

The Montessori Connection

Vol. 2, No. 1, September 2, 2021



www.TMESNM.com

Attendance

If your child will be out of school for any reason, please email Ms. Brenda bjohnson@tmesnm.com or call the office 796-0149 before 10:00 AM so your student has an excused absence. Many families are letting the teachers know however please remember that our office needs to know too. If your student will be late for class please let Ms. Brenda know what time they will be in class so we can notate that too. (Just like signing in late when you arrive at school.) If you have any questions Ms. Brenda is happy to help in any way.

Calling Out Sick

If your child is not feeling well or showing any signs or symptoms of illness, please keep them home and contact Ms. Brenda at 796-0149 or bjohnson@tmesnm.com. If your child has been exposed to Covid, it is especially important that you keep them home and contact Ms. Brenda so we can help you with the next steps in how to keep the community healthy.

Welcome to our new Administrators!

Amanda Hagerty

TMEMS Vice Principal

Hello, my name is Amanda Hagerty. In 2014 I graduated from The University of New Mexico with my K-8 Elementary Education license and began teaching the following fall semester. I attended Grand Canyon University for my Master's degree in Educational Administration and am currently the assistant principal at TMEMS. I have taught for a total of seven years in both elementary and middle school grade bands and really enjoyed being in the classroom.

I am married to my wonderful husband Ryan and have a five-year-old daughter named Hannah who also attends TMEMS. I live in a small town in New Mexico and enjoy living in the rural and small community. I enjoy horseback riding, gardening, snowboarding, and camping with my friends and family. I look forward to getting to work with everyone this school year!

Piper Curry, M.Ed., TESOL

SAT Chair, Curriculum & Instruction, Equity Council, District Testing Coordinator

Hi! I'm Piper Curry and this is my fifth year with TMEMS. I started at TMEMS as a parent and then moved into my current role in 2019. I completed my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Elementary Education from the University of New Mexico with an endorsement in Social Studies and TESOL (Teaching students with English as a Second Language). I recently completed my Master's Certificate in Educational Administration from New Mexico Highlands University. I hold a Level 3 K-8 teaching license and a Level 3-B Administrator license. Currently, I serve as the schools Director of Federal Programing, Student Assistance Team Coordinator, Equity Council Lead, Curriculum and Instruction Director, 504 Coordinator, Interventionist, and District Testing Coordinator. I have a wonderful husband, Ben, and two great kids, Charlotte and Everett, who attend TMES. As a family, we love to travel and look for any excuse to take our RV out to the lake or mountains for a long weekend. I am looking forward to a wonderful year supporting the teachers, students, and families at TMEMS. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime!

*Please help us welcome our new TMEMS Administrators,
Amanda Hagerty and Piper Curry!*

Three easy ways to support our school!

TMEMS features a unique and creative curriculum, a strong community, and dynamic and dedicated teachers. Although we may not be able to have the traditional fundraisers this school year, our school could still use some monetary support for our Educational Assistant (EA) Fund. EA's play a fundamental role in the classroom and make a huge impact on our students every day experience. Our EAs are a vital addition to our school and without the generous donations from parents, family, friends and the community at large, we would not be able to provide EAs at our school. Thank you in advance for any way you choose to support our EA Fund!

Monetary Donations

Make a one time contribution, in any amount over \$10, by going to our fundraising website www.SupportTMES.com. We also accept checks through the mail at: 1730 Montano Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. We appreciate every donation!

Smith's Inspiring Donations

To learn more or to register your card, go to <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations>. Sign in to your Online Account, or create a free account. Then find and select "The Montessori Elementary School" (Organization #FE802) and click "Save". Have your Fresh Values Card number handy. Our 'Organization Number' is: FE802. We are listed under 'The Montessori Elementary School'. Anyone can sign up for our school! Please pass along the enrollment info to family and friends!

