori method, keyboard typing is deemed an essential skill and will be developed within multiple courses and as a standalone emphasis.
Holiday Concerts	The annual holiday concert is an inclusive celebration reflecting the different traditions, songs and customs of our student body.
Pledge of Allegiance	Active Student engagement in the daily Community Meeting is expected, including standing during the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem.
Global Warming & Climate Change	The State Standards will be taught through the Montessori Method. Science Units predominantly in 5th grade will cover topics pertaining to global warming and climate change, which will be referenced as scientifically accepted. Students will be made aware that alternate viewpoints exist.
Library Topic Access	Books included in the school library will be deemed developmentally appropriate for our student population. We will encourage students to speak with their parents on topics that are outside of the school curriculum and not available within our library if questions arise. Examples of topics outside of our school curriculum include: Politics, Religion, LGBTQ+, Oppression, Sexual Health Education and Physical Development and many of the topics on this controversial curriculum topics list.