

Amelia Island Montessori School Annual Report

July 1, 2015 - May 26, 2016



Another successful year

Amelia Island Montessori School has experienced growth, continued excellent student performance, and a stable financial status. In this annual report, it is our pleasure to share the highlights of this school year.

AIMS currently serves 133 children from the ages of 18 months to 15 years old. We have children from a diverse population which includes families from all around the world such as Prague, Mexico and Germany to name a few, and many families relocating from across the United States. We currently provide two Toddler classes, three Primary classes, two Lower Elementary classes, one Upper Elementary class, and one Middle School class. This is the second year that we have maintained the Toddler West and Primary South Programs; both classes are projected to be full next year.

AIMS is proud that we are able to serve children through the VPK Program, the McKay Scholarship, the Step Up for Students Scholarship, and AIMS financial assistance. We maintain the critical bal-

ance of all children in our classrooms so that everyone may enjoy the benefits of the Montessori education.

Amelia Island Montessori School is currently targeted to start the 2016 – 2017 year with approximately 140 students and are experiencing waiting lists in almost all programs. Naturally, this will depend on all of those who have made applications to actually enroll in the next few weeks. We look forward to continued growth and the opportunity to provide an outstanding Montessori education to our families.

Upper Elementary Animal Expo



A Message from the Head of School

Dear AIMS Stakeholders:
This year marks the 43rd anniversary of AIMS founding. We continue to grow in student population and deliver an excellent education to our students. As I visit the classrooms, I witness daily how we instill a joy of learning, we build self-confidence, independence and collaboration which helps children de-

velop those skills that are essential to be successful in our ever changing world.
The administration and instructional staff of the school continuously reflect on our responsibility to provide a Montessori education to every student that enters our doors. While remaining true to Dr. Maria Montessori's philosophy, our staff

is devoted to implementing her methods. Our efforts ensure we uphold the mission of the school by implementing her methodology and continuing to offer a unique education that sustains independent and critical thinkers.
I invite you to review the information included in this Annual Report as the school marks its accomplishments in this unique

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Join us for Summer Camp!

educational experience and project its future plans.

AIMS is proud your family is a part of our school community!

Sincerely,

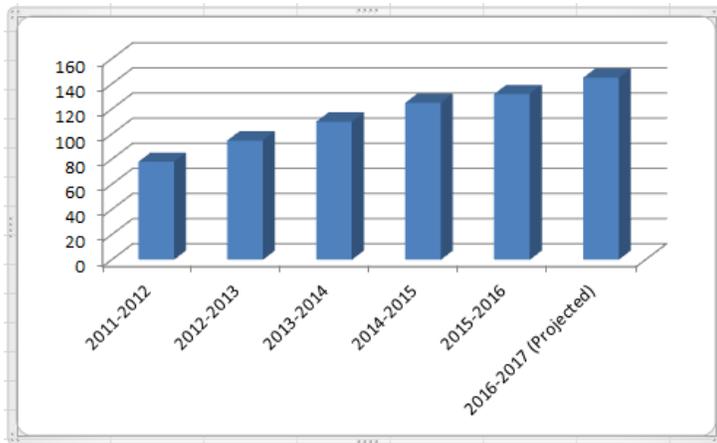
Ms. Phyllis

2015–2016 Highlights

- ◇ Students continue to perform at least two to four years above the norm on the Terre Nova Assessment.
- ◇ The staff has conducted a deep study of the Montessori Philosophy and the delivery of curriculum at AIMS, taking the initial steps in validating the authenticity of our practices.
- ◇ Thorough analysis of materials in each classroom has taken place. This has led to replacement of worn materials and the purchase of AMS suggested materials for each classroom.
- ◇ A Leadership Team was created with veteran Montessori Teachers and Administrative Staff to obtain staff input and assistance with school-wide decisions.
- ◇ AIMS continues accreditation with Florida Council of Independent Schools, Florida Kindergarten Council, and AdvancEd.
- ◇ Two teachers attended the American Montessori Society's Annual Convention in Chicago in March, 2016.
- ◇ Upper Elementary and the Middle School environments were remodeled, creating a more Montessori-conducive atmosphere.
- ◇ Parent Make-and-Take sessions were held, offering parents materials to support their children's learning at home.
- ◇ Summer camps were extremely successful, filled with, at times, up to 55 students from Toddlers through Upper Elementary.
- ◇ Successful Big Event and Chili Cook-Off fundraisers were held, supporting our Financial Assistance Program and the equipment and supplies for our "Specials" programs (Library, Physical Education, Art, Music, and Spanish).
- ◇ Salary increases of 4% were made for the 2015-2016 school year.
- ◇ A receptionist was added to our staff to assist parents with immediate services.
- ◇ The Board of Trustees has approved the addition of a Director of Curriculum and Admissions for the 2016-2017 school year.

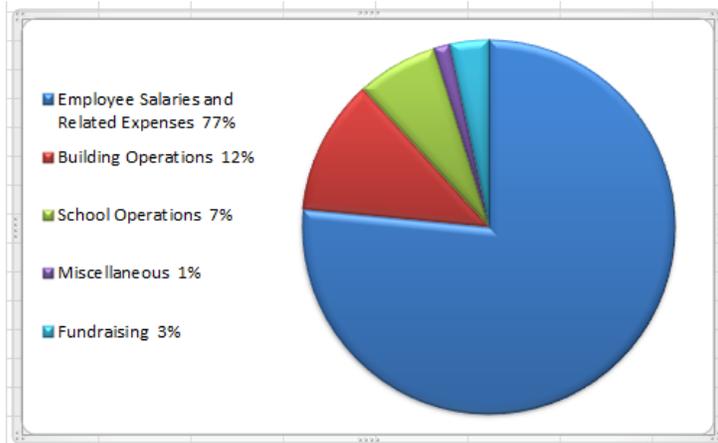
Operational Information

Student Growth



2015-2016 Projected Expenses

July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016



Successful Events

- Back to School Kids Fair
- Silent Journey and Discovery Parent Education
- Fall / Spring Showcases
- Fall / Spring Book Fairs
- Halloween Parade
- Celebration of Learning Parent Conferences
- The Nutcracker* Holiday Musical
- Earth Day Activities
- Shrimp Festival Parade
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- The Lion King Jr.* Spring Play
- Various Field Trips for Elementary and Middle School Programs

"The land is where our roots are. The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony with the Earth."