Box Tops for Education

There's an app for that! You can now use the Box Tops app to scan your receipt. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to our school's earnings online. You may go to www.btfе.com for more information on the program. Our school is registered under 'Montessori Elementary School'



EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

NO MORE CLIPPING. ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR SMARTPHONE.

The NEW and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

LOOK FOR THE NEW LABEL:



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated at BTFE.com.

You do not need to clip or send Box Tops labels to school.

Choose Love Formula at TMEMS

One of our primary goals this school year is keeping our students and staff healthy, happy and in-school, on-campus. With this goal, each of our classrooms are using a program called "Choose Love" to help students with their Social-Emotional health. We are putting a large focus on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) this school year. You can see more details of this program at:

<https://chooselovemovement.org/>.

The Choose Love Formula™ is:

Courage + Gratitude + Forgiveness + Compassion in Action = Choosing Love. From the Choose Love website: "These four character values are easy to learn. When practiced, they strengthen the health and resilience of individuals, improve the community and culture of groups and promote a safer, more peaceful and loving world."

The Choose Love Formula™ is the foundation of our next-generation Social & Emotional Learning and Character Education programming that was originally created for schools, but has quickly spread into homes, communities and the workplace to strengthen connection and promote a more peaceful, loving world."

Courage
+ Gratitude
+ Forgiveness
+ Compassion
in action
= CHOOSING LOVE

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

NM Crisis Line

<https://nmcrisisline.com/>

If you or a loved one is experiencing any kind of emotional crisis, mental health or substance use concern, you can find help 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling the New Mexico Crisis and Access Line or Peer to Peer Warmline.

Help in ABQ

<https://www.cabq.gov/help/help>

Find help in Albuquerque with everything from mental health to clothing to blood donations to housing to food, and more. You can also contact the Community Contact Center- Dial 311 (505-768-2000) ccc@cabq.gov

Rent Help NM

<https://www.renthelpnm.org/>

The state of New Mexico will grant \$170M of federal aid to New Mexicans for rental and utility assistance to households experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Share New Mexico

<https://www.sharenm.org/nm-resources>

New Mexico's largest, most up-to-date and comprehensive Resource Directory for community resources and social services. From child care to senior services, education to housing and beyond, ShareNM's Resource Directory helps you quickly find the resources you need.

Choose Love Descriptions by TMEMS Level

Below are some descriptions on how the “Choose Love” program is being taught to students in each TMEMS level. We hope you are able to use these descriptions as a resource on how to best communicate with your child about the Choose Love curriculum.

At the **Kindergarten level**, we model and identify what courage is through daily interaction. This may be a new word to some students! We have been using words like brave and big feelings when talking about how to recognize courage. The Choose Love curriculum supports the Montessori Peace Curriculum and is focused on helping students work through their emotions and communicate in healthy ways.

