

Dear Members of the Metropolitan Montessori School Community:

Since my first days at Metropolitan Montessori School, I have felt proud to lead this institution. I remember when I first walked into the school during the interview process. Alicia Abel greeted me so graciously. Later that day, I had meaningful conversations with parents and observed children deeply engaged in their work. In our meetings, faculty conveyed such an infectious enthusiasm for teaching. By then, I had already served as Head of School at three other Montessori institutions, one of which my three children attended. I had a well-honed instinct for sussing out special places and I immediately understood MMS was where I wanted to be. After seven years here, I feel proud of my accomplishments, and after much thought, I believe it's time for MMS to seek new leadership. So I want to share with you my plans to retire June 30, 2019.

I'm deeply gratified by so many aspects of this job. I enjoy collaborating with teachers as they infuse our curriculum with fresh ideas and inspiration. Thanks to The MMS Fund, we've paid for teachers to receive certificates in STEM and Montessori education. MMS faculty have not only embraced new technology and reading/writing techniques, they've also studied children's social and emotional well-being.

I love the fact that MMS fosters community. So many families participate in the Parents Association picnic, the fall trip to Black Rock Forest, and the sign-up events in which MMS parents share their cultures. Parents are so generous with their time. They possess the grace and courtesy that Maria Montessori taught.

I'm grateful to the Board of Trustees for believing in my vision for expanding the school. Together we imagined what MMS could be, working with architects, planners, and financiers. I feel like our current home reflects all that the school has been, is currently, and will be in the future.

MMS staff and faculty are currently in a period of reflection, as they complete a self-study, which analyzes many aspects of the educational program and operations of the school. The self-study will help the new Head of School and Board of Trustees develop a strategic plan that envisions the next 10 years and beyond at MMS. When I started here, I was brimming with new ideas. I brought my own history and understanding. As this institution looks ahead, it will benefit from another leader's excitement and expertise. Later today, you will hear from Jim Maffezzoli, chair of the Board of Trustees, about the search process for the next Head of School.

I have informed my faculty and staff of my upcoming retirement. I reiterated to them I'm still the boss for more than a year! Don't clean out my office yet! For the next 15 months, I look forward to greeting you and your children in the mornings and watching MMS students learn, grow, and relish new experiences. There are many more milestone moments ahead.

Warm regards,
Brenda Mizel