

Strengthening Our Community

A Proposal to Become a Small Public School

Montessori Borealis, a program of the Juneau School District

*The Mission of the Juneau School District:
In Juneau, we are all partners in providing each student with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes
to be a contributing citizen in a changing world.*

MONTESORI BOREALIS, a program of the Juneau School District, presents:

**STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY:
A PROPOSAL TO BECOME A SMALL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

This plan includes two main features:

- 1. Adding of a public CHILDREN'S HOUSE (pre-school and Kindergarten classroom),
and**
- 2. Being DESIGNATED as a SMALL SCHOOL.**

The first part of this proposal discusses the importance of developing a Children's House and proposes implementation in August 2014. The second part states the benefits for the Juneau School District and this program to be designated as a small school and proposes to achieve such designation through a three-year implementation plan, beginning in August 2015.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Extensive research has shown that that quality early childhood education programs significantly contribute to academic success of all children and reduce dropout rates. *"These programs have well documented economic and societal value. Studies have shown that investments in quality early education can produce a rate of return to society higher than returns to most stock market investments or traditional economic development projects."*
www.childrensdefense.org

The Juneau School District has offered optional programs for more than two decades. Montessori Borealis serves as one of these important options, providing an educational model that has consistently been in demand, reaching hundreds of children during its 20-year history in the Juneau School District. Like other public school districts across the US that have embraced the full Montessori Experience from pre-school through adolescence, the Juneau School District will be able to provide in its entirety this educational option to Juneau families. Montessori Borealis Site Council and parent-student community is prepared to collaboratively work with the District to implement a preschool/kindergarten class (Children's House) in the public school setting, a place that is accessible to all.

WHO will the Children's House serve?

Montessori Borealis Children's House will enroll up to 24 students ages 3-6 each year. Consistent with current enrollment procedures for Montessori Borealis, families will be required to apply for a lottery to enroll in the Children's House. 50% of spaces for each age level will be dedicated to children of low income or other "at risk" factors for school success. The other 50% of the openings will be open to the general public. Creating a classroom of mixed socio-economic make-up will ensure that diversity is achieved. Children will automatically be enrolled in subsequent school years in the Montessori Borealis program. Openings that occur from attrition or growth of the program will follow existing enrollment procedures.

WHAT curricula will be offered in the Children's House?

The stability and integrity of Montessori schools rests on a strong foundation of the Children's House. It is in this early stage of development that the young child learns to be independent, self-confident, and self-motivated. The Montessori curriculum supports the child's curiosity and love for learning, helping the child to develop work ethic and a sense of responsibility for his or her own learning.

A Montessori classroom is a prepared environment where a child is given both freedom and responsibility. The materials are designed to meet the developmental needs of the 3-6 year old child and are organized around five areas: Practical Life, Sensorial, Mathematics, Language Arts, and Cultural Activities.

Multi-age grouping helps children develop a sense of community and supports social development. Older children act as role models and leaders of younger children. This aids in the development of personality, collaboration, and cooperation. Consistent with other grade levels at Montessori Borealis, the Children's House curriculum will follow the principles and standards adopted by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). These standards meet the Alaska State Standards currently adopted by the Juneau School District.

By being located in the same building as Yaakoosge Daakahidi High School, Montessori Borealis Children's House is especially poised to offer high quality early childhood education for children of current and former YDHS students. There will also be social support and parenting education to all participating families (including child development, social and emotional health of a family, food and nutrition, financial literacy and planning, etc.) through the Children's House program. This wrap around support to families may particularly assist YDHS parents as they complete high school and establish healthy social networks for long-term success.

An AMI Montessori Certified teacher who also holds a Type A Teaching Certificate will be the classroom teacher. A paraprofessional will serve as the classroom assistant.

WHEN can the Children's House begin?

Montessori Borealis teachers, administrators, and families are urging the District to begin this program next school year – in August, 2014. The program will follow the Juneau School District calendar for Kindergarten children and the daily schedule of the Montessori Borealis Program (8:30am-3pm).

Significant financial and logistical support has been offered by several key organizations that make opening the program by August 2014 possible. Montessori Borealis parents have volunteered to clean and paint the classroom during the summer, and assist with classroom set up and other start up tasks as needed.

WHERE will the Children's House be located?

