St. Michael's Reggio-inspired Approach

SMEDS is inspired by the schools and educators of Reggio Emilia, Italy. Our educational philosophy is rooted in these core principles:

Image of the child

Our pedagogy is guided by the belief that children are valuable citizens in the community, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge, perspective, and lived experiences that inform their encounters with the world. These contributions directly shape the development of classroom curriculum.

Teacher as researcher

The role of the educator is to guide and facilitate, working alongside children to make meaning around topics of interest. Educators engage in a practice of observation, documentation, and interpretation to develop theories around the questions children are asking through their play.

100 languages

Children utilize a multitude of expressive languages to represent their ideas and make meaning of the world. These languages reach far beyond verbal communication to include: the transformative properties of light, the power of digital technologies, the friendship between clay and hands, among countless others.

ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

What does it look like in practice?

A Reggio-inspired environment often looks, feels, and sounds different than a traditional preschool classroom.

Child Centered Classroom

Children have agency over how they spend their time. Make choices that feel right for them: not forcing children to participate in an experience, not forcing children to share.

Support When Needed

Adults in classrooms support children in peer conflicts or individual strugggles only when needed. Ie, asked for or needed for safety. Not forcing children to say sorry

Consideration of Aesthetics

Classrooms are aesthetically pleasing not just for adults. When children encounter beautiful things, arranged with care, they elevate their interactions with them