



The Montessori Schoolhouse



Dear 6th Avenue Families,

Happy New Year! We're back in action after a restful Winter Break. So far this semester in science and geography we're studying Antarctica and Geology— Summer found a gorgeous children's book called A Rock is Lively which the children will read and study in preparation for our famous Gem and Mineral Show here in Tucson. Language and math skill-building continues! This week the children had a lesson on simple division (a big and exciting concept for this age group!) and they'll be doing ongoing work with the moveable alphabet, a Montessori favorite. On the playground one morning a student told a teacher, "I don't really want to play... I just can't wait to work on my 'contract' work!" ☺ Thank you for sending your students to school in all of their warm gear so they can stay cozy on the playground when we go outside every day!

Warmly,

*Hannah, Summer, Dolores, Andrea,
Roxy, Lil, Zoe, and Emirse*

UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

MLK Jr. Day

No School
Monday, Jan. 20th

Rodeo Break

No School
Thursday and
Friday, February
20th & 21st

Spring Break

No School March
23rd - 27th
School reopens
Monday, March
30th

April Break

No School Friday,
April 17th

Open House

Wednesday,
April 29th from
4:30 - 6:00
(more info TBA)

“The hands are the instruments of human intelligence.” –Dr. Maria Montessori

Hands-On Learning

Maria Montessori developed her method based on direct observation of children. She watched them experiment with their curious hands, feel the shapes and textures of things, mimic the adults around them, and interact with the physical world in order to learn how to become more accurate, masterful, and useful in their pursuits.

Current research has also shown the incredible efficacy of hands-on learning. A meta-analysis of 15 years of research on the advantages of hands-on learning, including 57 studies of 13,000 students in 1,000 classrooms, demonstrated that students in activity-based programs performed up to 20% higher than groups using traditional or textbook approaches. The greatest gains occurred in creativity, attitude, perception, and logic (Bredderman, 1982).

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) also known as “The Nation’s Report Card,” revealed that students who engage in hands-on learning activities on a weekly basis out-perform their peers by more than 70% of a grade level in math and 40% of a grade level in science (U.S. Department of Education, 1999).

The children delight in using their hands to learn and explore. Humans are meant to experience the world with their senses and their curiosity. Our Montessori environment is specifically designed to encourage this joyful, tactile, deep-memory learning.



The Importance of Circle Time

Please bring your student before 8:45 or after 9:45. Morning circle is a crucial part of your child’s academic and social development. Making an unhurried and graceful transition between home and school helps to facilitate deeper learning. Playground time and sunshine are important too! A consistent daily routine gives your child a feeling of safety and wellbeing.