

# Welcome to The Cedar Room!

My name is Jamie Schaub. I grew up in Traverse City, though I have also lived in Kalamazoo and Thailand. I studied Psychology and Art at Kalamazoo College, Sustainability at the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Montessori Elementary Education at the Montessori Center of Minnesota, and earned a Masters in Education at St. Catherine University. I have a passion for working with 9-12 year olds, as well as: creating art, farming, canoeing, and lifelong learning. I live on 30 acres in the woods with my Partner Brenin, dog Rue, and cat Pancho. This will be my 12th year working at The Children's House.

I feel so lucky to share the wonders of Montessori learning with such a vibrant community. I feel so grateful for the privilege and responsibility of being with your children each day and guiding them as they develop into the amazing human beings they are meant to be.

## ONGOING COMMUNICATION

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at [jamie@traversechildrenshouse.org](mailto:jamie@traversechildrenshouse.org). I will respond to your inquiries within 24 hours M-F. Should you need to contact your child or us during the school day, please call the **front desk (231) 929-9325** for assistance as we will be engaged with the children during these hours. We will have scheduled conferences twice a year, you will sign up for a visit with your child to see their work, and you are welcome to observe in the classroom. Please reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or need to share anything affecting your child. It is easiest to send an email to schedule a time to talk. I am usually available daily between 11:25-11:55 while the learners are in PE and 1:15-2:45 on Monday's while they are in art and music.

**Classroom Highlights** are a way for me to share what we are learning about and discussing in the classroom with you all at home. New Classroom Highlights will be emailed to you and posted on our Teacher Page every other week.

## SAFETY & WELLBEING

Your children's safety is of utmost importance to us. Although upper elementary children are some of the oldest in the school and are granted many more freedoms, our main concern is to always keep them safe, physically and emotionally. In this regard, please let us know either in person or in writing if someone other than you will be picking them up. Also, please make sure one of us (**Jamie or Annie**) acknowledges you if you need to pick them up during the school day so that we are aware that they are leaving with you. **Please note that you will need to come to the classroom to pick up your child if they are leaving early.**

## WORK

School is your children's work. We expect them to come on time and be well rested and prepared. Our **work cycle begins at 8:20**. Students are able to enter the elementary door, sign in, and head outside starting at **8:00am** without charging for early care. ***This is a great way for them to wake up and start moving at the beginning of the day.*** We will engage in learning in all subject areas and your children will practice lessons and research a variety of topics.

Please take this start time (8:20am) into consideration when planning your days. Because their work is important, ***we ask that you make your best effort to schedule appointments before or after school.*** Finally, because so much of your children's work is collaborative and group lessons are the norm, advance notice of vacations or other time away from school is greatly appreciated and allows us to plan accordingly.

## **HOMEWORK**

With the possible exception of the 6<sup>th</sup> years' UN work, we do not anticipate sending homework home with your children. They have sufficient time to complete their responsibilities during the workday. However, we do expect them to continue learning and engaging in **"work at home."** It is essential for their development to productively contribute to your family's daily activities, whether they walk the dog, care for a sibling, help prepare dinner, or wash the dishes. Last, but certainly not least, we ask that you set aside ample time for **reading every night.** I have also given you an appendix of "Montessori Homework Ideas for the Upper Elementary" by John Snyder.

## **Google Accounts**

We will use Google Classroom for research studies, group writing, and to share information throughout the year. Please make sure your student has access to their TCHLEARNERS google account and have joined our google classroom as soon as possible. Marty is able to help you navigate their account: [martin@traversechildrenshouse.org](mailto:martin@traversechildrenshouse.org).

## **SPANISH, ART, MUSIC, DELLA TERRA, KITCHEN CLASSROOM, READING**

Our children have an opportunity to enrich their learning experiences through their work with **Señor Jordi Llore** for Spanish, **Alison Hoffman** for Art, **Angela Lickiss Aleo** for Music, **Andrea Deibler** for Kitchen Classroom, and **DiAnn Service** for Reading. **Shea O'Brien** will support our classroom with Della Terra.

