Isaac Griswold-Steiner  
Software Engineer, Seattle, WA  
Austin Montessori School, 2002-2008

Austin Montessori alum Isaac Griswold-Steiner is a Software Engineer at Microsoft, where he works as part of a team “leveraging artificial intelligence to improve the Windows Update experience,” a job that draws on his communication skills as well as his coding skills. Isaac attended both the upper elementary and adolescent community programs at AMS (grades 4-9), and from there moved on to the Liberal Arts and Science Academy at LBJ High School.

Isaac started his college experience at the Colorado School of Mines, but after deciding that he didn’t have a passion for what he was doing there, left to go live in Chennai, India for a year to help a friend try to start a company there. In India he learned to code, got into software development, switched majors and transferred to Texas Tech University where he was involved in research and the president of several student organizations. Isaac remembers AMS this way:

“I remember how passionate some of my fellow students were about what they did, and how Austin Montessori often provided the avenues for those students to focus on what they wanted to. Whether it was the arts or conducting random science experiments, the guides were frequently on-board with the creativity of the students. Compared to a public education system which frequently stifles creativity.”

Isaac adds that “[i]f I could tell something to any young person today, I’d say that your life isn't shaped by your successes, it's shaped by the failures, which teach you how to be better.”