Agriculture Education
Cycle Theme: Meaning & Purpose
Content Lesson: Montessori Material

Montessori Lesson Plan

School: Gamble Montessori High School	Teacher: Mary Dudley
Subject/Topic(s): Agriculture Education / Seasonal Cycles	
Grade Levels: 9-12	Theme: Meaning & Purpose

Standards/Objectives
- Connect students to the rhythm of the natural world
- Emphasize the concept that we each have a place in the cycle of life

Materials: Teacher	Materials: Student	Time/Dates
• Montessori birthday celebration wheel image & component list • Lighter	• Component of birthday celebration wheel • Glass bead • Cover sheet	• November 11, 2019

Facts/Skills (Prior Knowledge)	Concepts/Big Ideas
• Active listening • Following directions • Exhibiting grace & courtesy • Showing respect for self, others & the environment	• Seasonal cycles • Meaning & purpose • Community & collaboration

Lesson Relates to Theme (Note: Every content lesson will not directly relate to the theme)
- Seeking a personal sense of purpose and meaning in our lives is crucial to the development of a healthy human being. This lesson allows students to cooperate and build a seasonal wheel that resembles a birthday celebration wheel (a material used in primary Montessori classrooms). Those who recognize this material will experience feelings of nostalgia and familiarity with the procedure of the "birthday walk". Those who are seeing the material for the first time will share in the construction of the wheel and contribute their unique talents (represented by a bead) to the group as we explore the seasonal changes coming in the cycle. Students are introduced to the purpose of life which is to sustain itself and the responsibility of humanity which is to nurture the world around us. The lesson will end with the students reviewing the cover sheet for the cycle as they explore what will be covered over the next six weeks.

Connection to Elementary Material or Lesson The "Birthday celebration wheel" is an elementary material children use to celebrate their birthdays as they symbolically walk a model of the earth around the sun as highlights from their life are read aloud.

Curriculum Components Included: ❑ Project ✔ Mini-Whole Group ❑ Lesson-Small Group ✔ Student engagement during lesson ❑ Shelf work ❑ Rubric ❑ Self-Assessment ❑ Seminar/Qs ❑ Interdisciplinary ❑ Outside Opportunity

Seven Gateways for Adolescence addressed in this lesson: ❑ Deep Connection ❑ Silence & Solitude ✔ Meaning & Purpose ❑ Joy & Delight ❑ Creativity ❑ Transcendence ❑ Initiation

Step-by-Step Procedures

1st Period Lesson – 20 minutes (Include steps and materials)

- Coming together in a circle students will place the mat then the sun followed by the season cards, the month cards, the moon, the earth, the vase, add the flower and pour water into the vase. Place the candle in the middle of the sun and finally sprinkle the stars and clouds as needed.
- Distribute a glass bead to each student and tell them that we each have a place in the cycle of life. It is our purpose to sustain the beauty and function of the world around us, to cultivate life and nurture our spirits. Explain that each student will walk the wheel and pass through each month and season, sharing their unique talents with the world.
- Light the candle instruct the first student to stand, slowly and silently walk around the wheel then place their bead gently in the vase with the flower and the water. When one student completes their walk and sits the next student in the circle will stand and begin their walk.
- When all of the students have walked around the wheel and all the beads are in the vase thank the students for embarking on this journey to seek meaning and purpose in themselves and in the natural world.
- Blow out the candle and place the vase on the center table in the room.
- Distribute the Cycle 3: Meaning & Purpose cover sheets and encourage the students to review them to discover more about the cycle and the work ahead.

2nd Period – Recognition (Shelfwork)	2nd Period – Recall Practice
•	• Students read past seasonal updates from the agriculture program at Gamble Montessori High School and choose events to highlight on a timeline

3rd Period – Student Application

- Students create personal timelines that include significant events in their lives. These timelines can be linear or resemble tree rings.

Plan for Differentiation		
Teaching	Work	Assessment
• Whole group lesson	• Variable length of timelines and reading requirements • Choice for timeline format	• Ag ed historical timelines • Personal timelines

Outside Support: Who, What, How N/A

Formal Assessments
Formative Assessments: teacher observation, wheel completion
Summative Assessment: timeline submissions