



July 31, 2020

Dear Sterling Montessori Families,

I welcome you to starting a year like no other at Sterling Montessori! What a whirlwind we have all been through in these last few months. We are preparing for the upcoming school year with health and safety at the forefront of our minds. Our fall, under Distance Learning (Plan C) may not be "normal," but I am confident our educational experiences will continue to thrive. As we plan for a beginning unlike any we are used to, our focus will still be to welcome all Sterling students with open arms (from a distance or six feet away). We are committed to maintaining the highest standards so that there will be plenty of opportunities for your student to feel challenged on a daily basis with high quality instruction and have a wide variety of options to get connected to the school and other students.

Through all the temporary modifications, Sterling's mission remains consistent. Our staff continues to work very hard at fostering a love of learning and making each classroom a safe, child-centered, caring, nurturing environment, where all the students' differences make up one school community. We follow the Montessori Method of teaching, allowing us to focus on the individual interests and needs of each child. Students are introduced to many new themes and concepts to spark their curiosity and excitement in order to motivate them to work and to develop scientific and critical thinking skills. They discover learning through interaction with each other developing character, good manners and nurtured to grow socially, emotionally and intellectually. We work with them in the areas of Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math, Cultural, Science and Motor Skills. The Montessori Method aims to open student's minds towards academic development and helps them reach their highest level of potential as individuals. As educators, we observe them through their developmental stages and guide them during these most important stages of their growth. I encourage all families to discover more about Montessori education and philosophy with this [video](#).

At Sterling, we strive to keep you connected and informed. At the end of each week, Sterling will send you the Sterling Weekly Message through our messaging system. It is organized with the most critical information for the upcoming week as well as upcoming calendar events. The Sterling website is a place to go to pull static information and facts about Sterling that could be important for a family at any point of the year. Please take the time to explore our updated [website](#) to find information about all of our Sterling programs.

Sterling's [Parent Faculty Association \(PFA\)](#) helps connect us as a community. Thank you to the many parents and faculty for being involved in Sterling's events over the years. While it may look different this year, we will still work together to provide community connections. To be engaged in conversations related to the Sterling community, we welcome you to attend PFA meetings where you can be informed and participate in important community-building efforts. Please make sure to watch the website for meeting schedules.

What is new at Sterling Montessori? This year we are introducing the first annual fundraiser named the "Annual Treasure Chest Fund". Please see our website for more information on Giving. All monies raised will go directly to supporting Sterling programs, facilities and community events. I am happy to announce that since July 1st Sterling has already raised over \$5,000 and are already looking for ways to enhance the campus and experiences of our students. I encourage our community to contribute as well – any amount helps get us closer to our goal! I am so grateful for our caring community and look forward to working together to continue to serve all of our Sterling students, staff and parents.

Sincerely,

Josie Spreher
Executive Director
Sterling Montessori Academy & Charter School



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