Fayetteville Montessori School

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back To School

We are so excited to officially welcome our families back for another wonderful school year. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Open House and Fall Picnic—both events were such a joy with fantastic turnout and so much community spirit. We look forward to hosting more gatherings throughout the year that bring us together as a community, along with opportunities for parent education and connection.

In October, we invite you to join us for Community Garden Day, when families will come to campus and work alongside their children on planting, garden upkeep, and beautifying our shared spaces. If you are interested in help planning or have gardening resources to share, please reach out to your classroom teacher.

In addition to this community builder, our campus is already seeing exciting updates, with new landscaping projects and playground improvements underway. This week (weather pending) we will be installing new gate alarms and locks as part of our school safety procedures. We are excited to share these updates to ensure our campus remains both welcoming and secure.

REMINDERS

- As we continue to audit our grounds and facilities, please make sure that you are securely closing any playground gates and doors as you drop off or pick up your child.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday, October 13th**
  Parent Teacher Conferences
- **Friday, October 17th**
  Fall Garden Day, 9:00-11:00AM
- **October 20th-24th**
  School Pictures
- **Sunday, October 26th**
  FMS Trunk or Treat

FMS Administration Team

This year, we are excited to introduce a refreshed leadership structure designed to strengthen support for our students, families, and staff. We are grateful for the commitment of this team and look forward to a year of growth and connection together.

Our Leadship Team

Victoria Butler
Founder & Executive Mentor

Emily Johnston
Head of School

Rkia Sougrati
Student & Family Coordinator

Addison Griswold
People & Community Coordinator

Madison Doublehead
Human Resources & Compliance Coordinator

Trisha Meredith
Facilities & Campus Experience Coordinator

Sidnee Steeland
Admissions & Billing Support Coordinator

Administrative Support Team

Mikayla Martin
Administrative Support Coordinator

Stephanie White
Part Time Administrative Support

Chase Carlin
Part Time Administrative Support

Kambre Whisenhunt
Part Time Administrative Support

Welcome From Head of School

My name is Emily Johnston, and I am honored to return to Fayetteville Montessori. After six wonderful years in Raleigh, North Carolina—where I served as Head of Lower School at the Montessori School of Raleigh—I'm thrilled to once again be part of this incredible community that shaped so much of my professional and personal journey.

My roots at Fayetteville Montessori run deep. I spent over a decade here as a teacher and team lead, and I am deeply grateful to Vicki, whose mentorship and vision have had a lasting impact on my life and career. Working alongside her and the team again is a privilege, and I look forward to contributing to the continued growth and excellence of the school.

During my time in Raleigh, I oversaw programming for students from infancy through 6th grade, supported over 75 faculty and staff, and helped lead the school's efforts in curriculum development, accreditation, safety and health standards, and professional development initiatives. I served as Chair of the Academic Council and worked closely on DEI efforts, strategic planning, implementation of educational technology tools, and partnered with teachers and families to build a strong and connected school culture. I hold Montessori credentials in Early Childhood, Elementary I, and Elementary II, and earned a B.S. in Early Childhood Development and Psychology from the University of Missouri. I am passionate about supporting both students and teachers in a whole-child approach to learning that emphasizes curiosity, creativity, and compassion.

Now, as I return to this school community —not only as an employee but also as a parent—I am filled with gratitude and excitement. It's a joy to share this chapter of our lives with a school I so deeply admire.

Emily Johnston
Head of School