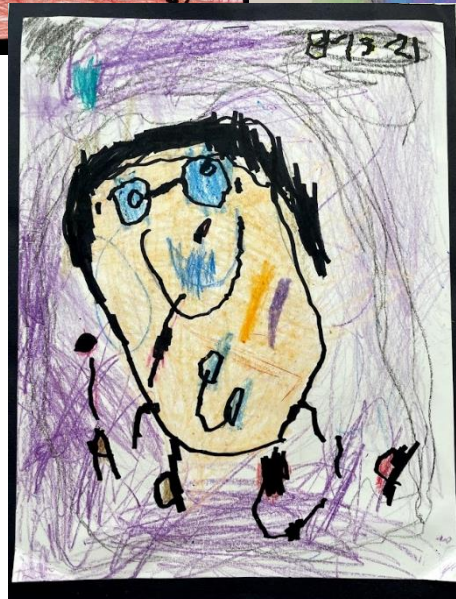
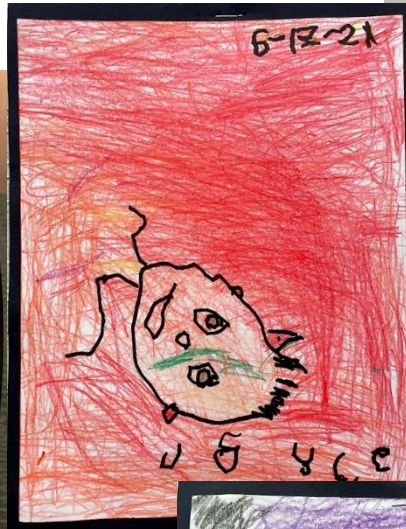
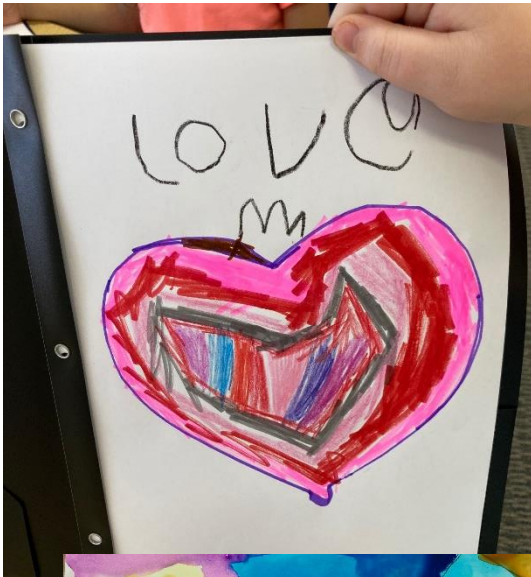
In the **6-9 level** we are using the Choose Love curriculum daily in our community meetings, right now we are having discussions from Unit 1: Courage. Students are learning the following SEL standards: self-awareness, self-management, responsible and ethical decision-making, interpersonal-relationship skills, and social awareness. Some of the topics we've discussed are learning about different feelings, how the brain works with different feelings, and how we can best use our brains to function optimally. The mindfulness strategy we have learned is having the courage to use the Brave Breath strategy when we have strong feelings, to allow our brains to work properly when we are ready to respond to the situation.

In the **9-11 level** we have been using the Choose Love curriculum to talk about positive community and social interactions, as well as how to be the best individuals we can be. We pause and have meditative minutes to bring ourselves back to the moment and to be truly present with one another. We share moments when we have had courage despite challenges, and sometimes that's just getting through something hard that was unexpected. After learning about our invisible buckets of happiness, we refer to buckets, bucket dipping, and lids to better identify and regulate when we are lifting up others around us, or if we are dipping into their happiness by doing hurtful things. We now know we have the ability to stop someone from bucket dipping by putting a lid on our bucket if they try to dip into our happiness.

At the **Middle School level** we are actively working on mindfulness through the Choose Love curriculum. The beginning unit we are currently working on is Courage. We have covered that courage is present because of all emotions and that there are specific parts of the brain that are activated when fear is a prominent emotion. With courage, we are working on the idea that love is a choice over fear, and we can actively control parts of the brain to be successful with our choice, using focused awareness and mindfulness. Your child will be sent home throughout the semester with homework, sometimes verbal, others written, to help communicate with the adult in their life the amazing ability to become successful in choosing love.

Kindergarten Level Update

Our kindergarten students are hard at work learning phonics, phonetic awareness, and number recognition in the classroom. We are also exploring our Social/Emotional learning platform (Choose Love) through art, songs, and books. Our current topics are "love" and "courage." Students are also enjoying learning to use technology at school by exploring our learning platforms and doing assessments. Additionally, our students are enjoying bringing show and tell items for their share day. This activity allows children to share about themselves and helps us build home to school community. Most importantly, our focus right now in kindergarten is making friends!

