



Hello Montessori Families!

We have some very exciting news for the fall season!! Please read this email in entirety to get the details of the events we have planned!!

We want you to know!

Montessori Academy (MA) is committed to ongoing education for our teachers and strongly values professional development. As one of only three schools with American Montessori Society (AMS) accreditation in the state of Tennessee, we strive to create these opportunities to ensure our staff delivers the highest quality education for your children.

Our school administration recognizes the AMS Conference, put on by the American Montessori Society each year, as a premier opportunity for our teachers to continue their development. This is a 'gathering of minds' where thousands of Montessori teachers join to exchange ideas and attend workshops.

The best part of the AMS Conference is that your child directly benefits from his/her teacher's attendance. Teachers return rejuvenated, inspired and full of new ideas to implement in the classroom! This school year, the Conference will be held in Denver, CO in March 2018. The theme is Montessori Inside & Out. [Read more about the conference here.](#)

The estimated cost per teacher, including all travel and conference expenses, is \$1,500. Our goal this year is to send one teacher per classroom, for a total fundraising goal of \$25,000. *We need the generous support and participation of all our Montessori Academy families to make this happen!*

How You Can Be Involved!

Donations to support the AMS Conference Fundraiser will be collected September 22 - October 6. MA traditionally hosts a fall picnic and this year we are adding new elements and presenting the event as the first annual Fall Picnic & Festival! This is an exciting, new community event that our Parent Coordinator team has been actively working to put together for you and your family to enjoy! The AMS Fundraiser will end on the Fall Festival date.

Attendance to the Fall Festival is FREE to everyone and highly encouraged as it is going to be a great time! Tickets will be sold before and during the festival that allow attendees to participate in activities like: games with prizes, arts & crafts, door prizes, face painting, teacher dunk tank, balloon animals, etc. Funds raised from ticket sales and t-shirts will cover costs incurred by the festival and the remaining funds will be added to the overall collection for the AMS Conference Fundraiser!!

There will also be free entertainment including music and live improv acting! Families may bring a picnic dinner and/or enjoy food from the many food trucks that will be onsite including: City Kitchen, Bruster's Ice Cream, and many more!!

Students, Staff and Parents may also purchase a Fall Festival t-shirt September 8-15. LE/UE/MS students may bring their T-shirts to school October 5 for decorating before wearing to school and the Fall Festival October 6! Sharpie markers will be provided for the children to each sign each other's shirt as a lasting memory of their time at Montessori Academy! Shirts will be available in Youth and Adult sizes.

We are so excited for this opportunity to give back to our amazing teachers while enjoying an afternoon of laughter and fun!! Please be on the lookout for additional details regarding the AMS Conference Fundraiser and First Annual Fall Festival!!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Vandenberg
Lead Parent Coordinator
rebecca.vandenberg23@gmail.com