

# Taste of the Apple

## Mackintosh Academy

### Littleton, CO



COLORADO  
Department of Education

Taste of the Apple has become a staple at Mackintosh Academy in Littleton. Current and prospective parents of Mackintosh Academy students attend the event to gain a better understanding of the inquiry-based, International Baccalaureate (IB) learning strategies and approaches utilized by Mackintosh Academy staff. Parents also learn how and why the implemented strategies are so well suited to address the needs of gifted children enrolled in the Mackintosh Academy.

The series of mini-classes are offered twice annually so that parents can experience, not just “hear about,” the educational strategies and approaches their gifted children experience each and every school day. Examples of the classes from January’s event include:

**Creative Exploration** - With the Visual Arts teacher. Explore a wide variety of media and artistic expression through a sampling of Mackintosh art activities. Let your inner artist shine!

**Story Time!** - With the Kindergarten teacher. Why do human beings tell stories? What are the elements of a story? Come and relive the joy of story-time! Discover the commonalities in stories from around the world as you explore the human connection. Use visual organizers to express and share your learning in a fun group setting.

**The Colonies Are in an Uproar!** – With the fifth and sixth grade teachers. 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 teachers 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!

Mackintosh Academy recognizes that family engagement in their child’s education is a key factor in determining positive student outcomes. Children do best when their parents are involved, well informed, and supportive of their educational needs. *Taste of the Apple* is a powerful opportunity for parents to become more knowledgeable and engaged with their students’ education.

Event organizers have two pieces of advice to replicate this initiative: 1) Promote the event with teachers so they can recognize that this will help them in doing their jobs better and prevent confusion and disagreement about educational strategies and assignments; 2) Formalize a way of soliciting parent feedback and suggestions through a short evaluation at the end of the sessions.