

A different kind of school

“The only source of knowledge is experience.” - Albert Einstein



Shaped by Science

You'll see the difference in the schoolhouse.

Scientific and research communities support non-graded classrooms, individualized goals, small class sizes and expert teachers.

We follow the science.

“We feel like we hit the jackpot”

-Tara, parent



With Space for Life

You'll see the difference in your child's day.

When students focus their efforts on real life problems, they produce real life solutions.

Life's challenges and inspirations pose an abundance of learning opportunities.

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

Highlands Micro School is the most affordable secular independent school in North West Denver.



Inspired by Each Student

You'll see the difference in your child.

With permission to be his or herself, your child is free to grow with confidence. Our individualized goals, passion projects and cultivation of each child's unique personality are why we stand apart.





Micro is Different

At Micro, our progressive teaching approach stands out in contrast to the traditional classroom.

TYPICAL CLASSROOM	MICRO CLASSROOM
INSTRUCTION	
1 teacher: 25+ students	2 teachers: 12 students
Teacher as instructor	Teacher as facilitator, guide and partner in learning
Whole class instruction	Small group and one-on-one instruction
Learn through direct instruction and memorization	Learn through first hand experience
Teacher assistants play discreet, minor roles with minimal training	Micro interns act as teacher apprentice and are highly involved in the classroom
CURRICULUM	
Curriculum taught in parts	Curriculum is interdisciplinary
Cover subject matter and skills	Discover subject matter and learn skills in a context and for a purpose
Limited social and emotional curriculum	Social and emotional teaching is a primary focus in the life of a classroom
Assessment through high stakes testing	Assessment based on observation and practical demonstration of understanding
CLASSROOM	
Children grouped by age in single grade settings	Multi-age and multi-grade
Large amounts of time at desks or tables	Movement and collaborative work encouraged
Classroom often ordered and quiet	Priority given to learning, not order and silence
Parents limited in engagement in classroom	Parent participation in classroom actively encouraged and valued



HIGHLANDS

MICRO SCHOOL

VISION

We envision a joyful community of learners who seek to discover meaning in the world around them and the world within them, so that they may positively change the world in which we live.

MISSION

We challenge and inspire each child to discover and reach their true academic, physical and emotional potential by creating a rich and supportive environment where all individuals are respected for their contributions. We are committed to sharing our progressive philosophy by preparing teachers to use evidence-based practices in other educational settings.

VALUES

Children need high standards, not same standards – High standards convey to children that we believe they are capable of great academic, physical and emotional achievement. Our high standards are student-specific and reflect the interests and abilities of each individual child.

Children have a place in their community – Children are valuable members of their community and have the ability and desire to contribute in meaningful ways. We embrace the use of and service to our community as opportunities for students to explore their growing sense of duty and capacity for impactful involvement.

Students, parents and teachers are a team – By working together, students, parents and teachers create a village to build rich and meaningful experiences where children can discover themselves, their community and their world. Parents are actively encouraged to participate in the classroom and their individual skills and talents help make up our community.

Each child is a deserving individual – We know that each child is unique and has value, so we expect our environment to reflect and support each talent, challenge and style.

Children learn best in an environment that is healthy and safe – The environment is the third teacher, and when attention is paid to all aspects of health and safety, children are free to become their best selves. Positive peer relationships and a focus on healthy conflict resolution allow students to thrive with emotional security. By encouraging academic risk taking, curiosity and creativity, a child's mind is able to grow unhindered. A classroom lifestyle of healthy eating habits, positive body image and physical activity lays a foundation for long-term physical and mental health. A child's environment should be created and maintained with regard for chemical toxicity, clean water and air, and abundant natural lighting.

Curiosity and a love of learning are things worth preserving – Children are born with a powerful sense of inquiry and discovery. We believe these attributes are important indicators of future success and fulfillment, and work to cultivate them by developing interdisciplinary, hands-on curriculum around specific areas of student inquiry.

Learn more at www.highlandsmicroschool.com