"The child can develop fully by means of experience in his environment. We call such experiences 'work'."



In 1960, Dr. Rambusch launched the American Montessori Society.

Amelia Island Montessori School has been a member since opening in 1973.

Only ten percent of member schools are accredited by AMS.

American Montessori Society (AMS) Accreditation

Amelia Island Montessori School is proud to announce our plans to seek AMS Accreditation. This process is a service provided to full-member schools by the American Montessori Society. It is a voluntary process that takes 1 to 2 years to complete. We have started preparing for the process this year by examining many details about ourselves. A timeline has been developed and the full process is planned to start in the fall of 2016.

Accreditation begins with an intensive self-study, by the school, involving the school's entire community—students, staff, faculty, administration, board mem-

bers, and parents.

During the process, every aspect of the school is examined and documented, including governance, curriculum, fiscal and personnel policies, facilities, health and safety practices, teacher preparation, and learner outcomes.

At the end of the self-study period, a thorough onsite peer visit is conducted. In addition to determining whether the school meets AMS standards, the review team evaluates the school to see how well it is achieving its own mission and goals—whether the school is what it says it is and does what it says it does.

After identifying both

strengths and areas for improvement, the school commits to a strategic plan that incorporates the recommendations of its peer review team.

All AMS accredited schools must maintain compliance with school accreditation standards and be on a path of continuous improvement. Each accredited school submits a yearly report outlining progress toward the objectives in its strategic plan.



Why AMS Accreditation?

Steps in the accreditation one to two year process.

- ⇒ Timeline set
- ⇒ Review standards and determine initial needs
- ⇒ Apply for Accreditation with AMS
- ⇒ Participate in Self-study
- ⇒ AMS team visits
- ⇒ Accreditation determined

Parents who choose a Montessori education are looking for the best possible learning experience for their children. Any school can call itself Montessori – the term is not trademarked - and schools vary in how they interpret the Montessori approach.

Accreditation by the American Montessori Society is one benchmark parents can use in evaluating a Montessori program. To promote consistency and high quality in Montessori education, AMS has established standards and offer schools that meet these standards the opportunity to complete the rigorous accreditation process.

Accreditation is voluntary and only schools that are full members of AMS are eligible to apply.

Accreditation affirms that a school meets the standard of excellence recognized by educators and Montessorians worldwide. Parents can rely on this process.

The Amelia Island Montessori School affiliates itself with the American Montessori Society. From its inception (1960) the American Montessori Society believes that certain aspects of the Montessori method had to be modified to accommodate the culture in America.

Teachers are dedicated to the philosophy, methods, and materials to teach the curriculum. They bring in outside resources, materials, and ideas to extend the curriculum. Samples include supplemental reading materials, writing materials, technology, and cur-

rent events.

Amelia Island Montessori School has been associated with the American Montessori Society since its establishment in 1973. We look forward to continuing this affiliation through the next step of accreditation. This process will validate the areas in which we perform well, and help determine the areas in which we need to grow.

The initiation of the intensive self-study and on-site evaluations by AMS and educational experts, which will guide the development of our strategic and action plans, will be welcomed endeavors. This will lead to a continuous school improvement process for AIMS.

Looking forward

Formal School Improvement Plan — The 2015-2016 on-line parent survey was launched April 25th. Parent feedback is valued and will be utilized to help develop our School Improvement Plan for the 2016-2017 school year. This feedback will be essential in completing the process of Feedback > School Improvement Plan > Implementation. More information will be provided in the early fall as to the details of our School Improvement Process.

Communication – The Amelia Island Montessori School continues to strive for strong communication with parents and stakeholders. Realizing that improvement is needed, a team will be looking at this very carefully over the summer and it will be part of the above-mentioned School Improvement Plan. Also realizing that there are many methods that individuals prefer to receive information, AIMS will determine the most efficient, consistent manner for both the school and parents. The determination of the strongest method of communication from the school to parents will be shared prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

Training Center – We are proud to announce that Amelia Island Montessori school is entering an agreement with The Duhovka Group from Prague, Czech Republic, to provide on-site training center for future Montessori teachers. The owners of the Duhovka Group, Thomas and Ivana Janacek, are proprietors of four Montessori schools in Prague, and passionate ambassadors for the Montessori education.

The Janacek Family has been part of our school for four years with their three children who attend our Lower and Upper Elementary programs. Their annual visit to Amelia Island brings their culture and their excitement for Montessori learning to our environments.

They have developed a training center to serve their schools and others from around the world and will establish a satellite center on our campus, conducting Primary and Elementary Montessori training on AIMS vacation schedule. The on-site training center will provide unique opportunities for AIMS Staff development while meeting others from around the globe and across the United States. The Duhovka Group is accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education. We welcome them to our campus and community in Summer 2017.



Happy Campers!!

2016 Seven Wonders of Summer Camp

Register on-line at ameliaislandmontessori.com
Or call 904-261-6610



Captain of Amelia River Cruises!



Turtle release at Main Beach.



Taking a cool break at the Jacksonville Zoo.



Trolley Rides to field trips.