

July 2021

At Sterling, students are exposed to Specials that round out their academic exploration and appreciation. We invite you to learn about the programs offered this 2021-22 school year and meet our teachers. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

ART

Pablo Picasso said, "All children are born artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." As Montessori teachers, it is our objective and privilege to educate the whole child. This includes every aspect of the child's creative self. The goal for our art room will be to keep the artistic spirit of each child intact. We want students to learn how to use a wide variety of media. We want them to experience art supplies that they may not have the means of using anywhere else. We want to put clay, plaster, yarn, paint brushes, chalk/oil pastels, and all kinds of art supplies into their hands and allow them to experience a variety of artistic mediums. We want students to learn how art is a form of communication and expression that can build real world connections. Students will learn art history as they experience art from other cultures, people, perspectives, and backgrounds. Every artist will be accepted, cared for, and celebrated for their uniqueness.

Courtney Taylor



Art has been a significant part of my world for as long as I can remember. I was lucky enough to start my education in a Montessori School, where my artistic spirit was nurtured, protected, and provided with art opportunities that were meaningful. After graduating from high school, I was accepted into The College of Visual Arts and Design at The University of North Texas, considered one of the best and most comprehensive visual arts schools in the nation. After graduating with my BFA in Art Education, I found myself gravitating towards teaching an art curriculum based in the Montessori philosophy. I have found that "following the child" as Maria Montessori would say, and creative self-expression blend beautifully together. This will be my ninth-year teaching art in a Montessori School, and I am honored to call Sterling Montessori my new teaching home. My goal is to nurture and cherish the creative spirits of each student. By encouraging them to unlock their own creative philosophers of tomorrow.

Pam Narayana



My name is Pam Narayana. This year marks the tenth year of being an assistant at Sterling. My love for arts and crafts with my own children and grandchildren has led me to accept this role in the art room wholeheartedly. I am so excited to have this opportunity to get to know each Sterling student and share in their joy of creating art. I will see you in the fall.

MUSIC

The music program includes weekly exciting general music classes for K-6 students here at Sterling. These classes involve developing skills in singing, listening, and playing instruments. The performing arts program starts in Upper Elementary and includes 4 performing arts groups: Upper Elementary chorus, (grades 4-6), Sterling Stars Show Choir (7-8th grade), Upper Elementary Band (4th-6th grades), and our Middle School Band (6th-8th). You can reach me by email at suewright@sterlingmontessori.org or by phone at 919-462-8889 ext. 316.

Sue Ann Wright



Welcome to the new year! I am the Lead Music Teacher here at Sterling Montessori. I am excited to start a new school year with the Sterling students! This will be my 15th year at Sterling, and I am looking forward to a fantastic year. In addition to teaching, I love playing recorder music of the Renaissance time. I am currently serving as President of the Triangle Recorder Society. Other things I enjoy are travelling to see my family, going to the beach, jet skiing, boating, and visiting coastal cities. When I am home, I enjoy reading, cooking, and home improvement projects.

Jennifer Lowe



Hi! I'm the assistant music teacher here at Sterling. I work closely with Ms. Sue Ann to provide a fun and educational music experience. When I'm not at school I enjoy cooking and being with my family.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The goals we have for our students are very reflective of what they have in their classrooms. Their grace and courtesy lessons are reflected in our sportsmanship and fair play. We want all our students to respect themselves, respect others, and respect the rules of the game. We provide activities that allow for each child to improve their agility and confidence. We also work with the students on building specific PE skills including hand-eye coordination, balance, interpersonal skills, motor skills, object control, and working together as a team.

David Helwig



Greetings. I have had the pleasure of teaching Phys.Ed. at Sterling since January of 2006. I spend most of my days in the Sport Court or on the field and you may also see me at morning and afternoon carpool helping to make sure it goes safely and smoothly. I see all our students in grades K-8. Working with all grade levels is probably the best part of my job because I get to know all the kids on campus, and it keeps me connected with each classroom as well.

When I'm not in school I enjoy spending time outside doing whatever the day has planned for me; maybe some golf or fishing, maybe some digging in the dirt around the house or doing a little woodworking, any day on the water is good. My wife and I live in Durham and have two sons, both of whom went to Sterling. We also have a couple of big dogs roaming around our house.

Michael Nye



I am the assistant physical education teacher and afterschool/camp coordinator at Sterling. I grew up in Cary and reside in Durham with my partner, who is also a Montessori teacher! The fall of 2021 will be my 15th year at Sterling! I started in a children's house after-school and then transitioned into PE. Prior to becoming the coordinator for after-school and summer camps, I coached youth soccer for 8 years. I have had the pleasure of seeing so many students grow up through Sterling in the past 15 years as I have grown myself. I look forward to my continued roles as a teacher at Sterling!

SPANISH

Sterling Spanish offers a continuous program using the *Viva el Español* program from grades 1-8. Ms. Olga will teach grades 1st-3rd and Ms. Sonia will teach grades 4th-8th. The overall

objectives of the program are to develop, reinforce, and refine communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, writing and culture through interactive, hands-on learning.

Sonia DiFranco



My name is Sonia Di Franco, and I teach Spanish. I joined the Sterling Montessori family in August of 2012, where I have the joy of sharing my language with our student community. I became a teacher for the purpose of opening the doors to the world for my students in a stress free and enjoyable classroom environment. I enjoy gardening, cooking, and spending time with my pets.



Olga Nye

Hello, my name is Olga Nye. I have been working at Sterling Montessori for the past 16 years. I grew up in Colombia, South America. I have two adult sons. Reading, gardening, cycling, traveling, hiking are some of my personal hobbies.

