

MSK Casa Program

Welcome to the MSK Montessori Casa Program! I am excited to have you join the MSK Community for the 2022-2023 school year. My name is Amanda Elliott, and I am both the Head of the Casa Department as well as the Lead Montessori Casa Teacher for Casa Blue. I am proud and honoured to hold these positions here at MSK, as I started with the school in September 2006, and have been able to see first hand how our program has become established and well known in the community.

My Montessori credentials were received from the Sheridan Early Childhood Montessori Program through AMS/ MACTE certified program in 2002. Prior to this, I obtained a BA in Political Science from UWO. Before joining MSK I taught for four years in a Montessori school in Arlington Virginia, USA. This school year marks the start of my 17th school year with MSK! I continue to enjoy sharing my passion and dedication in Montessori Education as we strive for excellence here at MSK!

It is exciting and rewarding to have experienced the growth of MSK over the years and I am proud to see the positive and enriching program that we are able to provide for our students. With the combined efforts of our Casa teaching team, we implement an enriching and consistent program for all of our students using the Montessori Method. Notably, in the past 2 years I am extremely proud of our Casa Teaching Team as we navigated and supported our students and families in Online and In person learning programming, as well as maintaining healthy, clean and safe learning environments during the COVID19 Pandemic.

As the Casa Department Head, I oversee the implementation of the Casa curriculum, as well as ensuring program and licensing standards are met. I work very closely with all of the Casa teachers and MSK staff to ensure that our CCEYA Program Statement is maintained and updated when necessary. As our program has continued to grow, and to meet the diverse needs of the school community, this year the Casa Department will also have Miss. DiBenedetto in the role of Assistant Casa Department Head to Ms. Elliott. We are looking forward to working as partners with you to provide an exceptional program experience for our students and families.

Throughout the school year there will be opportunities for families to learn about Montessori and how learning is fostered in our classrooms. I encourage all new families to attend our Parent Education and Curriculum workshop events, to help gain a deeper level of understanding and appreciation for the Montessori Method.. These are hosted by our talented teaching team and provide great insight into the daily classroom experience.

Our Casa program focuses on the development of the child as a whole. Casa consists of 5 curriculum areas that are key foundations for learning: Practical Life, Sensorial, Culture, Language & Mathematics. The beauty of a Casa classroom is in having mixed-age grouping, which truly creates an optimal and positive learning environment. Students are provided freedom within limits, and learn independence, concentration, responsibility, respect and resourcefulness. The nurturing environment of the classroom allows students to learn in a positive and open environment, which naturally fosters the academic skills of reading, writing, numeracy and the development of curiosity towards the World. I am proud to share that our students develop a genuine love towards learning, and inspire each other to grow, gain confidence and achieve their goals.

MSK is an educational setting with an open communication policy. I encourage you to please reach out to your child's classroom teachers with any concerns you may have. Should you feel that your concern is in need of additional attention, please reach out and connect with me so we can work together for a positive outcome.

The start to each school year is an exciting time and it is wonderful to have you join us and be part of MSK and the Casa Community. Thank you for placing your trust in the Montessori philosophy and MSK. I look forward to meeting all of the new families and faces for the 2022-2023 academic school year!

Sincerely,

Amanda Elliott (BA - AMS & Early Childhood Credential - Sheridan Scholar /MACTE)

Casa Department Head

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