**Where Did We Go?**

We taught at Indianapolis Public Rousseau McClellan School #91, or IPS #91 for short. IPS #91 models their core beliefs, values, and mission after **Maria Montessori’s** philosophy of learning. A Montessori school means that the student is recognized as a **unique individual** undergoing psychological development in their early years of life. Their mission statement is as follows:

**“…to prepare the whole child as a lifelong learner and problem solver in an ever-changing society by following the Montessori philosophy and method.”**

Maria Montessori’s education method involves **free activity** that tailors to the basic and specific characteristics of children at different ages, yet in a prepared environment. For example, the IPS #91 classrooms are **orderly** and **clean** to avoid overwhelming the student; in addition to, aiming to **inspire** the student to **learn**. They are equipped with individual cubbies for each students’ belongings and pieces of work. The classrooms lack formal desks to **encourage** movement, **activity**, and avoid monotonous structure. Students work at their own **pace** in uninterrupted manner. They must finish a checklist of criteria by the end of each month which teaches students **time management** and **organization**.

\*Both of our students are enrolled in **2nd grade** at IPS #91.\*