

Montessori Outreach

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Issues to Address

- Questions have been raised about pre-school priority for Kindergarten entrance in the Montessori program at both Parkside and NSM.
- Questions have been raised about Kindergarten entrance priorities for the neighborhood at NSM. Space is limited to 36 students.
- Parkside Montessori 4th and 5th grade students have no Montessori program to attend as there is no space for more classrooms at NSM and there are not enough Parkside students to build the program at this time at Parkside Montessori.
- Parkside Montessori is building its Middle Years Program for the rising 3rd grade class.
- Questions have been raised about Middle Years programming at both Montessori sites.

Issue #1 - Preschool Priority

- Staff was directed to begin the work required to include subsidized spaces in the fee based preschool programs.
- Staff was directed to eliminate preschool priority by the 2021-2022 year allowing the students who are already accepted in the fee based programs to have priority for the 2020-2021 year and to market clearly that the priority is over for the 2021-2022 year.

Issue #2 - Space at NSM

- Space is limited at NSM.
- Providing a neighborhood priority reduces the 36 Kindergarten spaces available for families across the District who are seeking a Montessori education.
- NSM cannot support all of the 4th and 5th grade students from Parkside who are seeking a Middle Years program.

Issue #3 - Middle Years Programming

- Questions continue to arise regarding access to programs for the three classes of students in the Middle Years program at NSM.
- Questions of replicability are arising as the Parkside Montessori team builds its Middle Years program as to whether the NSM is the best model for the Middle Years' students.

Questions

- With the space limitations at NSM, how do we address the request for neighborhood priorities?
- Is the Middle Years program at NSM meeting the needs of the students at NSM?
- Will the NSM Middle Years model meet the needs of the Parkside Montessori Middle Years students?
- Are there programmatic changes that should be considered?
- Are there structural changes that should be considered?

Outreach Conversations

- Management Meetings - July
- Montessori Staff Meetings - July/August dependent on availability
- Parent Meetings - August upon return to school
- Parent Survey? - Later August
- Homeowners Association Meetings - August/September

Conversations/Questions with Staff

- What is working well with the NSM and Parkside Montessori programs overall that should be retained?
- What are the challenges?
- What is working well with the NSM Middle Years program?
- What are the challenges?
- Given the issues that have been raised, what suggestions do you have?
- Are there structural changes that should be considered?

Conversations/Questions for Parents

- Given the strengths and challenges as presented by the staff, what additions would you like to make?
- What are your thoughts on the structural changes suggested by the staff?
- Do you have further ideas for structural changes?

Conversations with the Homeowners Associations

- What do you value about the school that is located in your neighborhood?
- What concerns do you have about the school that is located in your neighborhood?
- What changes might you like to see in the school that is located in your neighborhood?
- Is the Montessori programming of value to your neighborhood?

Recap to Board

- Conversations will be summarized for the second Board meeting in September.
- Changes can be identified and publicized in time for the K registration period.