

SMCS Charter Renewal

2025-2026

SMCS Academic Policy Committee

- 6 - Elected Parent Members
- 2 - Representative Staff Members
- 1 - Principal (Ex Officio)

Quorum = 5 Members

SMCS Academic Policy Committee Members

- Mike Williams - Parent Member (Chair)
- Bentley Hamilton - Parent Member (Vice Chair)
- Kathy McAlpine - Parent Member
- Jon Papendieck - Parent Member
- Lindsay Jester - Parent Member
- Emily DiPaolo - Parent Member
- Amy Frapp - Staff Representative
- Sarah Miller - Staff Representative
- John DeVold - Administrator - Ex Officio (Secretary)

SMCS Academic Policy Committee - Meetings

- August 28, 2025
- September 25, 2025 (General Membership)
- October 16, 2025
- November 13, 2025
- December 11, 2025 (Principal Evaluation)
- January 22, 2026
- April 23, 2026
- May 14 - 2026 (Annual Review)

SMCS Academic Policy Committee - Roles & Responsibilities

- Hire & Determine To Retain School Administrator
- Oversee School Curriculum Decisions
- Develop & Oversee School Policies and APC Bylaws
- Approve purchase of any single non-consumables or capital improvement over \$5,000.00

SMCS School & District Policies

Soldotna Montessori Charter School adheres to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Administrative Policy Manual.

The SMCS Academic Policy Committee is governed by a set of adopted Bylaws that are reviewed every 2-3 years.

SMCS has also established a set of school policies unique to the operation of the school. These school policies are reviewed every 2-3 years.

SMCS School Schedule

8:35-8:55	Doors Open/Student Arrival/Breakfast/AM Recess
8:55	Instructional Day Begins
9:00-9:30	Specials/Instruction/Academic Work Block
9:30-10:00	Specials/Instruction/Academic Work Block
10:00-10:30	Specials/Instruction/Academic Work Block
10:30-11:30	Instruction/Academic Work Block
11:30-12:00	Kinder Recess Grades 1-6: Instruction/Academic Work Block
12:00-12:30	Kinder Lunch Primary & Intermediate Recess
12:30-1:00	Primary & Intermediate Lunch Kinder - Instruction/Academic Work Block
1:00-3:40	Instruction/Academic Work Block
3:45	Dismissal

SMCS School Traditions & Events Calendar

- Stop By Say Hi (Aug.)
- Kindergarten Color Days (Sept.)
- Garden Harvest (Sept.)
- Farmer's Market (Sept.)
- Peace Night (Sept.)
- Walk To School Day (Sept.)
- School Shirt Tie Dye Day (Oct.)
- Kindergarten Balloon Parade (Nov.)
- Stone Soup (Nov.)
- Spirit Of Giving (Nov.-Dec.)
- Lunar New Year (Dec.)
- Winter Concert (Dec.)
- Cookie Train (Dec.)
- Winter Band/Choir Concert (Dec.)
- Community Caroling (Dec.)
- Holiday Store (Dec.)
- Battle Of The Books (Sept.-Dec.)
- Lego Robotics (Sept-Jan)
- Spelling Bee (Jan.)
- Lottery App. Window (Jan.-Feb.)
- Prospective Fam. Orient. (Jan)
- Lottery Drawing (Mar.)
- Monthly Assemblies
- School Theme Days (Monthly)
- 3rd Quarter Community Groups
- Family Nights (Movie, Craft, Art)
- Kinder/3rd Grade Visits (May)
- Potato Planting (May)
- School Picnic & Field Day (May)
- Spring Int. Talent Show
- Family Community Outreach Evening
- Jump Rope For Heart (Bi-annually)

SMCS Education Program - Approach

Multi-age Classrooms: our Montessori curriculum, with the exception of kindergarten, is delivered in three year cycles in multi-age classrooms;

Hands-on Learning: our school emphasizes hands-on learning using many concrete learning materials, including specific Montessori manipulatives;

Grace and Courtesy: students learn to recognize and respect the rights and needs of themselves and others. Students are encouraged to solve problems using peaceful words and actions. School practices encourage self-regulation and conflict resolution by using the Conscious Discipline program;

SMCS Education Program - Approach

Field Studies: field studies encourage students to gain information and experience from the real world as well as apply their own knowledge in real world situations;

Understanding and Gaining Deep Respect for the Natural World: our curriculum incorporates many opportunities to interact with the natural environment through instructional activities, research and field studies;

Global Understanding: students learn about culture, global issues and the vast diversity of people and ideas in our world;

Follow the Child: instruction is differentiated according to individual student readiness, academic performance and student interest;

SMCS Education Program - Approach

Community Service: students learn to make a contribution to others and to society through community service;

Student Investigation and Research: Students conduct class and individual investigations as a common method for acquiring curriculum knowledge. Technology, library archives, guest speakers and field studies support student research efforts;

Self-Direction and Student Accountability: students in all grades gain experience in time management and work responsibility. Students develop self-direction and accountability in their day;

SMCS Education Program - Approach

Practical Life Skills: children use Practical Life Skills to take care of the classroom, themselves and the environment. They also learn to properly utilize technology, manage time and organize effectively. Early practical life skills are also used to develop concentration skills, help develop fine and gross motor control and help develop impulse control. Practical life skills may also include learning to use technology, time management, and organization skills.

