



Mackintosh Academy's "Taste of the Apple": Parents Experience Inquiry-Based Learning



What is It? Two evenings during the school year, Mackintosh Academy teachers offer a series of mini classes, so that current and prospective parents can **experience, not just hear about**, the educational strategies and approaches their gifted children enjoy every day.

Mackintosh is an independent International Baccalaureate school for gifted children, grades pre-K through 8, therefore, these mini-classes cover all grades as well as Spanish, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and PE.

Since inquiry-based instruction is not the way most of our parents were taught, this allows them to **develop a more informed understanding of the kind of teaching and learning** going on in our school.

What are the Outcomes? Research indicates that parent involvement and engagement in the school is key in determining positive student outcome. **Children do best in school when parents are involved, well-informed and supportive of the education their children receive.** Offering a "Taste of the Apple" is a very powerful opportunity for our parents to become more knowledgeable and engaged and for our students to see that school and home are working together for their benefit and the overall excellence of the school community and program.

Who is Involved? Teachers, administration, Parent Council and current and prospective parents are involved in planning, implementing and evaluating the practice. **"Taste of the Apple" receives rave reviews, year after year, from all involved!**

Sample Classes

The Colonies Are in an Uproar! - Unjust taxes! A harmless snowball fight ends with death and injury. Protesters dump tea in Boston Harbor! Battles at Lexington and Concord result in casualties for both the Patriot forces and British soldiers. Boston is under siege! Come join the fifth and sixth grade as they lead you through a reenactment of the Second Continental Congress. You will help make the decision whether or not to declare independence from the British Empire!

A Pulley for Rapunzel - Connecting STEM and Fairytales. Rapunzel is tired of letting her hair down every time somebody wants to visit her in her tower! She needs your help to design a pulley that people can use to hoist themselves up when they want to visit. Participants in this session will be challenged to use their engineering skills and the materials provided to create a pulley system through trial and error. Along the way, they will learn the basics of the pulley system and use some math skills as they work together in teams to meet this challenge.

