



SALEM MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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Families,

We first want to express our gratitude for your patience during this unprecedented time. Your unwavering support has been felt as we have endeavored to keep our program going. We are forever grateful to you.

We want to recognize that some of you have been part of the Salem Montessori School family for a decade or more. Your loyalty and trust mean the world to us. We are excited to see how the Elementary and Adolescent Community will continue to grow in the future.

As we begin to see the light at the end of this dark time, we have an exciting announcement to make. Beginning in the fall of 2020, we plan for the elementary and adolescent students to have their very own campus.

As many of you know, Salem Montessori School began in a small white house on Roanoke Boulevard. Ms. Valerie grew the school from a one-room class to what it is today. With the Roanoke Boulevard property still available, we have been making plans to move our elementary and adolescent programs to that homey location. Elementary and adolescent students are ready to work together to explore larger concepts, to answer big questions through research, and to make connections about their world through meaningful experiences. We want to provide our students with more space, and specialized learning areas for this exploration to take place. This new campus would allow our program to expand, and provide us with dedicated space for the extracurriculars we love, including SMS Robotics, STEM activities, theatre, music, art, agriculture, and aftercare. Additionally, this move would allow for the Middle School students to have their own classroom.

We do have some logistical steps we have to take before this dream can become a reality. First, the City of Salem changed the zoning of that property in the last few years. Ms. Valerie will need to go before the Planning Commission on June 10, to request a Special Exception Permit in order for the school to be able to use that property again. Once the planning commission approves our request, there will be a City Planning Public Hearing on June 22, in order for the citizens of Salem to voice their opinions regarding this request. If all runs smoothly, we should know by late June if we will be able to move forward with our plans. Ms. Valerie is optimistic that the request will be approved.

We will continue to keep you updated as these plans move forward. We are so excited about the opportunities that this new space will afford us, and we think the students will really take pride in having a campus all their own.

Warmly,
Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Madeline