Montclair Elementary School is located in the historic neighborhood of Montclair northeast of Denver. Baron VonRichthofen, the uncle of the Red Baron, established the school in the late 1800s. The school is located on Newport Street only several blocks off of East Colfax Avenue. There are approximately 300 students enrolled in Montclair Elementary, which includes kindergarten through fifth grade. Twenty-six nations from Africa are represented at the school, with over twenty-five languages spoken other than English.

The school is proud of its diverse student population and provides a wide range of opportunities for the student populations. The school offers a unique educational opportunity through their cluster groups. Each cluster group focuses on an interest area that the kids are encouraged to explore and discover, such as magic and building rockets.

Montclair Elementary School has a dedicated principal, teaching staff, and student body.

Imagination Design Concept

The design is based on forms taken from African Art and its organization is based on the concepts of imagination and learning. For a child, the process of these two concepts begins in the playground where their imaginations run wild. They explore the environment through games and play. They discover new challenges through climbing walls. They record their journey using their imagination to create stories of fairy tales. Through art and gardening, they learn how to express themselves and interact with others. The process continues in the classroom where children apply and transfer imagination and playground skills.

The African forms can be seen throughout the playground. The spiral form that organizes the main circulation of the site is also based on an African art piece. This spiral path is designed to promote, engage and motivate students of all age groups.

- Celebrate the rich and diverse historic and cultural aspects, such as Richthofen Castle of the Montclair neighborhood with the addition of play and program elements reflecting this area.
- Create a richly programmed playground relating to science, math, and reading that engage students while at play.
- Enjoy the new educational play elements relating to science, math, and reading that engage students while at play.
- Explore, Discover, Record, Express, Apply, Transfer.
PLAZA/GATHERING AREA

SECTION A - COMMUNITY GATEWAY
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"
"There once was a speedy hare who bragged about how fast he could run."

"Don’t brag about your lightning pace, for Slow and Steady wins the race!"

"There was once a flock of birds peacefully pecking seeds under a tree."

"Each one of those birds is so frail and yet, together they can lift the net."

"It was not often that the tortoise and the eagle met."

"Each one of those birds is so frail and yet, together they can lift the net."

"There was once a man who was being chased by a ferocious tiger across a field."

"He never before realized how sweet a strawberry could taste."

"Grandpa planted a turnip and said: "Grow, grow, turnip, grow large and strong!"

"They pulled and pulled and finally pulled the turnip out!"

"Once upon a time, there was a little girl who lived in a village near the forest."

"Little Red Riding Hood and her Grandmother had a nice lunch and a long chat."

"The art of storytelling is an appealing way to transmit information. Since the beginnings of cultural history, people have been passing on knowledge through the speaking/listening process of storytelling. Subject areas come to life when narrative is introduced. Language arts seems a likely home for the art of storytelling, however, storytelling techniques and process can support exploration in many other curriculum areas."