SMCS Education Program - Community Outreach

SMCS participates in the following ways with Community Outreach:

- 1) SMCS Food Pantry
- 2) 3rd Quarter Community Groups - Upper Elementary
 - a) Grade 4 - Positive Community Messages (Coffee Sleeve, Bucket Fillers - Hospital, Fire Dept, Police, etc.)
 - b) Grade 5 - Food Bank Food Service and Stocking, Organizing, Cleaning
 - c) Grade 6 - Soldotna Assisted Living Visits, Heritage Visits, Preschool Lunch & Reading.
- 3) Mrs. Hubbard's Class Heritage Visits
- 4) Community Caroling
- 5) SMCS Farmer's Market
- 6) Kenai River Clean-up - Lower Elementary

SMCS Education Program - Classrooms

Montessori Primary Preparatory Program

- Students in kindergarten form the community of learners.
- Use of specialized Montessori materials.
- Explicit reading instruction per DEED MTSS Plan.
- Inclusion of Practical Life Skills for developing independence.
- Direction of the teacher and the support of a classroom assistant.
- Students choose responsible participation in the prepared environment.

SMCS Education Program - Classrooms

Montessori Lower Elementary Program

- Students in grades 1-3 form the community of learners.
- Use of specialized Montessori materials.
- Large blocks of uninterrupted work time.
- Direction of the teacher and the support of a classroom assistant.
- Students choose responsible participation in the academic environment.
- Students participate in collaborative learning.
- Small group and integrated explicit reading, writing, & math instruction.

SMCS Education Program - Classrooms

Montessori Upper Elementary Program

- Students in grades 4-6 form the community of learners.
- Use of specialized Montessori materials - Supplemental.
- Afternoon block of uninterrupted work time.
- Teachers share lesson presentation responsibilities along with classroom assistants.
- Students choose responsible participation in the academic environment.
- Students participate in collaborative learning.
- Students develop independent studies focuses and habits.
- Whole group, small group and integrated explicit reading, writing, & math instruction.

SMCS Education Program - Teachers

Staff Requirements

- Teachers have a current certification with State of Alaska.
- Attain or proactively seek Montessori instructor certification.
- Staff are open to Montessori teaching methods & instructional approach.
- Classified staff will attain a Montessori Assistant’s credential.
- Full time instructional assistant in each class in grades K-3.
- Two part-time instructional assistants in grades 4-6.

SMCS Education Program - Staff Training

Staff Support

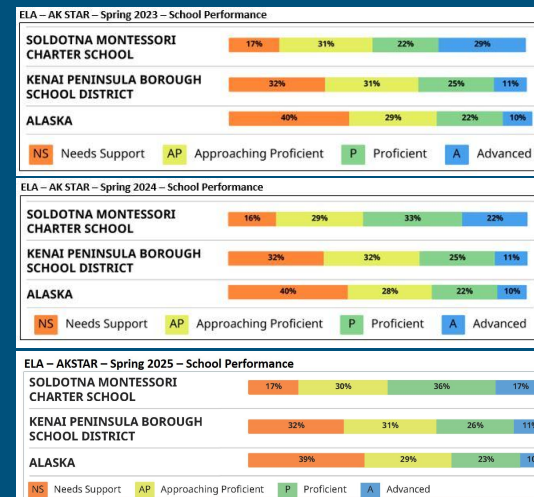
- New Classified Staff - Montessori Assistants Training. (w/in 2 years of hire)
- New Certified Staff - Encouraged to gain Montessori instructor certification.
 - APC support for costs of Montessori instructor certification.
- School support for up to 2 teachers attendance of AMS Conference each year.
- School Support for staff wishing to attend the Alaska Montessori Association Conference.
- In-House, Professional Development Coach - Science of Reading, Positive Discipline, & the Writing Revolution. (All offered as Credit Courses)

SMCS Education Program - Services

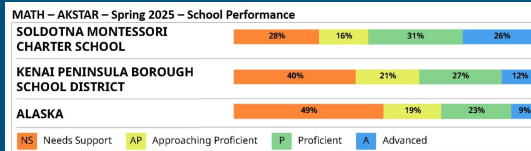
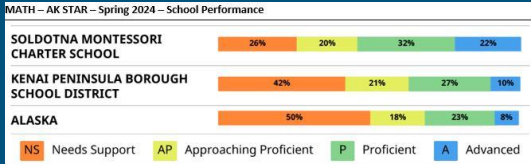
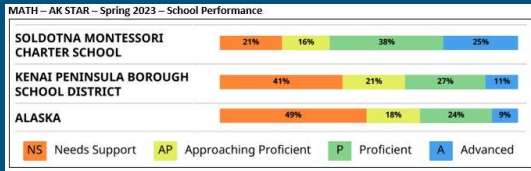
Programming Available at SMCS

