



STERLING MONTESSORI

EST. 1997

August 2023

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 2023-24 school year and meet our teachers. Special's classes will start for all levels on Monday, August 28th.

ART

Art class is for all ages to discover the joy in being creative. Students will be exposed to a variety of artistic mediums, including painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, weaving, stitching, clay, technology, design, and recycled artwork.

Art includes exploration and choice, while also introducing various art history and art-making concepts and techniques. Art class is focused on the process of art-making and nurturing that natural tendency towards creativity.

Art classes are interdisciplinary and aim to connect to other subjects the students are focusing on in their classroom. Students will practice creativity as a process that can translate to other aspects of life. We will engage with the entire process - from planning, creating, reflecting, to sharing ideas.

Christine Holton



Hi! My name is Christine Holton and I grew up in Durham, North Carolina. I love to do printmaking, photography, paint and teach children the things I've learned! Sometimes you can find me painting a mural on a barn, running, gardening or playing with our dogs. I love animals and nature and incorporate both into my personal art and teaching.

Pam Narayana



My name is Pam Narayana. This year marks my twelfth year of being an assistant at Sterling and loving every minute of it. I found my passion for arts and crafts while caring for my four children and four grandchildren. I am extremely grateful to be in the Art room and am looking forward to returning and getting to know each Sterling student better and share their joy of creating art.

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 5 performing arts groups: 4th grade chorus, Upper Elementary chorus, (grades 5-6), Sterling Stars Show Choir (7-8th grade), Upper Elementary Band (5th -6th grades), and our Middle School Band (6th-8th). You can reach me by email at swright@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 our Sterling students! This will be my 17th year at Sterling, and I am looking forward to a fantastic year of making music with our students. 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 traveling to see my family, going to the beach, jet skiing, boating, and visiting coastal cities. When I am home, I enjoy swimming, reading, cooking, and home improvement projects.

Jaidyn Strange



Hi there everyone! My name is Jaidyn Strange, some of you may recognize me since I've worked at Sterling for the last year and a half as a substitute and children's house aftercare teacher. I am also a Sterling Alumni, as I did grades 1-8 right here and it is a dream come true to come back as a full time staff member and contribute to the Incredible community that made me who I am. I am especially excited to be working alongside Mrs. Sue Ann since she was my music and choir teacher for a majority of my time here as a student. I am incredibly excited to work with all of your amazing students this coming year and can't wait to see what we are all able to accomplish together!

PE

Each year we want our students to find success in Physical Education (PE) class, our goal is to build every student's self-confidence so that he or she feels comfortable in a wide variety of activities and games. We use different types of activities to help improve motor skills, agility, stamina, cooperation, and eye-hand coordination. Sportsmanship and fair play are very important in our class and we emphasize respecting others, respecting the rules of the game, and being a good teammate. We challenge and push our students and our expectation is that all students participate.

David Helwig



Greetings. I have had the pleasure of teaching Phys.Ed. at Sterling since January of 2006. I teach students in grades K-8 and working with all the age groups helps me feel connected with everyone on campus. My days are spent on the Sport Court, on the field and you'll see me in afternoon carpool. When I'm not in school I enjoy spending time outside doing whatever the day has planned for me; golf or fishing, digging in the dirt around the house or doing a little woodworking, or, 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.

Daniel Stevenson



Hi, my name is Daniel Stevenson, and this will be my second year at Sterling as the PE Teacher Assistant. I am passionate about fostering individual growth and community connections through sports and recreation. I attended Appalachian State University and have facilitated learning through a variety of activities, including sailing, rock climbing, and low and high ropes challenge courses. I am excited to continue to help build community through physical education. In my free time, I enjoy getting outside, rock climbing, and playing music.

SPANISH

Sterling Spanish offers a continuous program using the Viva el Español program. Ms. Sonia teaches Spanish to our Upper Elementary and Middle School students. 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.