



ABC-Stewart School

Founded 1969

Mission: We seek to educate and prepare each child to make life's journey as an independent responsible citizen of the world.

MONTESSORI MESSENGER

Calling All Parents

This year more than ever, we need your help! We have several opportunities for you to help our wonderful school through everyday activities.



Fundraising Opportunities



Thank you to everyone who donated to the school as part of the mailer! We truly appreciate your support.

ABC-Stewart has arrangements with the following businesses to earn funds for your normal shopping activities.

Amazon - Shop at smile.amazon.com and pick "ABC Learning Centre Inc" as your charitable organization!

Kroger - Sign into your online account and enter "ABC Stewart School" as the organization you would like to support! Check out <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> for more information.

Laura Jo's Cookies - Need cookies for a special occasion? Take a look at the selection from Laura Jo's Cookies for Kids. 25% of proceeds are donated back to the school on each order. <https://laurajoscookiesforkids.com/>

Marketing & Website Development

We are looking for individuals willing to help update the school's marketing brochure and website. If you have graphic design, marketing, website development or other relevant experience, we'd love to have you lead one of these initiatives.

Please contact the school office at abcstewart.office@gmail.com. Thank you!



ABC-Stewart School History

Many of you may only know the school in its current form, but it has a long-standing history. We asked the founder, Merry Carmichael to share the school's story. We will feature the the history across the next few newsletter issues.

It All Begins in the Basement

My four-year-old had taught herself to read, my three-year-old had all the symptoms of dyslexia and I was teaching public school. I could not find a preschool or day care that would meet their needs. So, my husband, Tom, and I decided to start one. In studying Montessori, I found that her methods and ideology agreed with me.

In 1969, my husband and I completed a 40x40 foot room in our basement which already had a kitchenette. He made small tables, chairs, paint easels and more. I made and purchased materials, produced brochures and advertised the school which I chose to call ABC School.



My superintendent held my job for me until 3 weeks prior to school opening as he did not believe this would succeed. My goal was to have 10 children 3 mornings a week. After an open house, I had enrolled 10 children 3 mornings a week, 10 three afternoons a week, and 10 two mornings a week. All was good! I saw happy children working independently. Montessori said, "The greatest sign of success is for a teacher is to be able to say, 'The children are now working as if I didn't exist.'"

We cooked in my kitchen, had circle in the living room and used additional basement space to store extra learning materials and craft supplies. We had our first Thanksgiving feast, Santa Clause Christmas party, Valentine's Day Tea, school program graduations as well as school picnics at Donner Park shelter house. At this time most Mom's did not work outside of the home so we had many classroom volunteers and reading Moms. Parents learned to never help a child with a task at which he /she feels he can succeed. Most parents did not want their children away from home more than 3 mornings or 3 afternoons a week.

Teacher Feature

Brandy Gilliatt - Steart Culture Room



Hello, my name is Brandy Gilliatt and I am incredibly excited to be working in the Culture Room. I have recently received my bachelor's degree in elementary education through IU-Columbus with a concentration in mathematics. Throughout my studies, I also explored multicultural education as well as the Montessori teaching method.

I have had the privilege to work at Stewart since 2015 (taking a break last year to finish school). I have also been a part of the ABC Stewart family for over 16 years as my four children have all graduated from Stewart. I am thrilled to help guide your child in becoming an individual with confidence in learning, knowledge of the world around them, and a critical thinker.



School Clubs

Elementary:

Drama Club: Wednesdays 4:15 to 5:15pm
 Art Club (1st- 3rd grade): Tuesdays 4:15pm-5pm
 Math Bowl: Tuesday and Thursday 3:30- 5:00 pm
 Basketball (4th- 6th Grade): Monday 4:30 - 5:30 pm
 Music Club: Tuesdays 3:30-4:15 pm

Preschool:

Art Club - Coming Soon



Kids Corner

On January 18th, we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr., a Civil Rights Movement Leader. Stefanie Stafford talked to students about what he did for our country and the segregation of black people. In his honor, she asked students the following question:

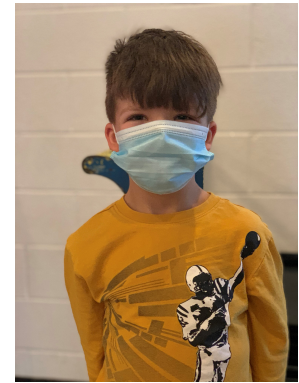
“What can you do to help our world be a better place for all people?”

