

TMS

Tempe Montessori School • Profile in Student Success

Nicolas Dean Corder

Student Biography:

Nicolas Dean Corder was born in August of 1994 in Mesa, Arizona. His parents, Kelly, a software developer, and Jennifer, a stay-at-home mom, desired to maximize Nicolas' capability to learn and his reach his full potential. Nicolas completed Primary level Montessori school at Montessori Institute of Science under the direction of Mrs. Mary Shultz. He graduated in June of 2000. At the time, he had already taken classes at Arizona State University's Center for Academic Precocity, and was enrolled in martial arts, piano and violin lessons. Nicolas has a younger brother, Cameron Dean Corder, who also attends TMS.

Reasons for Choosing Tempe Montessori School:

"We were looking for a perfect combination of discipline and freedom plus adherence to the principles of Maria Montessori's philosophy. TMS provided exactly what we wanted," says Jennifer. Other reasons expressed by his parents include the low teacher-to-student ratio, international curriculum and ability to work as his own level.

Tempe Montessori School Experience:

Nicolas thrived at TMS from the first day of enrollment in August of 2000. Although he did not know any of the TMS students, he quickly made friends in the 1st-6th grade classroom. At the direction of Ms. Nilo Ebrahim, Nicolas moved quickly through many levels of language, mathematics and the sciences. One of his favorite exercises was the Grammar Boxes. His parents recount this story which occurred during his first year:

One evening at dinner, Nicolas said "I am so grateful for Adverbs!" His father, Kelly asked him to explain. "Adverbs make verbs exciting. Ms. Nilo says that I am the first 1st-year student to complete all of the adverb boxes during the first year. I love it!"

Socially, Nicolas matured from an inexperienced freshman to a classroom leader to all ages, nationalities and gender of children. His favorite events included the bi-annual Opera and all the many field trips. He is considerate, compassionate and passionate about environmental issues.

Academically Nicolas has always exceeded standards for his age and grade level. His Stanford 9 achievement scores were at a minimum four to five grade levels above his age. He passed the AIMS test in 2006, a requirement for graduation from Arizona High Schools. Nicolas is also an avid reader. "His critical thinking skills are outstanding. He is more prepared for life than most adults I work with," notes Kelly. "We are so pleased at how well-rounded Nicolas has become. He appreciates fine art, comprehends complex mathematics and science and practices common sense and courtesy at every turn. He is a pleasure to associate with."

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According to Jennifer, "Tempe Montessori School was the best investment we made for our children. Nicolas' outstanding teachers enabled us to address issues as they occurred, adjust as necessary and let him develop on his own. TMS also allowed us to get involved at school, accommodated family events and business travel and provided educational opportunities. Our entire family is better because of TMS."

After graduating from TMS in 2012, Nicolas received a full-ride scholarship to San Diego State University. He attended SDSU, majoring in Biology for 2 years and is currently serving a full-time mission in Lucerne, Switzerland for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints. He plans to continue his studies at SDSU upon his honorable release from the mission field.

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