

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Carl Bergh <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 8:54 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Carl Bergh

**E-Mail Address:** carl\_72\_2000@yahoo.com

**Public Comment:** My wife and I wholeheartedly support FSMA's proposed change to cover grades 7 and 8 in addition to K-6. We have blown away with the quality of the staff, teachers, and everyone associated with the school, and feel they are fully capable of guiding the students through the additional two years of there young lives. We desire our children to have the best possible opportunities in life, and providing continuity all the way through eight grade prepares them best for a high school education.

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Kristin Manley <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 9:22 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Kristin Manley

**E-Mail Address:** crazykg@msn.com

**Public Comment:** I would be really happy if this school is expanded to 8th grade. I currently have a third grader who is doing very well at the school and is enjoying learning. The staff are so attentive to the children's needs as well as the parents. They have a love of teaching and helping the kids to have a love of learning. The expansion would ease my mind as a parent as far as the sixth grade drop off goes and wondering where my child will have to transition to for 2 years. With the expansion to 8th grade my son can easily make the transition to high school.

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** christina todd <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 9:33 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** christina todd

**E-Mail Address:** cmoma212@gmail.com

**Public Comment:** as a parent of 3 children attending First state Montessori, I absolutely stand behind and support the expansion of our school through grade 8. The middle school years are tough, and the environment in which they learn is incredibly important to their development both emotionally and educationally. The montessori environment provides a safe nurturing and supportive environment for which the child can learn and grow in. There is an incredible sense of community here not only with the parents but with the children as well. They rely on one another and provide each other with important social and academic support that with an expansion through 8th can provide a much deeper sense of self, community and trust. there is too much change within the normal school structure, that I believe breaks up and distracts the students from reaching their full potential. By expanding through grade 8 they will continue with their peers in a familiar environment that will allow them to take risks and expand their depth of knowledge, while still learning in that safe, nurturing and yet community driven environment. Thank you for allowing our school to consider this amazing opportunity!

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**From:** Martha Narvaez <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 9:46 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Martha Narvaez

**E-Mail Address:** mbcnarvaez@yahoo.com

**Public Comment:** I strongly support the expansion of FSMA to 7th and 8th grades. My son attends FSMA and we have been very impressed by the school administration as well as very pleased with the strong academics and montessori approach. The school community has been very welcoming and supportive. Extending the school to these grades will provide continuity and the montessori experience for the students through the primary years of school prior to attending high school. Without the expansion students will have to leave the montessori experience and this amazing community at a critical time in their development. I am a huge proponent of the proposed expansion.

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**From:** Tammy DeStafney <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 9:54 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Tammy DeStafney

**E-Mail Address:** tdfh17@comcast.net

**Public Comment:** I am the mother of a 4th grader at FSMA. I was already starting to stress about what I would do with my son for 7th and 8th grade. It only makes sense given the success the school has achieved in 2 short years to grant approval for the modification. This school has been the perfect fit for my son. He is able to articulate very well why he feels this is the right place for him. Please support us in providing our children with an education they deserve.

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**From:** Mary Marceluk <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 5:44 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Mary Marceluk

**E-Mail Address:** m.marceluk@gmail.com

**Public Comment:** FSMA has been an amazing school for my two boys. Both have flourished, both socially and academically. The school has done an amazing job of providing a challenging but comfortable environment for both children, who operate on very different academic levels. My youngest happily does multiplication alongside his classmates who are still working on addition/subtraction. My older son (who is developmentally delayed) happily works at a slightly easier works alongside his classmates while they work on their grade level assignments. My older child is accomplishing work that we didn't expect him to master for another year or two due to his disabilities.

Not only are both children flourishing academically for their ability, they are upset when the school closes for snow.

FSMA has created an amazing environment for both social and academic growth in my children, I am so excited that they may be able to stay there for a few more years.

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Meredith Rosenthal <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 6:11 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Meredith Rosenthal

**E-Mail Address:** meredith.rosenthal@comcast.net

**Public Comment:** First State Montessori offers an incredible learning environment where children's individual needs are met. My husband, Dan, and I feel extremely grateful that both of our children get to learn in such a special place--this is their second year. The teachers AND support staff know both our 1st grader and our 5th grader inside and out. Both of our children are thriving in academics and they're also becoming outstanding citizens with a worldly view. We value how FSMA educators take advantage of all of the extracurricular resources in the City of Wilmington -- First State Ballet, Wilmington Public Library, The Queen, The Playhouse, planting bulbs in Rodney Square...and the list goes on and on. We fully support expanding First State Montessori Academy through 8th Grade. It has made a huge difference for our family, and we would be so grateful for our children to be able to continue their education at FSMA through middle school. First State Montessori Academy should serve as a model for how every school should operate---it's all about caring about the individual child! Sincerely,  
Meredith and Dan Rosenthal  
302-547-1334

**Lawrence Sheila**

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**From:** Jeanne Shellenberger <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 7:50 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Jeanne Shellenberger

**E-Mail Address:** jcsot@yahoo.com

**Public Comment:** FSMA's expansion through 8th grade is needed !! Offering a k-8 educational program is needed within the state of DE & within the public education system.

Fsma is an excellent school & their addition of 2 grades will be professionally , methodically & skilfully added.

Thank you for considering & approval !



## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Laura Mulrenin <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 7:59 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Laura Mulrenin

**E-Mail Address:** lauramulrenin@yahoo.com

**Public Comment:** FSMA is an amazing school. Students are given an individualized learning plan while holding true to the curriculum set forth by the state. Students are encouraged to explore outside their comfort zone and to challenge themselves all while having their peers and teachers helping them navigate. They are encouraged to be mindful of all that their journey can teach--and to celebrate the journey and the destination. FSMA fosters respect and kindness in a community made up of very diverse people--a community that mirrors our world at large. Students are encouraged to take care of themselves but also each other--and in turn to offer their strengths, individually and as a unit to the outside community--to share, to give back. FSMA is making our future very bright.

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**From:** Mary Neutz <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 1:55 PM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Mary Neutz

**E-Mail Address:** maryneutz@gmail.com

**Public Comment:** As a prospective parent of FSMA I am in full support of the major modification to their Charter. The School Board has carefully developed a growth plan to allow more families to join the FSMA community while maintaining the high level of academic standards their school offers. The opportunity to provide students with an upper and lower school so that they may attend the same Charter School for K-8th grade is extremely rare in Delaware and a much needed option.

## Lawrence Sheila

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**From:** Kelly Loeb <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 11:11 AM  
**To:** infocso  
**Subject:** First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

**Charter School:** First State Montessori Academy

**Name:** Kelly Loeb

**E-Mail Address:** kloeb@catalystvisuals.com

**Public Comment:** I currently have a kindergartner at First State Montessori Academy. Every day I drop my son off at school and I am so grateful that we are able to be a part of this incredible community. Being a City of Wilmington resident, I was very concerned about what school Leo would end up going to. When FSMA opened their doors and started doing amazing things, I knew this is where we belonged. My family was lucky enough to get into FSMA but there are many that were not so lucky. FSMA is changing schooling for hundreds of children, they are making school fun. By allowing this modifcaiton to be approved, the State of Delaware will allow hundreds of more children to be lucky like mine. I fully support this modification and look forward to seeing all the wonderful things FSMA will do.