It will be part of the Montessori Borealis program that is currently located on the second floor of the Marie Drake building. The Children's House will primarily operate in a single classroom, but will have scheduled access to the gymnasium and outdoor spaces.

The Children's House will be licensed as a preschool facility by the State of Alaska and will meet all facility and instructional requirements.

The program will be led and supervised by Montessori Borealis principal Kristin Garot. In addition, the Montessori Borealis Site Council will include the Children's House in their duties and extend its support to it.

WHY is the Children's House needed?

There have been ongoing requests for a public Children's House as part of the Montessori Borealis program for many years. A Montessori children's house includes preschool and kindergarten, allowing students to begin their education at a younger age. Early childhood education is especially important for children at risk.

Montessori Education is a time proven, research based philosophy and method of education. Dr. Maria Montessori's work began with impoverished children in the slums of Rome more than 100 years ago. We are highly confident that the Montessori Method can have positive effects on Juneau's children. Consistent with the District's Dashboard Indicators of Success no. 7, below, this program will offer children valuable experiences during their early developmental years.

Students Enter School Ready to Learn – All students enter school ready to succeed, having been provided with essential pre-kindergarten experiences to insure success in school.

The addition of the Children's House to the Juneau School District responds to several areas of the Strategic Plan, but most notably:

Highly Qualified Staff: 6. Study and practice leadership behaviors that are linked to increases in student success.

Community Commitment: 8. Strengthen community partnerships to enhance relevance in career technical programs, service learning, civics education, and across the curriculum.

HOW will the Children's House be paid for?

The Children's House will use a public-private partnership to meet the program's financial needs. Five year olds will be funded by the Juneau School District, as it is the case for other District Kindergarteners. Three and four year olds will be assessed a yearly tuition fee that is billed on a monthly basis over the course of the school year. The rate of tuition will be set by the District annually, and will be based on direct program costs. Tuition payments will be administered by the District, similarly to how RALLY fees are currently collected.

As a licensed childcare facility, low-income families of three and four year old children will be eligible to receive financial assistance for tuition through the State of Alaska Childcare Assistance Program, Catholic Community Services and/or Tlingit and Haida Central Council.

Montessori Borealis is following the example of other public schools that operate tuition-based Montessori Children’s House programs such as the Milwaukee Public Schools and the Denver Public Schools¹, for the administration and implementation of this program.

Start up costs will primarily consist of classroom materials and furniture. South East Alaska Friends of Montessori has already committed to purchasing Montessori materials for the Children’s House and agreed to loan them to the District so long as the program operates. Additional funding requests from private non-profits will be made to purchase needed furniture and miscellaneous classroom equipment. Montessori Borealis parents are currently planning a fund raising event to cover additional start up costs that may arise.

See budgets for additional information.

START UP BUDGET		
Licensing Costs		2,000
Staff Recruitment and Training		\$23,000
Montessori Classroom Materials		\$30,000
Furniture		\$10,000
Tables \$250 each X 8	2,000	
Chairs \$100 each X 26	2,600	
Shelves \$ 350 each X 16	<u>5,600</u>	
	10,200	
Appliances & Equipment		<u>\$20,000</u>
Oven/Range		
Refrigerator		
Microwave		
Outdoor equipment		
		<u>\$85,000</u>

¹ Denison Montessori – Attachments 1-2

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

Income

	Monthly fee	Months	Annual Fee	Enrollment	
Tuition	\$838	9	\$7,544	15	\$113,160
Child Care Grant	\$34	9	\$306	15	\$4,590
Site Council Fundraising					\$5,250
Juneau School District 0.5 FTE					<u>\$50,000</u>
<i>Total Income</i>					<u><u>\$173,000</u></u>

Expense

Personnel

JSD 0.5 FTE Certified Teacher	\$50,000
Certified Teacher 0.5 FTE	\$50,000
Paraprofessional 1.0 FTE	\$53,000
Admin Assistant 0.2 FTE	<u>\$10,000</u>
	\$163,000

Program Supplies

\$10,000

Total Expense

\$173,000

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DESIGNATION

The Juneau School District is committed to implementing instructional programs with fidelity to ensure student achievement. (JSD Strategic Plan)

WHY become a Small School?