## **THEATRE**

Every spring we spend time learning the fun of theatre and preparing for a performance. Learners will spend a week (March 13 - March 21) engaged in theatre learning and will have a theatre performance for the school and their families on Thursday, March 21st in the afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity for confidence building, public speaking, and trying something new!

## **ROBOTICS**

In January we will have folks from Quarkmine coming in to support Robotics learning. Your children will engage in team-building, artistic design of a robot, building, testing, and problem solving their robots, designing on CAD software, and driving their robots.

## **GOING OUT AND CLASS EXCURSIONS**

One of the many aspects that make a Montessori education unique is the opportunity for your children to pursue their interests and deepen their understanding of a topic outside of the classroom. We welcome your participation as a driver or a resource (e.g., hosting a student visitor at work, sharing a hobby, presenting a specialty to the class, or giving an interview).

**Weekly Schedule:**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:15 Morning Movement				
8:20-11:05 Work Cycle				
11:05 Clean Up and Read Aloud				
11:25-11:55 P.E.				
12:00-12:30 Lunch				
12:20-1:15 Recess				
1:15-2:45 Art and Music	1:15-2:15 Work Cycle	1:15-2:45 Work Cycle	1:15-2:15 Work Cycle	1:15-1:30 Meeting
	2:15-2:45 Jobs & Silent Reading		2:15-2:45 Jobs & Silent Reading	1:30-2:45 Work Cycle
2:45-3:15 Jobs & Silent Reading	2:45-3:10 Español	2:45-3:15 Jobs & Silent Reading	2:45-3:10 Español	2:45-3:15 Jobs & Silent Reading

**SIXTH YEAR BUSINESS AND MMUN**

Our sixth group of delegates will participate in the Montessori Model United Nations again this year. **We will travel to NYC February 20-24.** To fund a portion of this adventure, we will guide them in the establishment of a small business early on in the year. Participating in the MMUN is an emotional and intellectual commitment, so we will have regular meetings to support your children in their exploration of real world issues and the development of solutions for the same. It is possible that we may need to have before school and/or after school meetings. We welcome *all parent support* whether your child is a 6<sup>th</sup> year student or not.

**HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

As your children enter their next stage of development, our goal is to prepare them as much as possible. Part of this preparation includes a safe and comfortable gathering to discuss how their bodies are changing as they approach puberty. In the spring, our students will meet with Carrie Ullery-Smith. She will candidly acknowledge physical changes that will occur, discuss practical aspects of dealing with these changes, and address peer and societal pressures that relate to this phase of life.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Education**

As an entire school we will be engaging in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion education. As a staff we read Tiffany Jewell’s book, “This Book is Anti-Racist” and I highly encourage you to read it as a family at home or her book “Antiracist Kid.” We also had an Implicit Bias training with Ester Triggs, Anti-Bias training with Britt Hawthorne in 2020, and I attended the 2019 Montessori for Social Justice Conference as well. We will be using Jewell’s book “The Antiracist Kid: A Book About Identity, Justice, and Activism” as a guide for discussions and lessons alongside other resources. We will have group readings and journaling activities from this book and I will share what we learn in Classroom Highlights. This first week we talked about our identities.

## **Social and Emotional Learning**

While academics are certainly a focus in the classroom, we also engage in social and emotional learning on a regular basis. We know that if children do not feel well mentally, they cannot engage in learning. We will use many book resources, have discussions, journal, use a “mood meter,” and have meetings when needed. As a classroom we begin the first few days by coming up with an agreement about how we would like to feel in the community and what ways we can support those needs. Trisha Short supports the staff as our school counselor as well. I hope that you will reach out to me if your student needs more support in this area.

## **Important Dates:**

**Class Picnic: Tuesday September 12th 4-6pm** in the large pavilion by the kickball field in Silver Lake Park. 1785 N East Silver Lake Rd, Traverse City, MI 49685

**Inland Seas Outings: Friday, September 15th**, please see email for more details.