

Community Involvement

1. Describe how community members are represented on your Board and in your Founding Group?

The Board is comprised of educational and business professionals who were at some point connected with previous Montessori communities and who see the value in the Montessori learning environment. In addition, three members of our Founding Board are Sussex County community members: Carol Holzman, Alonna Berry, and Sean Steward. It is our goal to ensure that Sussex County is heavily represented on the Operations Board.

2. Identify what community resources will be available to students and parents.

The Montessori Approach emphasizes the need for children to experience life outside the classroom as they do inside the classroom, with freedom to explore. The SMS will offer, but will not require, students to participate in extracurricular activities. Instead, we intend to form alliances with outside organizations to provide opportunities for families to engage in exploratory learning. Given the rural nature of Sussex County and its access to oceans and inland bays, we will align with programs in the environmental and agricultural sciences and marine studies programs, particularly through the University of Delaware and Delaware Technical and Community College. Students will be able to participate in a multitude of summer camps and learning collaboratives, including Future Farmers of America, 4 H Clubs, Boys and Girls Clubs and Junior Achievement. We will also offer dance and drama programs, health and wellness programs such as yoga and meditation, and visual arts programs.

3. Describe any fee-based or in-kind commitments from community organizations or individuals that would enrich student-learning opportunities.

Programs with our community partners will be introduced as we integrate the upper grades (4-6) in the second and third year. We will build on existing programs that have shown great success in Delaware, including Science Olympiad, Odyssey of the Mind and Junior Achievement.

4. Provide, as Attachment 14, evidence of support from community partners, which may include letters of intent/commitment, memoranda of understanding, and/or contracts, and should specify the resources to be committed or contributed from the partner, as applicable.

A list of our community contacts and meetings is listed in **Attachment 14**. Among the contacts with the community:

- Amy Higgins, Owner, The Guide (resort magazine) and Seaford High Graduate
- I.G. Burton – Entrepreneur, I.G Burton car dealerships.
- Danny Short –Minority Whip, Former Seaford Mayor.
- Bryant Richardson, State Senator and owner of a small newspaper chain.
- Jeff Banning - Owner of Trinity Logistics.

- Ernie Lopez – State Senator for the Lewes area.
- Bill Allan – Head Delaware Community Foundation in Georgetown.
- John Hollis – Lobbyist for Nemours and founder of the Merit Program. Mr. Hollis is also involved with Boys and Girls Clubs.
- Rob Liles (Insight Homes).
- Ruth Briggs King – House Rep for Georgetown area.
- Pastor Figueroa – Runs an Evangelical Church in Sussex.
- Bernice Edwards - Executive Director of First State Community Action)
- Trish Oliphant – Head of School at Sussex Academy.
- Joe Schell - Local developer and benefactor of Sussex Academy.
- Harvey Kenton (Member of the House of Representatives –Milford).
- Chris Kenton (Dept of Standards)
- Ashley Giska-Assistant Superintendent of Laurel School District.
- Amy Walls – Assistant CRA Director, Discover Bank. Discover Bank provided us with \$10,000 in donations
- Susan Bunting – Superintendent of the Indian River School District.
- Claudia Poretti - Former head of La Esperanza, now Vice President at Latin American Community Center.
- Dave Parrington – Superintendent of the Seaford School District.
- Peggy Geisler – Sussex Breast Cancer Coalition.
- Charito Mateyko - Activist, Hispanic Business Commission.
- Wendy Bull – Former TFA. Father runs community trailer parks.
- Alison Rohrer – Parent interested in Montessori for her baby. Lives in Seaford.
- Sally Beaumont – Board President of Primeros Passos.
- Bryce Lingo – President of Lingo Realty, Lewes.
- Dave Genshaw – Mayor of Seaford

See attached.