

# SUSSEX MONTESSORI SCHOOL UPDATE

SPRING 2020

*Creating a new generation of learners and leaders  
for western Sussex County.*

## CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY



### GOV. CARNEY WITH FUTURE STUDENT, SOFIA MANGENE

Governor John Carney helped celebrate the Sussex Montessori School groundbreaking on February 27th, after which Bancroft Construction began work on the construction of:

- New classrooms for 262 students
- Administration & Nurse's Offices
- Roadways and parking
- Food service & multi-use buildings
- Beautiful campus landscaping

### WE ARE COMMITTED TO OPENING ON-TIME THIS FALL!

Social distancing guidelines have slowed our construction timeline so, temporary modular classrooms are being installed to meet our June 15, CTO deadline for the charter school.



## MONTESSORI TEACHERS ARE SPECIAL

The Montessori curriculum is unique and requires exceptional teachers to deliver it.

Since March, Head of School Lisa Coldiron has been interviewing dozens of teacher applicants. We expect to have all of our teachers hired by June 1st. We have been fortunate to have to of our founding teachers with Montessori experience.

Once hired, all teachers who do not already have Montessori certification will undergo their initial six weeks of a two year training program at the new University of Delaware Montessori Teacher Residency through the UD Professional and Continuing Studies in Newark. They are working to being with online learning this summer.

However, that is just the start, as Montessori teachers receive continual professional training and enhancement throughout their careers.

## SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR ON-BOARD



Peter McClure has been hired as Director of Teaching and Learning. “Peter will ensure the integrity of our K-6 Montessori curriculum through the ongoing training and development of excellent classroom teachers,” said Board Chair Linda Zankowsky.

McClure brings 20 years of classroom experience in public charter and private Montessori schools in Massachusetts. A graduate of Yale University, with a MAT from Boston University, Peter is credentialed by the American Montessori Society.

McClure will join Sussex Montessori July 1 and plans to reside in Seaford.

## CLASSES TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

On the 8th of September, we will welcome 262 new children to fill our kindergarten, first, second and third-grade classrooms.

Families of western Sussex County have waited many years and months for this opportunity, and we are committed to working with them to make Sussex Montessori School and its students a great success.

There is no charge for students to enroll at Sussex Montessori. During our first enrollment period, applications exceeded seats, requiring the school to hold a lottery.

“We are very pleased that our new students and their families closely reflect the demographics of the areas we are serving,” said Lisa Coldiron. The majority of new K-3 students reside in Laurel, Seaford, Bridgeville and communities within the Indian River School District.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

A \$10 million project, Sussex Montessori needs to raise \$5.9 million from private gifts and will borrow the balance with a long-term loan already approved through the USDA.

As of this summer, the school has raised 70% of its objective, leaving \$2.9 million more to be raised over the next three years.

Recent generous donations have been made by Jeffrey Bannon, the IG Burton Company of Seaford, Rob and Lynn Harman, the Longwood and Welfare Foundations, Crystal Trust, and Nanticoke Rotary Club.

Our western Sussex legislative delegation, comprised of Senators Bryant Richardson, Brian Pettyjohn and Dave Wilson, and Representative Danny Short, are helping to identify state funding for our new parking lot, entrance roads and sidewalks.



**SUSSEX  
MONTESSORI**  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

If you are interested in supporting Sussex Montessori School, please call our campaign office at 302-644-0107.

302-404-5367 | P.O. Box 1686 | Seaford, DE 19973  
[sussexmontessoricharter.com](http://sussexmontessoricharter.com)