Justin - ABC Kindergarten “I can share my toys with friends.”



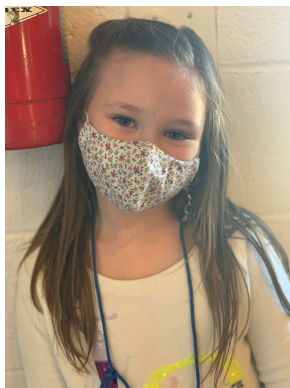
Ayla - Children’s Garden Kindergarten “We can all get together and be happy.”

Rosie - Fifth year “I will recycle, reuse, reduce, don’t abuse. I will give money to charities, help at animal shelters, and give food to Love Chapel.”



Ronald - Second year “I would tell people that black people should be treated like white people.”

Noelle - First year “I could tell people to go on with their life and not to let people be mean. You can move away from mean people.”



Emma - Third year “Being nice to everybody.”



Anika - Fourth year “First of all, less polluting and making the world healthier. I want to help animals that are almost extinct. I want to have more eco friendly places to help animals and nature.”

Alumni Spotlight

Elaine Hilber (formerly Elaine Hou)

I started Kindergarten at Stewart in 1992, and went all the way through to graduate 6th grade with 9 very close friends. We all celebrated our high school graduations together, even though half of us went to the wrong high school 😊 I loved my experience at Stewart and would credit Stewart with allowing me to be who I am, and letting me grow at my own pace. The small class sizes helped me to get more one on one time with my teachers, which I needed. I still remember the names of every teacher that worked with me, and have stayed in touch with many to this day.



I cherish the memories I have of going on walks in the woods behind the school, and learning about nature while being in it. I remember raising and taking care of animals from baby raccoons to ducklings in diapers. We even once built a giant dragon out of snow, the entire school helped, and we got our picture in the paper for our masterpiece. These are all experiences that were unique to Stewart and memories that I will treasure.

I feel so lucky and thankful to my parents for allowing me to experience such a loving and safe environment for my early years of growth. I do believe that growing up at Stewart is the reason why I have a positive view of people and attitude in life. It was easy to stay sheltered and develop that inherent belief that the world is good when you're surrounded by people who know and care about you on an individual level.



**Spring
Break!**

Spring Break Reminder

Reminder: If you plan to travel over the SECOND week of Spring Break and/or spend time with people outside your "COVID Bubble" or immediate family, your child will be required to quarantine and eLearn for at least 1 week before returning to school. If your child has a possible or known exposure, your child and siblings will need to quarantine and eLearn for at least 10 days.

Newsletter Editors:

Stefanie Stafford, Veronica Turner DDS, Sheena Seger

Recipe Corner

School Lunch Ideas

If your family is like ours, keeping school lunch healthy with good variety is hard to do all year long. Bento boxes are a fun way to send a variety of food in an easy to use container. Some basic building blocks for a good school lunch include:

Protein

Hard boiled eggs
Chicken (grilled or nuggets)
Meatballs
Pepperoni
String Cheese
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Rice & Beans
Wrap or Rollups (choice of filling)

Fruit and Veggies

Berries (Blueberry, Strawberry, Raspberry, Blackberry)
Apples
Carrot Sticks
Cherry Tomatoes
Celery Sticks
Oranges
Pineapple
Grapes
Bell Pepper Strips

Snacks

Rice Cakes
Trail Mix
Granola Bars
Yogurt & Granola
Hummus
Kind Bars
Pumpkin Seeds
Pistachios
Pirate's Booty
Cheese

Sweet Treat

Muffins
Rice Krispie Treats
Goldfish
Pudding
Energy Balls
Animal Crackers
Veggie Straws
Pretzels
Popcorn



Upcoming Events

Feb 12: Valentines Tea
- see email for your classes instructions

Feb 22- 26: Elementary Testing Week
- see email for specific instructions

