

WCM Board: Sample Statements of Interest

Dear Montessori Community,

I was quite surprised when members of your board approached me to serve the Woods Creek Montessori School. I am not a resident of Lexington and I do not have children at the school. With that said, I am eager to help in any way I might. I have a considerable amount of experience with and respect for the Montessori method. I have four children - Jordan (18), Nathan & Matthew (15), and Hollyn (13). All four went through Montessori schools in Roanoke, Blacksburg, Staunton, and Charlottesville. My wife, Kim, was so impressed with Jordan's experience, she took the AMI training in Washington D.C. and has been a primary teacher for the last 12 years. I understand the philosophy behind the Montessori education and I have a two car garage full of Montessori material to attest to our commitment to the method.

I have a masters degree in Sociology and currently serve as the Associate Dean for Administration at the Washington & Lee University, School of Law. In that capacity, I oversee facilities, institutional research, budget, and technology for the Law School.

If elected, I would be honored to lend a hand to help the school and the Lexington community.

Sincerely,
John Keyser

To the Woods Creek Montessori Community,

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for board membership. I am honored. I hope that my background in Human Resources and as a former nonprofit employee will be useful to the board and the school as a whole. I am currently the Employee Development Manager for Virginia Military Institute, and in that role am responsible for training and development for faculty and staff. I hold a M.Ed. from the Peabody School of Vanderbilt University in Human Resource Development and have worked in a variety of HR roles. Prior to moving to Lexington, I was as the Benefits Administrator for the University of Mississippi. I also spent two years as a HR Manager for Home Depot, where I was responsible for all HR functions for a staff of 100, including employee relations, staffing, performance management, training, compensation, worker's compensation, unemployment claims, and employment practices. This experience taught me a great deal about business, customer service and change management. I have also worked for a nonprofit organization, and thus have some insight into the dynamics between nonprofit staff and volunteer boards.

While my husband, Stephen, and I do not have children, we do hope to start a family and are very interested in learning more about the Montessori philosophy. I also hope that my perspective as a community member and prospective parent will be helpful to the board. The Montessori school fills such an important niche in the Lexington community – it provides much needed variety and depth to early childhood education that is absent from most communities of comparable size. I am excited to potentially serve on the board of this important community asset. Thank you for your consideration of me as a candidate.

Sincerely,
Mary Katherine Snead

Dear Montessori Community,

I am honored to receive the nomination to the Board of Woods Creek Montessori. As many of you know I was the lead teacher in the Primary 2 classroom for two years and served as an assistant during its 2002-2003 maiden year. Though my Montessori experience actually began as a primary student in Boston, MA. I received my teacher training from the Northeast Montessori Institute in 2004. I am also a lacrosse coach and new mother to my ten month old daughter, Eleanor.

One of the most important aspects of the Montessori training is to define the role of a teacher. A teacher is considered a directress/director, someone who can help to guide the child in the direction they are seeking. Much observation and preparation must occur in order for the teacher to assist her/his students in this way. My experiences as both a student and a teacher have led me to believe in the power of education and in particular that found in a Montessori classroom. The reverence for the child and his/her innate abilities is unparalleled in any other educational model that I have been exposed to. In a time where children are under greater and greater pressure to perform, compete and comply with external standards, I am convinced that the Montessori method is invaluable. It can provide the perspective and patience needed by the child (and often parents as well) to navigate through such challenging expectations with honesty and accuracy. At the very root of any success found in a Montessori classroom is a commitment to making the world a more tolerant and interesting place. Much as the teacher tends to the student, this board tends to the school. As a board member I can offer the same qualities that I offered the school as a teacher, enthusiasm for the Montessori method, insight into what that really means, and direction on what the Montessori classroom needs to run properly. I look forward to being of service.

Kindly,

Jen Goodhart