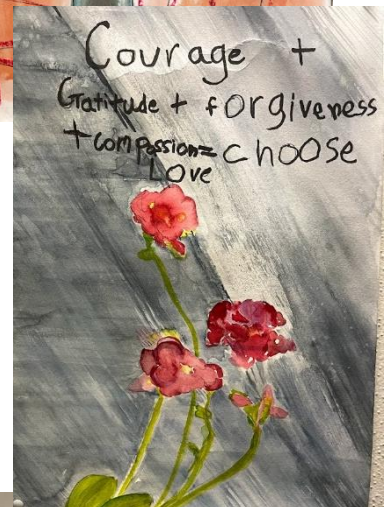
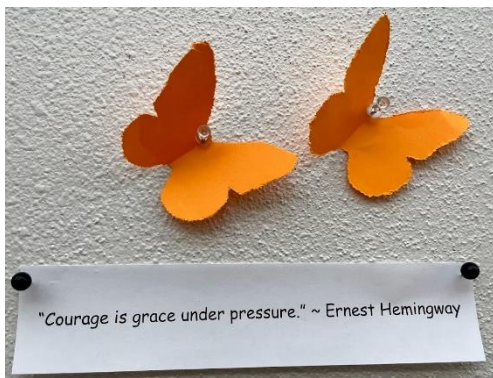


6-9 Level Update

Level 6-9 has been spending the last few weeks doing team building, getting to know each other, and assessing students to place them in the Montessori Curriculum. In Montessori, we work on social emotional wellness; this year, in addition to our peace table and lessons, we are using CHOOSE LOVE curriculum with our daily community meetings to check-in with our students. Here is an AT HOME version of Choose Love if you're interested in following along with what we're learning at school:

<https://chooselovemovement.org/course/at-home-lms/#lifter-course-content>

We are grateful to be serving our students and families this year and hope this message finds you well! We look forward to seeing you at Parent/Teacher Conferences September 23rd & 24th.



9-11 Level Update



It's been an exciting start to the school year and we are all happy to be back in person. We have begun the school year strongly with community building, getting to know each other, and social emotional learning. Our social emotional learning program is called "Choose Love" and the current unit is on having courage to do the right thing, despite challenges. This program has a family component, and it's free, so please create a login, and check it out as a family. We have been normalizing our classrooms, engaging in math, grammar, and language lessons. Our cultural rotations have begun. Ms. Divya is the 9-11 geography teacher, Ms. Maureen is the history teacher, and Ms. Sherry is the science teacher. We are looking forward to an amazing fall semester!

Fun facts about 9-11 staff:

Ms. Lily- I once saw a rat under my table in a Parisienne restaurant- very ratatouille .

Ms. Miranda- I have lived in three other countries

Ms. Kendell- I am a professional photographer, and I kept up with viola all the way through high school after graduating from TMES

Ms. Hana- I love dogs and I am a TMES alumni from 3rd-8th grade

Ms. Divya- I have lived in three continents

Ms. Maureen- I have white water rafted along the Nile

Ms. Sherry- I served in the Peace Corps for 2.5 years in the Philippines

Middle School Update



Artwork by: Ava
Greenwood, 7th grade

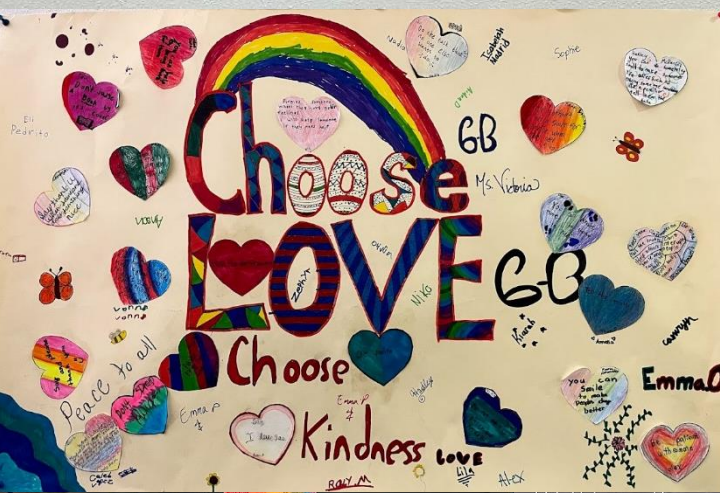
This year TMMS has started out the school year with LOTS of community building. Middle school students took community building trips in which they got to know each other, staff and the school culture. We reviewed expectations, our plans for the year and challenged ourselves on obstacle courses and zip-lines! 6th and 7th graders went to Camp Oro Quay and 8th grade students went to Angel Fire, New Mexico.

