



**SUSSEX
MONTESSORI**
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

DEDICATION CEREMONY
November 18, 2020



THE Mission...

of the Sussex Montessori School (SMS) is to nurture the development of empathetic, collaborative, persistent and innovative global and community citizens in accordance with the time-tested philosophy of Maria Montessori.

THE Vision...

of the Sussex Montessori School (SMS) is to use the Montessori Method to educate children through authentic personalized learning experiences, respectful relationships, opportunities to innovate, and a focus on global citizenship.

Maria Montessori envisioned schools where children would flourish in classrooms carefully designed with their unique learning needs in mind; beautiful spaces connected to nature, encouraging engagement with the environment both in and out of the classroom.

From the beginning this project has reflected the words of our school's mission: collaboration, persistence, innovation, respect, and determination. As Senator Carper recently stated, "this school is the *Little Engine that Could*".



In 2013, Montessori Works was challenged with a Longwood Foundation grant to establish an innovative educational opportunity for the children and families of western Sussex County.

The result is Sussex Montessori School.

That we are gathered here today is a testament to dozens of people who believe in the importance of this mission and vision . . . the potential for an educational renaissance for western Sussex County . . . and the possibility that we could, in fact, design, build, staff and open this incredible new school by the fall of 2020.

We were fortunate to find the perfect property for this school here, in Seaford, Delaware. Today we celebrate the completion of phase one of the construction of 10 classrooms, administrative offices and support facilities, plus new parking areas, road ways, sidewalks and stormwater facilities.

This has allowed us to welcome our first 260 children and families, our founding head of school, Lisa Coldiron, and the amazing dedicated teachers and staff who are bringing the Montessori vision to reality day by day.

I am particularly pleased to share that our first-year enrollment exactly mirrors the demographic composition of the communities we are serving, with 53% of our children coming from low-to-middle income households.

We are here to celebrate all of this, but also to remind you that we are not finished! This dedication is only the first step of a \$10.4 million project. We are grateful for the support from PNC Bank, the USDA, and our generous donors listed in your commemorative brochure.

We are counting on each of you to stay with us as we complete what we have started; over the next three years we will add 8 more classrooms, renovate the barn as a community resource, and grow to serve 465 children in kindergarten to sixth grade.

Each day we see the impact of our school as families express their gratitude and children convey joy about coming to school. Soon, you will begin to see what Sussex Montessori School will mean to this region as it develops, shapes, encourages and empowers a new generation of avid learners and confident leaders for western Sussex County.

These young learners and leaders will be models of success as they progress through public schools and universities. Many will return here to become a force for vision and progress for generations to come.

Every great initiative begins with a single step. Today, as we look at the shining, hopeful faces of our young students, we are privileged to partner with their families and to hold each child's hands as they take their own step forward.

Linda Zankowsky, *Chair*
Sussex Montessori School



ACHIEVEMENTS TO-DATE

2016

Summer Montessori Works accepts the Longwood Foundation challenge to create a charter elementary school for western Sussex County

2017

April Sussex Montessori School incorporated

2018

April Charter application approved;
2020 set as opening date

May Campus site chosen in Seaford, DE

December \$5.9 million capital campaign launched

2019

July Lisa Coldiron hired as Head of School

October PNC Bank/USDA loans \$7.6 million for construction

November Enrollment begins for 260 K-3 students

2020

February Groundbreaking with Gov. John Carney

June Teachers and Associate Teachers hired

Teachers began their Montessori Teacher Residency at UD

September 260 new students welcomed

LOOKING AHEAD

2021-23

- Historic Barn Renovations
- Athletic Fields
- Family Services Program
- 8 Additional Classrooms
- Multi-purpose Building

\$3.6 million more must be raised for our expansion to serve 465 students in grades K-6.

“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn.”

– MARIA MONTESSORI

WE SINCERELY THANK
our generous Phase 1 Donors:

Government

Delaware General Assembly / Suburban Street Funds
The Department of Education, Federal Charter Start-Up Grant

Foundations

Burriss Family Support Fund
Crystal Trust
Draper Holdings Charitable Foundation
Longwood Foundation (2)
Welfare Foundation
Jeff and Rhonda Banning Fund

Businesses

Community Bank
DISCOVER Bank
Harvard Business Services
IG Burton of Seaford
NRG
Trinity Logistics Foundation
WSFS Bank

Individuals

Becky and Tim Arnold	John and Carol Mongan
Kimberly Bendarek	Yvonne Nass
Lisa Coldiron	Linda Ragan
Mark Conces	Robert Rausch
Lauren Connelly	Penny Short
Ginny Crampton	Dennis Smith
Carol Cutler	Sean Steward
Christine Gorowara	Kaneisha Trott
Rob Harman	Julie West
McCrae Harrison	Julie Williamson
Maria Heysell	Oliver Yeh
Gwen Krilov	Maryann Younger
Joan Lussky	Linda and Michael Zankowsky
Chantel Mohr	Milton and Helen Zankowsky

Phase 1 Campaign Leaders

Jeff Banning
Lauren Connelly
Jessica Crampton-Bradley
Lynn Harman
Rob Harman
John Hollis
Jimmy Hoppa
Michael Rawl
Sean Steward
Amy Walls

Sussex Montessori School Founders

Christine Carrino Gorowara
Mark Conces
Jessica Crampton-Bradley
E. McCrae Harrison
Patricia Hermance
Jesse Reeves
Scott Richardson
Sean Steward
Linda Zankowsky

Sussex Montessori School Board of Directors

Lauren Connelly
Jessica Crampton-Bradley
Christine Carrino-Gorowara
McCrae Harrison
Patricia Hermance
Toby Hurley
Chantel Janiszewski
Penny Short
Sean Steward
Linda Zankowsky

Sussex Montessori School Administrators

Lisa Coldiron, *Head of School*
Peter McClure, *Director of Teaching and Learning*

CONSTRUCTION TEAM

Michael Looney
Architect

Mark Chura
Project Manager

Bancroft Construction
Company

Scaled
Engineering





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