



dubuque **montessori** school

THE SANDPAPER LETTER

JANUARY 2021

**A Non-Profit,
Parent-Run Organization**

**2605 Pennsylvania Ave.
Dubuque, IA 52001**

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M-F 8:45-3:00 pm

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The mission of Dubuque Montessori School is to bring together children of all social, economic and cultural backgrounds in an atmosphere that encourages children to develop to their fullest potential, using proven, child-directed Montessori methods and materials in a warm, nurturing safe and loving environment.

MEET THE DMS STAFF

Tracy Edminster



Meet Ms. Tracy! She is the lead teacher in the Mississippi River room for both AM and PM classes. Her journey first started at DMS as a guest reader for her son's class when attended DMS 2013-2015. She was an associate teacher for half a year and then become a full time lead teacher which she has done for the past 3 years. Her favorite thing about DMS is that it helps children become independent and find a love for learning. She also loves the "light bulb

moment," she finds it amazing to watch a child work, concentrate and focus so hard to finally reach their goal. Ms. Tracy was born and raised here in Dubuque. She has earned her Child Development Associates and also has certificates in Early Childhood Education and most recently her North American Montessori Education Diploma. She has been working in early childhood/ preschool education for 32 years.

She and her husband Paul have four children: Ashley 23, Taylor, 22, Isabella 20 and Andrew 8. Two of her daughters are in education, following in her footsteps for love of teaching! In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, friends, and her kids. She also enjoys watching sports and anything her kids are involved in.

Favorite Things

Food: Chinese Food
Movie: The Blind Side
Book: Children's books
Restaurant: Ichiban

Dessert: Black Cherry Ice Cream
Drink: Black cherry water and Stella Rosa Wine
Hobby: Scrapbooking

Samantha Sawwell

Meet Ms. Samantha! She is the assistant teacher in the Toddler Room for 3 years. She has lived in Dubuque since she was 4 years old. She has her Child Development Associates Certification in Preschool Education. She attended DMS as a child while her mom taught there. She and her significant other Josh have one son who also currently attends DMS!

Favorite Things

Food: Chinese
TV Show: Sons of Anarchy
Dessert: Chocolate Lava Cake
Restaurant: Charlotte's Coffee House
Drink: Coffee and wine



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

"Children acquire knowledge through experience in their environment."

-Maria Montessori

Greetings DMS families and Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed your holidays and time spent with loved ones. We are all so excited to be back at school and to be in the year 2021. January through May is such a productive time for the children in the classroom. By now, they are feeling more confident, secure, and bonds have been developed with teachers and friends. The children are also able to concentrate longer. This is the optimal time to provide the children with more challenging work, which the teachers are very eager to do. We will be looking forward to our second set of parent/teacher conferences coming up in February and sharing your child's academic progress with you.

Research has proven that Montessori learning is cumulative and that everything comes together in the third year. It is always hopeful that our students will get to experience a full three years with us. The joy of watching a five year old in their third year is truly one of the most wonderful things about being a Montessori teacher. We often see them become a mentor to younger classmates. One of the best outcomes of the Montessori mixed age grouping! All of the nurturing and lessons has given them a solid foundation to love and enjoy learning through the rest of their school years ahead and through life.

The staff, Board of Directors, and I hope that in making the very important decision of where to send your child to school for the 2021-2022 school year, you will give them the gift of another year at Dubuque Montessori School. We truly consider it an honor to work with them and to carry out Maria Montessori's teachings and philosophy. Just a reminder that we do offer a Kindergarten year too!

Registration for the 2021/2022 school year for current families will begin on Monday, February 15th. It will become open to the public on Friday, February 26th. We will not be having an open house as we usually do, so new family registrations will happen through individual tours outside of regular school time, through mail, and email. We rely heavily on our past and current families to spread word of the great work we do here at DMS so we can continue to have good enrollment numbers. Any help you can give us with this, either by posting a comment on Facebook, or mentioning us to friends and family members, would be greatly appreciated!

From all of us here, may 2021 be happy and healthy. We are so grateful that you are with us!

~Beth



THANK YOU'S

Thank you to Parent Club for providing the staff with breakfast before the holiday break!

Thank you to all the parents and families that sent treats for the staff and donated items to the classrooms from the teacher wishlists! We are overwhelmed with your generosity!

DECEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

- Director Beth Duccini explained the necessity of cancelling the open house due to COVID-19 concerns, and to instead offer individual tours, perhaps supplemented by informational videos from board members.
- Returning family registration starts on February 15, and new families can begin registering on February 26, it is uncertain at this time whether a 3-day classroom option is feasible.
- Fundraising is down overall from last year, likely due to 20 fewer families being enrolled. There may be a slight increase in tuition next year to make up for the impact COVID-19 has had across the board on operations.

If you have any input for the Board of Directors, please contact our co-president Charleen via email at charleenlynette@gmail.com.

Parents are always welcomed and encouraged to attend Board meetings. If you would like to join virtually, email Charleen at above email address to request a Zoom link.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, January 11 at 6:15 pm via Zoom.

LEAVE US A REVIEW

We would love to hear your experience at DMS! Leave us a review on [Google](#) or [Facebook](#)!



JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR

- 11 DMS Parent Board Meeting @ 6:15 pm
- 18 No School- MLK Day

COLD WEATHER REMINDER

Cold weather gear is a must this time of year. Please be sure you are sending a coat, hat, gloves/mittens, snow pants and snow boots with your child. Weather permitting, we will go outside every day, even if there is snow on the ground. Don't forget to put your child's name on everything as well!

If you have snow pants and/or boots your child has outgrown, we would be happy to keep them as extra for those who forget theirs at home.

REGISTRATION FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

In previous years, the Board of Directors and staff host an open house to welcome new families and give them an opportunity to tour the school and register the same day. However, due to COVID-19 an open house is not feasible this year.

Registration for existing families begins Monday, February 15 and opens to the public Friday, February 26. If you know of any of any new families interested in attending next year please have them contact the office via phone or email to set-up a tour!

SUPPORT DMS WITH SCRIP



Even though the holidays are over, Scrip is available year round! Dubuque Montessori School purchases gift cards at a discount and families can purchase them at face value. Dubuque Montessori then receives the discount percentage into our fundraising account. Support Dubuque Montessori School in 3 easy steps:

- ① Visit www.shopwithscrip.com
- ② Use enrollment code B14FB1LD4661
- ③ Choose your SCRIP gift cards

The next orders are due by January 11 or January 25!