At the middle school we are actively working on mindfulness through the Choose Love curriculum. The beginning unit we are currently working on is Courage. We have covered that courage is present because of all emotions and that there are specific parts of the brain that are activated when fear is a prominent emotion. With courage, we are working on the idea that love is a choice over fear, and we can actively control parts of the brain to be successful with our choice, using focused awareness and mindfulness. Your child will be sent home throughout the semester with homework, sometimes verbal, others written, to help communicate with the adult in their life the amazing ability to become successful in choosing love.

In 6th grade, we are reading *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munzo Ryan. 7th and 8th grade students are reading *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. Both books offer opportunities for the students to find inspiration and relevance to them in their own lives. Since the first day of school students have been working on creating classroom norms and a class pledge. They have set academic goals for the year, created a Choose Love poster with ideas of kindness, and this week they discovered their learning style, all while participating in their groups and aiding in their classroom community. Whether it's volunteering to lead morning meeting or offering to pass out assignments, leadership is at the forefront of our classroom community this year and the students are doing a fantastic job!

Student art from around the school!

Self Portrait
Ms. Sharon's Kindergarten Class





TMMS Alumni Corner

One of the many special things about TMMS is the bonds that were formed in middle school carry on long afterwards. Our alumni have gone on to be very successful in their lives and we thought we would feature some alum to celebrate their successes. Enjoy!

TMMS Alum: Zora Lehmer-Mearns TMMS Class of 2016

High School attended: Albuquerque High School

Current College: San Diego State University

1) What is your favorite memory of your time as a student at TMMS?

My favorite memory was on the big trip to Canada. We were on a hike in the Ho Rainforest that led to a beautiful beach where the waves crashed against large boulders in the ocean. The water was freezing but many of us took our shoes off anyway. I remember at some points someone started a game of tag, and I just remember it being so fun and everyone enjoying themselves.

2) If there was a quote about TMMS, what would it be?

The middle school you wish you had gone to 😊

3) What skills learned at TMMS helped you the most after graduating?

At TMMS I always felt I could ask teachers for help, whether it be with assignments, or personal advice. This has encouraged me to ask for help when I need it, from teacher, parents, or friends. Alternatively I also learned the value of close, healthy friendships. Even today, some of my closest friends are from TMMS

4) How did the 8th grade Big Trip impact your life?

I actually had the opportunity to go to both Poland and Canada. These trips helped me to appreciate and be more open minded to cultural differences such as food, religion, history, architecture, and how if you order a glass of water in Poland, it will likely be carbonated.

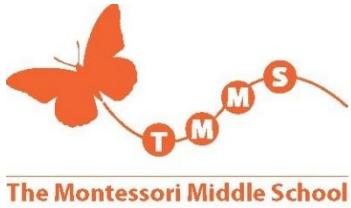
5) Time to brag! What are your current interests, goals, successes, etc. that you would like to share?

I graduated top 20 from Albuquerque High School in 2020 and am now hoping to major in Astronomy, and minor in math and geology at San Diego State University. I hope to go to graduate school and eventually work for NASA, SpaceX, the European Space Agency, or any other astronomy related field.

6) Is there anything else you would like to add about TMMS, yourself, etc.?

TMMS is really such a great school, with great teachers, and a great community.





TMMS Alumni Corner

TMMS Alum: Lily Thompson TMMS Class of 2015

High School attended: La Cueva High School
Current College: UNM

1) What is your favorite memory of your time as a student at TMMS?