- P.E. is available twice a week for 30 minutes (All classes).
- Music is available twice a week for 30 minutes (All classes).
- Library is available once a week for 30 minutes (All classes).
- Band, Choir, Lego Robotics, Running Club, Battle of the Books, Forensics
- Quest Instructor - Quest sessions 30 minutes 3 day/week. (.31 FTE)
- Special Services - 1 Full-time resource teacher and 3 resource support staff.
- Intervention - Two intervention teachers. (1.19 FTE)
- Professional Development - One half-time professional development coach. (.5 FTE)

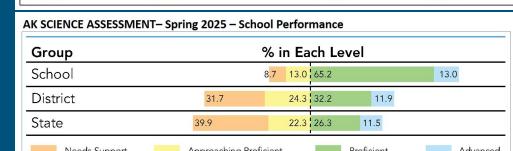
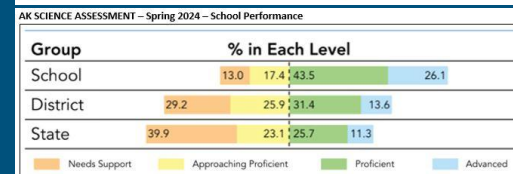
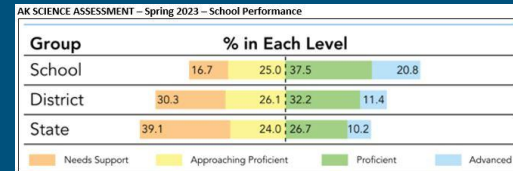
SMCS Student Achievement - ELA



SMCS Student Achievement - MATH



SMCS Student Achievement - SCIENCE



SMCS Facility

SMCS is located at 158 E. Park Avenue, Soldotna, Alaska in a shared space with Soldotna Elementary School.

Shared space with SOEL.

- Playground
- PE
- Music
- Library

SMCS welcomes the potential move to a new location, presumably Redoubt Elementary building. The SMCS School community would like information about when this move would occur.

SMCS Admission

- SMCS is at capacity and uses a lottery process to fill vacant seats at the school.
- SMCS lottery application window is from January 1 through the end of February.
- The lottery is held the 1st Monday in March each year and the results are appended to the existing lottery waitlist.
- The lottery is conducted by The Coghill Group and certified public accounting firm.
- Students are admitted from the waitlist in the order they are drawn as vacancies occur within the school for the corresponding grade level vacancy.
- In the event a grade level lottery waitlist is exhausted, the school fills a vacancy in the order general applications are received.
- SMCS has Sibling and Staff Children enrollment preference policies.

SMCS Enrollment & Wait List Data

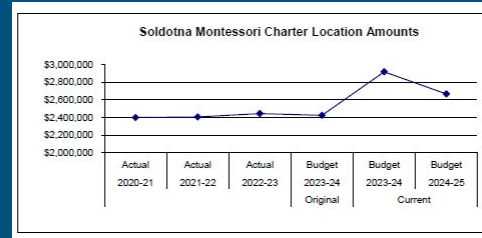
Enrollment Data

Year	Enrollment
2022-23	165
2023-24	164
2024-25	164
2025-26	164

Wait List Data

Year	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
Kindergarten	42	55	31	35
Grade 1	33	20	49	0
Grade 2	20	31	35	46
Grade 3	4	24	40	38
Grade 4	22	13	30	43
Grade 5	11	23	12	11
Grade 6	9	14	17	0
TOTALS	141	180	214	173

SMCS Fiscal



2022-23 Actual	\$2,442,958
2023-24 Actual	\$2,716,280
2024-25 Actual	\$2,874,780

Fiscal Year-End	Rollover
FY25	\$244,969
FY24	\$220,840
FY23	\$280,977
FY22	\$207,828
FY21	\$259,109
FY20	\$268,123

SMCS Transportation

SMCS follows the KPBSD Transportation Policy [BP 3540].

SMCS students who live in the SOEL attendance area are able to use district transportation to and from school.

SMCS Fiscal Accountability & Annual Review Summary

- SMCS has not receive notification of failure to meet terms of their contract with KPBSD at any time in the history of the school.
- SMCS successfully meets the requirements of maintaining academic standards in accordance with the terms of the contract with KPBSD.
- SMCS maintains fiscal integrity of school operation by following district practices to account for receipts and expenditures and ending each year with a zero or positive fund balance.
- SMCS successfully completes their Annual Review each year as part of the SMCS APC practices and to fulfill KPBSD requirements.

Charter Oversight Committee
Questions & Recommendations

Thank you for your time.