

4 Questions for Diane Dodds, Head of School

How did you first learn about Montessori?

I first learned about Montessori when my first son was 3 years old. A neighbor told me about her son's local Montessori school. I visited the school and was very impressed by the beauty and "busy-ness" found in the classrooms. It was more than just childcare. I did not realize it until later, but it was in my own memories of similar learning situations that I found the most joy.

What is your teaching experience?

I led a Montessori Primary classroom for 8 years and absolutely loved the wonder of this age. Every day was different and students were so excited to absorb every detail of every lesson. During these years, I led an afternoon Kindergarten Enrichment program which I have brought now to AIMS. I have also taught social-emotional learning (character education) to Montessori elementary students.

What is your favorite subject area?

Math of course! When I was introduced to the Montessori Math materials in my training, I can still remember saying, "I wish I had been taught this way!" Dr. Montessori's materials make number concepts extremely concrete for students.

What can Montessori parents do more of?

Understand Montessori practices, partner with the school, but most importantly spread the word to non-Montessorians. Together we can do great things! It may be as simple as writing a positive google review, or reposting a Facebook article or comment. Don't just "like" the comment or article - reposts command more attention and may pique the interest of a web surfer or contact in your network. We need to join hands and work as a united force.