Once the Children's House is in place, providing the needed foundation to the Montessori Borealis program, Montessori Borealis will be poised to increase the number of students in the program from the current 127 to just over 180 students. This is proposed as a three-year implementation plan, starting with one new lower elementary, then adding one upper elementary class. This increase in enrollment will highly benefit the Juneau School District by increasing State funding that is based on the School size factor (AS.Sec.14.17.450). This has a potential to bring one million dollars of additional annual funding with limited expenses against this new revenue.

The Montessori Borealis Adolescent Program will also highly benefit from having a larger student base with Montessori experience to join their program, providing the stability that this program greatly needs. By having more sixth grade students ready to continue through grades 7 and 8, there will also be less need to recruit annually from the community.

WHERE will these new classes be located?

Montessori Borealis currently occupies the upper level of the Marie Drake building. This building is scheduled to be renovated in the foreseeable future. . Montessori Borealis staff and supporters are currently participating in the planning process for this renovation, and have included the needs for growth in the discussions. The immediate need in 2014 will be one additional classroom, which has tentatively been identified by District administration.

HOW will the plans for implementation of the new classes work?

A new mixed-lower-and-upper elementary classroom will be formed in Year One of this plan (2015-16). This class will include grades 1 through 4. In Year Two this class will also include grade 5. By Year Three, this class will split into two classes: one lower elementary (grades 1-3) and one upper elementary (grades 4-6). The average PTR in Montessori Borealis would not be less than District PTR standards at any time.

Please refer to the Montessori Borealis Enrollment Distribution by Class charts below for an illustration of the school years 2014 to 2017 below.

For more than 20 years, Southeast Alaska Friends of Montessori has provided scholarships to individuals to achieve their Montessori teacher training. SEAFOM has also purchased most of the Montessori materials used in Montessori Borealis classrooms. This implementation plan, including specific funding requests for teacher training and new classroom materials, will be presented to SEAFOM at the April 17, 2014 meeting.

Montessori Borealis Enrollment Distribution by Class

Current Year: 2013-2014

Existing
Classes

Grade	Lower Elementary		Upper Elementary		Adolescent (AMP) Class H / Class I
	Class B	Class C	Class F	Class G	
1	9	8			
2	9	9			
3	5	6			
Total	23	23			
	46				
4			7	8	
5			8	7	
6			7	8	
Total			22	23	
			45		
7					22
8					14
Total					36
Grand Total Student Count					127

Montessori Borealis Enrollment Distribution by Class

Year 0: 2014-2015

Implementation Year for Children's House

Grade	<i>Children's House</i>	
	Class A	
P 3	8	
P 4	7	
K	9	
Total	24	
	9	
	Lower Elementary	
	Class B	Class C
1	6 new	7 new
2	9	8
3	9	9
Total	24	24
Total	48	
	Upper Elementary	
	Class F	Class G
4	5 r + 2 new	6 r + 3 new
5	8	8
6	9	7
Total	24	24
Total	48	
	<i>Adolescent (AMP)</i>	
	Class H / Class I	
7	15 r + 7 new	
8	20	
Total	42	
Grand Total Student Count		
147		

Montessori Borealis Enrollment Distribution by Class

Year 1: 2015-2016 Designated as Small School

Implementation of Additional Lower Elementary Classroom

Grade	Children's House		
	Class A		
P 3	7 new		
P 4	8 r		
K	7 r + 2 new		
	24		
Total	9		
	Lower Elementary		New
	Class B	Class C	Class D
1	3 r + 5 new	3 r + 5 new	3 r + 4 new
2	6 r + 1 new	7 r + 1 new	6 new
3	9	8	4 new
	24	24	
Total	48		
			Upper Elementary
			Class F Class G
4	8 r		5 r + 3 new 5 r + 3 new
5	0		8 8
6	0		8 8
	24		24 24
Total			72
			Adolescent (AMP)
			Class H / Class I
7			16 r + 4 new
8			22 r
Total			42
Grand Total Student Count			
171			

