

STMS STORY

THIS IS HOW WE ROLL



Upcoming Events:

August 5, Monday, 5 - 8 pm

2019-20 Parent Orientation & Wine Tasting!
(for new & returning parents)

August 5 - 16

Orientation Weeks
(for rising K's and new Elementary students)

August 14, 9 - 10 am

Mock 1st Hour
(for new Children's House students)

August 14 - September 26, 5:15 - 6 pm

Sockeye Running Club, Tuesdays & Thursdays

August 16, 3 - 4 pm

Last Day of School & Ice Cream Social

August 19 - September 2

Summer Intersession Break

August 19 - 30

Camp for STMS Kids at the Fairbanks Children's Museum (FCM).

Call the museum to register at 374-6873.

September 3

First Day of School!

September 9 - October 9, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Sockeye Swim Club, Mondays & Wednesdays

September 13

Harvest Day & Garden Clean Up

October 7, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Montessori Monday! STMS Kids Night at FCM.

October 21 - November 1

Fall Intersession Break

October 21 - 25

Break Camp 1: On the Table, Ceramics & Sculpture

October 28 - 31

Break Camp 2: On the Farm, Pioneer Days

October 31, 2 - 3:30 pm

Halloween Party



Perspective: Our Family & Montessori

By Mrs. Annie Scott,

Our Administrative Manager & STMS Parent

Before joining the Spruce Tree Community in 2017, my family had only known the traditional learning style of public school. For my children (now grades K & 4th), transitioning to the Montessori method of learning was something that proved to be both exciting and challenging. As we are nearing the end of our second year at Spruce Tree, I can happily report that my children are thriving and content with this style of learning. These are a few of my family's favorite aspects of Montessori and STMS:

Year Round Calendar Our family schedule works very well with Spruce Tree's year round calendar. Having the breaks spread out over the course of the school year gives our children just enough of a break from academics, while still maintaining lesson retention and social connections. The kids are able to return after each two week break feeling refreshed and ready to pick up where they left off. Spruce Tree students get to enjoy the summer sun



spending their days in outdoor classrooms, tending to the school gardens, caring for the Spruce Tree hens, going on teacher-guided bike rides, and attending field trips to places like Creamer's Field, Calypso Farms, and Georgeson's Botanical Gardens.

Classroom Environment My children enjoy having the element of choice when choosing lessons during their work cycles, within the limits of what they are ready for. They both love working with the beautiful materials, so methodically placed on the shelves.

The multi age dynamic in their classrooms has also been a positive experience. The multi age classrooms work well because the teachers are following each child's interests and abilities when planning lessons. It creates an

Our mission is to create an experience that we all love.

environment where our students can receive lessons based on their level of understanding. The three year age range also creates unique mentorship and leadership opportunities, that we feel are invaluable.

Practical Life The environment throughout STMS prepares its students for situations they are going to encounter in life. Students have work plans that they manage throughout the week, seeking counsel from their



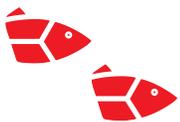
teachers and collaborating with their classmates. They are expected to use the provided resources to be as



independent as possible in ways such as maintaining the cleanliness of the classroom, preparing daily snack and assisting with lunch preparation, and caring for the plants and animals in the school. The students tend to the school's animals on their own, developing ownership of each and learning all about each one. These practical life scenarios my children are experiencing at school translate to our home. After his first few months in the Children's House, my son came home knowing how to fold laundry and cut vegetables!



Over the last two years, I have enjoyed observing my children adapt to the Montessori approach. We love our STMS community and look forward to continuing to enjoy the journey with you all!



THIS IS OUR SCHOOL



The STMS TOP 10

#10 SpruceTreeMontessori.com

A great introduction to our school, plus everything you need at the click. School calendar, lunch menu, parent handbook, staff bios, tuition info, newsletters, and more!

#9 Downtown Location

We love our downtown Fairbanks location in the historic train depot! Walks to the river, bike paths, playgrounds, and the Children's Museum are just a skip away.

#8 Sockeye Sports Clubs

Our after school sports clubs offer students a chance to swim, climb, run, bike and dance - with transportation to the venue via our school bus.

#7 Outdoor Classrooms

Our patio classrooms are used daily May - September offering a valuable connection to the outdoors.

#6 Nutcracker Ballet Tradition

Each year, we take all of our students to the Northstar Ballet's performance of the Nutcracker.

#5 Hot Lunch Program

Healthy, whole, homemade and delicious. Hot lunch daily, and serves as our culinary curriculum for elementary students.

#4 Year Round Calendar

Our unique calendar offers consistency of routine to families and staff. A 7 weeks on / 2 weeks off template with optional break camp.

#3 Montessori Philosophy

The Montessori Method is a child-centered approach that fosters rigorous, self-motivated growth for children in all areas of development—cognitive, emotional, social, and physical.

#2 Thanksgiving Pie Day

We started with 7 pies, one for each student during our inaugural year (fall 2012). Each student assembles an apple or pumpkin pie on the day before Thanksgiving to take home to share with their family. We made 96 pies last fall!

#1 Spruce Tree Goes to Denali Park

Our all school family field trip and camp out in Denali Park June 12 - 13, 2020. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for this year's plans.