The two and a half years I spent with TMMS were filled with music, laughter, and adventure. My classmates and I were able to discover more about ourselves, each other, and the world around us in those formative years in a positive and encouraging environment. One of my favorite memories was during our seventh-grade big trip to southern New Mexico. The last leg of the trip was to White Sands. One night we sat in a large circle under the stars and we sang songs and reflected on the trip. It was a moment where I truly felt a part of the TMMS family. .

2) If there was a quote about TMMS, what would it be?

An environment to harbor growth, learning, and lifelong friendships.

3) What skills learned at TMMS helped you the most after graduating?

During eighth grade we had several presentations for each class. I became a master at making poster board and PowerPoint presentations. This was very helpful as I used those skills all throughout high school and even now at university.

4) How did the 8th grade Big Trip impact your life?

My eighth-grade big trip was the first year TMMS students traveled to Poland. It was my first time in Europe, and I fell in love with it. I am still friends with the students I hosted, and I even visited one of them the summer after my senior year. I am beyond grateful for having the opportunity to expand my own horizons and learn from other cultures and histories.

5) Time to brag! What are your current interests, goals, successes, etc. that you would like to share?

I'm currently studying Political Science and English Studies at the University of New Mexico. I'm hoping to go into public service in the future to give back to our local community.

6) Is there anything else you would like to add about TMMS, yourself, etc.?

TMMS is pretty rad :) I now work at TMEMS as an Educational Assistant too!





TMMS Alumni Corner

TMMS Alum: Sierra Romero TMMS Class of 2016

High School attended: Albuquerque Academy
Current College: Columbia University



1) What is your favorite memory of your time as a student at TMMS?

Other than the big trip, I think that my favorite memory of TMMS is of Pi Day in 8th grade. I know that this is my favorite memory because I got to throw two pies in my teacher's faces, but I really enjoyed all of the activities that TMMS had set up for the day. I remember going in groups to different activities and competing for the prized possession of a paper plate covered in whip cream to throw in our favorite teacher's face. Each rotation was a new piece of tension for who would get this grand prize. I remember starting the day with math jeopardy and rushing to solve every math problem on the board, then ending the competition by reciting 123 digits of Pi to Ms. Alissa. I had been practicing my memorization for almost a month prior to the competition, and I even had an app that I would practice on. However, my favorite part was obviously throwing whip cream in Ms. Alissa and Mr. Joe's faces. It was so fun to watch them try to avoid each plate, but still getting a plate full of whipped cream in their face each time.

2) If there was a quote about TMMS, what would it be?

"ALWAYS label your axis on a graph" which is courtesy of Ms. Alissa taking off points on a test when I forgot to label my axis. Ever since then, I've never forgotten to label my axis, so I do owe her a thank you.

3) What skills learned at TMMS helped you the most after graduating?

This is probably the easiest question for me to answer. TMMS is the only institution that has taught me how to make a resume, and this has been the most useful skill I've ever learned to date. The lesson for resume writing was also extremely in depth and we were forced to go through multiple drafts of our resume. I am so grateful for this opportunity because I feel extremely comfortable writing resumes for any internships I apply for.

4) How did the 8th grade Big Trip impact your life?

The Big Trip is another one of my favorite memory from middle school. The Big Trip was very important for me because it gave me a level of independence that I had not experienced which would be very important for entering high school. We were given responsibilities such as cooking for the whole group and exploring on our own with a set time limit. I think that these were important for entering high school because it's such a quick transition to more responsibility, but the Big Trip gave us a hint of it.

5) Time to brag! What are your current interests, successes, etc. that you would like to share?

I'm currently a freshman at Columbia University, but I'm not sure what I want to major in yet. In high school, I was very active on my speech and debate team, and I won the state competition three years in a row. I also qualified to the Tournament of Champions which is the most prestigious high school debate tournament in the country. I also graduated cum laude in high school and I just made the Dean's List at Columbia during my first semester of freshman year. I think that in the future I want to go to law school, but I'm not sure what I want to do beyond that.