

# 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. At some point I will be adding foster children to my home. This will be my 13th year working at The Children's House.

My name is DiAnn. Many of you know me from different aspects of work I do here at school. I have been a part of TCH for over 20 years. I am (AMI) Montessori trained in elementary education. I also have a Bachelor's degree in English and elementary education, as well as a Master's degree in Education. Along with my passion for the youth of our world and this place where we live, I am a spouse, I am also a parent of one current Compass student, and one recent graduate from our school.

Hi, I'm Betsy. I'll be assisting the Cedar Classroom this year. I grew up in Traverse City and just moved back after 17 years away. I've worked in Montessori classrooms for the past four years, and after taking my exam this fall, I will have completed my Montessori Lower Elementary training. I've also studied Early Childhood Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Sociology at Montana State University. I enjoy spending time outdoors with my husband, daughter, and dog, Cedar.

We 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 us should you have any questions at [jamie@traversechildrenshouse.org](mailto:jamie@traversechildrenshouse.org) (or [diann@traversechildrenshouse.org](mailto:diann@traversechildrenshouse.org) when Jamie is on parental leave). We 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. We are 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 us 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 once a month.

## **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, DiAnn, or Betsy**) 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. We have spelling lessons, practice, and tests at school and your children will practice flash cards in our room. 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. There is a great list in **"How to Raise an Adult" by Julie Lythcott-Haims**. Last, but certainly not least, we ask that you set aside ample time for **reading every night**. We also have 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 **Señora Heather Kidd** for Spanish, **Alison Hoffman** for Art, **Angela Lickiss Aleo** for Music, **Andrea Deibler** for Kitchen Classroom, and **DiAnn Service** for Reading. **Brooke Kartje** 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 12 - March 20) engaged in theatre learning and will have a theatre performance for the school and their families on Thursday, March 20th. This is a wonderful opportunity for confidence building, public speaking, and trying something new!

## 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	1:15-1:40 Español	1:15-2:45 Work Cycle	1:15-1:40 Español	1:15-2:30 Work Cycle
	1:40-2:40 Work Cycle		1:40-2:40 Work Cycle	2:30-3:00 Jobs & Silent Reading
2:45-3:15 Jobs & Silent Reading	2:45-3:15 Jobs & Silent Reading	2:45-3:15 Jobs & Silent Reading	2:45-3:15 Jobs & Silent Reading	3:00 Meeting

## SIXTH YEAR MMUN

Our sixth group of delegates will participate in the Montessori Model United Nations again this year. **We will travel to NYC February 18-22.** 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. You can learn more about the program here: <https://montessori-mun.org/>.

## 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. **These lessons will occur in the first week of March.**

## **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 we 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 Jamie attended the 2019 Montessori for Social Justice Conference, took a supporting children with trauma training in 2024 and will begin a Neurodivergent students in a Montessori classroom training this fall. 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, and will visit our room once a month for social group lessons as well. I hope that you will reach out to me if your student needs more support in this area.

## **Birthdays**

Your children are becoming more and more interested in close friendships and so our birthday celebrations happen with the help of two chosen friends of the birthday person. They will write a poem for their friend, everyone will share compliments, and the birthday person will blow out candles on or around their birthday or half birthday.

## **Important Dates:**

**Class Picnic: Thursday, September 12th 4:00-5:30pm** 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 13th**, for 4th and 5th years only. Please see email for more details.

**"How to Raise an Adult" book discussion: Thursday, October 10, at 6:30 p.m.**

TCH Campus

## **How to Raise an Adult Independence Suggestions:**

**Ages 6-7** is the beginning of basic cooking skills, putting things away, doing the dishes, and helping to pack their lunch, knowing address(es) and phone numbers

**Ages 8-9** folding clothes, simple hand sewing, caring for outdoor toys, using a broom and dustpan properly, reading a recipe and preparing a simple meal, making a grocery list, counting and making change, watering and weeding, taking out the trash, and vacuuming

**Ages 10-13** staying home alone, going to the store and making a purchase alone, changing the bedsheets, using the washing machine and dryer, planning and preparing a more complicated meal, using the oven, reading labels, ironing, using basic hand tools, mowing the lawn, and looking after younger siblings