



The Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes  
Strategic Priorities 2022 - 2025

# Our Mission Statement

The Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes is true to the teachings of Dr. Maria Montessori. We create an environment that cultivates the child's intellect, instills responsibility, fosters respect and inspires care for the community.

# Objective

## 1

# Restore our Community post-pandemic

Core to the mission of The Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes is community. During the first two years of these Strategic Priorities, we will focus efforts on re-establishing an *in-person* community with inclusive, frequent events, and frequent communication:

- Enhance event offerings for cross-classroom education moving K-students to lower elementary experiences sooner.
  - Expand frequency of individual classroom events both online and in person for networking and parental communication.
- Restore student service to The Montessori Classroom at the South Bend Center for the Homeless.
- Enhance athletic participation and wellness offerings for our Community.
- Recognize that recovery will take time; earlier planning, communication, and classroom families are essential to success.

# Objective

# Student Body

## 2

The Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes will facilitate its mission to students, maintain excellence, small class sizes and develop a Montessori culture beyond our students. Within this Strategic Priority period we will increase enrollment ideally 10% over the next three years through increased matriculation and *de novo* enrollment. Increases in our student body enhance our community with increased capacity for athletics, activities, and creative achievements. We will maintain and renew our dual-accreditation status. In order to facilitate this goal, we will implement the following plans:

- Determine feasibility of reductions in classroom Student:Teacher Ratio to 10:1.
- Enhance affordability options for families for enrollment, particularly families with multiple siblings.
- Enhance affordability options for staff and teachers.
- Expand access to the TMA classroom at the Center for the Homeless and enhance opportunities for students to interact with this network sooner
- Enhance student-driven leadership at the classroom level. Develop student-centric communication channels. Our students are our best ambassadors

# Objective

## 3

# Financial Stewardship

The Montessori Academy will increase the financial stability of the school independent of tuition.

- Apply for and seek grant/merit based foundational support for mission-aligned Montessori efforts, particularly through the classroom at the Center for the Homeless .
- Generate corporate and individual sponsors for a matched capital campaign for the purposes of long-term construction of an E-wing attached campus early-childhood space).
- Develop and implement an endowment portfolio using existing assets, targeted and designated donations.
- Perform a tuition survey for Early Childhood to bring revenue in line with community costs and expectations
- Advertise tuition programs for financial aid, Staff and Sibling discounts.

# Objective

# Space

## 4

The Montessori Academy will utilize campus spaces in ways that promote our growth and learning efforts. In order to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century Montessori experience we will utilize our campus as a natural laboratory for inquiry-based science and take advantage of these grounds for outdoor-focused didactic experiences which take advantage of natural exploration and learning in and from these surroundings. In order to achieve this effort we will.

- Implement TMA's inquiry-based science curriculum to include natural environment in and around campus.
- Expand permanent outdoor classroom and learning spaces developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Invest in the strategic development and upkeep of campus in particular aspects of campus most sensitive to daily parent interactions and student learning.
- Explore and invest in sustainability during capital upgrades (ie Roof replacement solar, HVAC to geothermal)



Although creating a 21st century Montessori experience requires new investment and ideas, the importance of fostering natural learning through the environment is as old as Montessori itself. Consider these quotes from Maria Montessori.

The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences.

The things he sees are not just remembered; they form a part of his soul.

Only through freedom and environmental experience is it practically possible for human development to occur.

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