



MACKINTOSH  
ACADEMY

## Boulder Campus • Citizenship Practices

Mackintosh Academy Boulder is a cooperative community of learners built upon partnerships with guiding principles of respect and responsibility. We encourage self-discipline, consideration of others, a lifelong love of learning, sound ethical judgment, and pride in our School. We educate global citizens who are ready and willing to assume their share of responsibility for the good of the communities inside and outside of our campus.

Mackintosh Academy was founded on the importance of social/emotional learning (SEL). Some of the most prevalent themes that underpin all that we do include: building mutual respect, accountability, appreciation for all human beings, and justice. We are a unique school that seeks to cultivate a sense of “*freedom with responsibility*” in children by purposefully limiting explicit rules, regulations, and procedures. Instead, we work with children to build “*living*” classroom and school agreements that are meant to be “*by and for*” children at each developmental level. The school seeks to provide the necessary scaffolding, support, and boundaries for children to set them up for success. We want our school to be a safe and nurturing place where children of all ages can grow both individually and as part of a larger community.

*We believe:*

- Children come to school with a unique set of experiences, backgrounds, and learning styles.
- The behavior challenges of kindergarten students can be vastly different from those of middle school students.
- We help children learn from their mistakes through problem-solving, peer mediation, and conflict resolution.
- Consequences need to be educational, not solely punitive.
- Actions adults take to help students learn positive choices may vary from grade to grade.
- We provide on-going opportunities for students to practice and internalize SEL skills through dedicated classes and experiences with homeroom and specialist teachers, as well as our School Psychologist.

There are some situations that require immediate adult intervention. These situations can range from those of a more common nature (ie: students arguing about a game at recess) to more serious verbal, physical, or cyber altercations. With more serious and oftentimes repetitive situations, the School reserves the right at any time to separate a child from the community when the school deems it in the best interest of the child and community. Before taking this step, the school will exercise one or more of the following measures:

- issue verbal warnings for first time offenses deemed less aggressive in nature
- provide breaks from activities or appropriate loss of privileges
- consult with our School Psychologist and family for immediate support
- engage in mutual problem-solving with the teacher(s) and parent(s)
- implement a behavioral plan constructed by the Head of School, Associate Head of School and/or School Psychologist

When a suspension occurs, the child and parents are required to meet with the Head of School and/or Associate Head of School before re-admittance to the school - usually the following morning after the suspension. From time to time situations may also require bringing the matter before our Board of Trustees for additional support and review.

Children can't grow without conflict. We strive to help children understand their place in our community and help them see their power for good. Parent partnership with this important work is critical to our ultimate success. Together we are helping shape gifted minds and hearts filled with enough empathy to help make the community, and ultimately our world, a better place.

**JJ Morrow**  
**Head of School**  
**August, 2017**