



Weekly Message

Volume 1 | Issue 37
May 7, 2021

"History should not be taught as a collection of dates and places. But rather be approached to arouse gratitude and appreciation. This gratitude should be aroused first to the law and order of the universe and the preparation of the environment into which human beings came." —Dr. Maria Montessori

2021/22 BEFORE AND AFTER CARE REGISTRATION OPEN



To secure your child's spot in the 2021-2022 Before and After Care program a registration form, including a check for the required deposit, must be returned to the Main Office no later than Friday, May 28th. For more information, including registration forms, visit our [website](#). Registration questions can be sent to wyleendavis@sterlingmontessori.org.

END-OF-GRADE TESTING

If your 3rd-8th grade child has been in Distance Learning but is coming back to school for EOG/EOC testing at the end of this year (May 24th - June 4th) and will need medication while on campus, please be sure you turn in all [completed paperwork](#) and medication to the **Main Office by Monday, May 24th**. Thank you!

Standard Setting Delay - Due to the implementation of new end-of-grade reading tests, the grades 4th-8th test scores from the 2020/21 administrations will not be available until completion of the standard setting process in summer 2021. Your child's reading scores will be mailed home once Sterling receives them. If the timeline is similar to the math standard setting delay which occurred 2 years ago, your child's reading scores will be mailed home to you in August. Please be sure Sterling has your correct address so that you receive the scores.

LHU BOARD PARENT SURVEY

The LHU Board requests the participation of all parents for feedback on the 2020/21 school year. This [anonymous survey](#) (link) takes about 10 minutes to complete and will be open through

Monday, May 10th. An email containing an overview of the results will be sent by the end of the school year.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

We have felt the love and appreciation this Teacher Appreciation Week! We've had treats available all week, favorite colors worn, flowers and cards gifted to teachers, digital group projects creatively conceived and shared, and that's just a sample! Thank you to PFA for the wonderful catered lunch that brightened this rainy day. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, we thank you!



COVID UPDATE

Based on new guidance by the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), face coverings are not required while outdoors. This means students and staff will not be required to wear face coverings outdoors for recess, classes held outdoors, outdoor PE classes, outdoor eating, and similar small gatherings. Students and staff may choose to wear a face covering outdoors should they choose but staff members will not require it.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE COMING WEEK

- **The month of May is ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS HERITAGE MONTH** to honor the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture and achievement of our country.
- **RAMADAN ENDS** - This month-long celebration ends Wednesday, May 12th.
- **LHU DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING** - Wednesday, May 12th @ 2:00pm.
- **TEACHER WORK DAY/NO SCHOOL** - Thursday, May 13th.
- **LHU FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING** - Thursday, May 13th @ 12:00pm
- **LHU TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING** - Friday, May 14th @ 8:00am

See all upcoming event and meeting details on the [Event Calendar](#)

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STERLING FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Jen McMurray - Middle School Teacher



'It's hard for me to pause and fully realize I have been an educator in some capacity for over 20 years. At a very young age, I was a volunteer swimming teacher; then, later dedicated my efforts to working with adolescents who had become disengaged with public schools. I was blessed to be in an outdoor setting, then, working to reignite my students' interests in educational pursuits. Montessori education was a natural next step for me, as it respects the innate capacities of children and bases instruction on student choice, developmental needs, and teachers' observations of the individual. My experience of teaching has been a continual process of self-discovery and broadening of my perspective. I have come to understand that teaching is very challenging, regardless of the setting, but the ever-changing dynamics of a classroom keeps me engaged. It is inspiring to work alongside young people. I have had the privilege of witnessing hundreds of young people discover, value, and express their unique identities, solutions to real problems, and creative ideas. My heart is filled with memories of students coming together to learn and support each other as a community. My favorite moments in teaching have been times when I have stepped back and observed my students noticing and caring for classmates who need a little extra attention, moving across the room to ask each other questions and share ideas, collaborating with enthusiasm on a project, expressing joy in serving others, and being unashamed to express vulnerability

through their writings, artwork, and interpersonal interactions. I have so much hope for the future when I hear my students' voices and see what they are capable of. I hope I can share that optimism with the rest of the world. I made the choice to teach at Sterling because, here, the community values our students and strives to make them central to their decision-making at every level. I am grateful for this community."

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