Montessori Borealis Enrollment Distribution by Class

Year 2: 2016-2017 Designated as Small School

Expansion of Additional Lower Elementary Classroom

Grade	<i>Children's House</i>		
	Class A		
P 3	7 new		
P 4	7 r + 1 new		
K	8 r + 1 new		
	24		
Total	9		
	<i>Lower Elementary</i>		<i>New</i>
	Class B	Class C	Class D
1	3 r + 5 new	3 r + 5 new	3 r + 5 new
2	8	8	7
3	7	8	6
	23	24	
Total	47		
			<i>Upper Elementary</i>
			Class F Class G
4	7		7 + 1 new 7r + 1 new
5	8		8 8
6	0		8 8
	36		24 24
Total			84
			<i>Adolescent (AMP)</i> Class H / Class I
7			16 r + 5 new
8			20 r + 1 new
Total			42
Grand Total Student Count			182

Montessori Borealis Enrollment Distribution by Class

Year 3: 2016-2017 Designated as Small School

Additional Lower Elementary Classroom Splits into Third Lower El and New Upper El.

Grade	Children's House		
	Class A		
P 3	7 new		
P 4	7 r + 1 new		
K	8 r + 1 new		
	24		
Total	9		
	<i>Lower Elementary</i>		
	Class B	Class C	Class D
1	3 r + 5 new	3 r + 5 new	3 r + 5 new
2	8	8	8 r + 1 new
3	8	8	7
	24	24	24
Total	71		
	New		<i>Upper Elementary</i>
	Class E	Class F	Class G
4	7 r + 2 new	7 r + 1 new	7 r + 1 new
5	7	8	8
6	8	8	8
	24	24	24
Total	71		
			<i>Adolescent (AMP)</i> Class H / Class I
7			16 r + 5 new
8			21r
Total			42
Grand Total Student Count			193

PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the collaboration with the Juneau School District, Montessori Borealis will partner with the following agencies to provide support services for families and funding for this program. See attached letters of support.

Department of Education and Early Development

Provide early learning program support and certification

AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Provide referral services for families in need of early childhood education programs

Guidance on additional funding available for this program

Educational support for paraprofessional staff and parents

Catholic Community Services

Child Care Assistance

Healthy Teen Young Parent Center

State of Alaska Childcare Program Office

Child Care Assistance

Family Nutrition

Food Stamps

Denali Kid Care

Rasmuson Foundation

Grant request for start-up costs

Juneau Community Foundation

Grant request for start-up costs

South East Alaska Friends of Montessori

Up to \$30,000 for Montessori Materials and administration of the Children's House program

Teacher Training Scholarships

Montessori Materials for lower and upper elementary classrooms.

Montessori Borealis Site Council and Parent Group

Volunteer labor for classroom set up

Minimum of \$5,000 for annual operating costs.

December 3, 2013

Kristin Garot
Montessori Borealis Principal
10014 Crazy Horse Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Greetings,

The Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC Southeast Alaska) supports the development and implementation of a "Children's House Program," offering a Montessori preschool and kindergarten program within the Juneau School District. The program would be developed by Montessori Borealis and Southeast Alaska Friends of Montessori (SEAFOM) to serve up to 24 children ages three to six, with preference given to children of Yaakoosge Daakihidi students and families of modest means.

This program would increase the education options for families, provide a strong early childhood education foundation for students, increase high school graduation rates, and has the potential to increase student enrollment and be sustainable.

AEYC, with support from **thread**, the Alaska Child Care Resource and Referral Network, commits to supporting the success of the project through the following in-kind services:

- Offer market data and provide on-going linkage with financial supports available for preschool programs licensed through the Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services.
- Offer on-site technical assistance and mini-grants to assist with the preschool learning environment.
- Provide early childhood professional development trainings for teaching staff.
- Assist in linking parents to family supports in the community.
- Assist in promoting the program to parents and the community.

We believe the proposed project outlined by Montessori Borealis Public School Program will provide exceptional benefit for our community, and we encourage consideration of a full day program to serve the needs of families and students.

Sincerely,


Joy Lyon
Executive Director



Montessori Borealis

A Juneau School District Community



Inspiring children to discover learning



March 10, 2014

Kristin Garot, Principal
Montessori Borealis Public
10014 Crazy Horse Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Kristin,

It was with great pleasure that the Montessori Borealis Site Council heard the plans for incorporating a Children's House within our public program. We are very excited to have a quality Montessori preschool and kindergarten classroom available to the children of our neighbors, Yaakoosge Daakahidi High School and other children who may not currently have this opportunity.

