

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8. --that's how many years I've been at the Mountain School.

7: That's the number of my 6th grade classmates this year. Thanks for making me laugh everyday.

6. I've had 6 classmates since Montessori: Ellery, Siri, Grace, Hannah, Marshall, and Joe. All of those classmates have encouraged, supported, and inspired me since our first day of Montessori.

5. I've completed 5 Immersion projects starting with my dinosaur the Iguanodon in first, the Ute Tribe in 2nd, Kit Fox for desert animals in 3rd grade, Harriet Tubman --An American Hero in 4th grade, and this year the Study of Diabetes.

4. There are 4 core values that guide all of the Mountain School's students and teachers: Respect, responsibility, integrity, and love of learning. Respect at the Mountain School goes beyond respecting your teachers, classmates, and supplies. There is respect when you are dropping into the skate ramp or when you're skiing Palmyra. This is respect for yourself, environment, and the risks you are taking. In 5th grade, there is responsibility to do your homework and bring a pencil to class. But then there is the responsibility to take care of yourself, pack all the items on the packing list for trips, and support the group. So that when when you get caught in a hail storm in Canyon de Chelly, it's actually fun. Being a student athlete has

also taught me the responsibility to get my school work done so I can go train slalom on Tuesday afternoons.

3. Through the years, three more classmates have come along: Mateo, West, and Archer. I also have my three awesome and super fun grandparents here today.

They'll be sitting in those same seats on this day for the next ten years.

2. I want to thank my two loving parents --- one is harder on me than the other. Juniors and seniors you think she's hard on you-- you have no idea.

1. I'll miss one art and skateboard teacher next year -- Craig. One of my favorite projects in art was making our clay fish. This year my family has also had one Italian exchange student who has become another sister. And the Mountain School is one amazing place.

But one also has a different meaning to me this year. I have one younger sister Belle who was diagnosed with type one diabetes. This year she has shown courage and bravery and that she is the toughest person I've ever met. She has also shown me what love of learning and love of the Mountain School really looks like. When my sister was in the hospital all she wanted to do was get back to school, learn, see her friends, and see the community. The day she came home, members of the Mountain School had made a huge card in the form of the banner that was hung on our garage door. We hung it in our kitchen and Belle wouldn't let my

mom recycle it -- just like she won't let her recycle spelling tests or any of schoolwork. -- Belle I share this award with you. Your constant optimistic attitude is inspiring. You show me that we need to appreciate what we have and every new moment is a new opportunity to make a change.

The Mountain School has basically been my second family for eight years. Every new year I have new adventures, new teachers, and new classmates -- and as importantly-- every year, I go on similar adventures, and have some of the same teachers and the same classmates. The small classes, the community, the teachers, the lessons, the outdoor education, and my classmates continue to make my time here the best years ever. Thank you Jacqui and Brittany and all of the teachers at the Mountain School for supporting me and making every lesson fun. I love you mom, dad, and Belle.