The Montessori Borealis Site Council unanimously voted to fund raise \$5,250 for the 2014-2015 school year as direct support of the Children's House classroom. We will reach this goal through a variety of events and activities within our current community and our program alumni. We intend to be very clear in our efforts that families of children in our public school program are under no obligation to provide financial support; any contributions are entirely voluntary and do not affect the education provided in our program.

The Montessori Borealis Site Council is very happy about this endeavor and looks forward to adding a Children's House to our small community.

Stephanie Allison, President
Montessori Borealis Site Council

Southeast Alaska Friends of Montessori

PO Box 21142 Juneau, Alaska 99802

May 18, 2014

Juneau School District

Board of Education

10014 Crazy Horse Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing as a representative from the SEAFOM (Southeast Alaska Friends of Montessori) Board of Directors. Our mission, as written in our By-Laws, is to support schools and individuals throughout Southeast Alaska by promoting, developing, implementing, and maintaining Montessori education, as created by Dr. Maria Montessori.

We are excited about the Proposal before you to add a Children's House (ages 3,4, and 5 year-olds) to the already existing Montessori Borealis Program. This small, additional classroom is step one in a three year plan to stabilize this program by becoming an independent small school. This greatly benefits the Juneau School District by bringing in additional annual state funding.

As a token of our support, the SEAFOM Board has allocated \$28,000 in our 2014-2015 annual budget to purchase classroom supplies/materials and cover administration fees for management of the three and four year olds.

Please consider moving forward with this proposal and approving it at subsequent meetings. We are eager to continue supporting Montessori education in Juneau.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Kohlhase, Secretary

SEAFOM Board of Directors

CC: Superintendent Glenn Gelbrecht and Kristin Garot

Denison 2014-2015 Enrollment Guide



Denison Montessori
1821 S Yates St.
Denver, CO 80219
720-424-8080
[Http://denison.dpsk12.org](http://denison.dpsk12.org)

“There are many who hold, as I do, that the most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six. For that is the time when man’s intelligence itself, his greatest implement, is being

Enrollment information

Thank you for your interest in Denison Montessori. We will be having **an informational meeting on Tuesday December 3, 2013**. Applications will be available January 7, 2014. If you are unable to attend an open house **applications will be available on site January 7, 2014 with the deadline of January 31, 2014**. Please note that incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Also Denison holds tours and observations every from 9:30-10:30. Please contact Denise Atencio-Esquivel at 720-424-8082 to set up a tour.

Required documents

As stated above certain documents are required when applying for Denison Montessori. Please have these documents with you when you come to apply to ensure completeness of application.

1. Verification of child's age bring **one** of the following:
 - a. Birth certificate (or)
 - b. Passport (or)
 - c. Baptismal record (or)
 - d. Hospital record showing birth
2. Verification of address bring **one** of the following
 - a. Current lease (or)
 - b. Mortgage statement (or)
 - c. Utility bill that states "service address"
3. Child's immunization record
4. Verification of income.
 - a. Most current check stub for one month
 - b. W2
 - c. Letter from employer on

Interested in more information on Montessori

- Association Montessori International - <http://www.amiusa.org/>
- Montessori Madness – ISBN: 978-0-9822833-0-1
- Understanding Montessori – ISBN: 978-159858-974-0

ATTACHMENT 2



Denison

Priorities for 2014/15 Applicants

(Grades to be served in 2014/15: ECE3-6)

When the 2014/15 First Round SchoolChoice student assignment process is run, there will be several factors considered. The following information is used to prioritize applicants who are interested in attending Denison.

All Applicants are prioritized in the following way:

1. Currently-attending students at Denison (guaranteed)
2. Students who have a currently-attending sibling at Denison. Within this group, students are prioritized in the following way:
 - a. Applicants with previous Montessori experience
 - b. Applicants without previous Montessori experience
3. Child of a Full-Time Employee or Staff member
4. Applicants with previous Montessori experience. Within this group, students are prioritized in the following way:
 - a. Denver residents with Montessori experience.
 - b. Non-Denver residents with Montessori experience.
5. Applicants without previous Montessori experience. Within this group, students are prioritized in the following way:
 - a. Denver residents.
 - b. Non-Denver residents.

Denison makes every attempt to accommodate siblings who apply together in the same school year. Meaning, if one sibling applicant is assigned to this school, the other may be too.