



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Board of Directors Meeting
High Desert Montessori School
101 Fantastic Drive, Reno, Nevada 89512 775-624-2800
Wednesday, August 31, 2022 @ 5:00PM via Zoom**

High Desert Montessori School's Board of Directors will conduct their public meeting either in-person, virtually, or by phone. All Directors shall attend the meeting in person or remotely. Public members wishing to attend the virtual meeting may do so by using the virtual link or phone in information as directed below. Unless otherwise restricted, as noted, the Board may take action on any item. Unless otherwise stated, items may be taken out of order at the discretion of the chairperson. Items may be combined for consideration by the Board. Items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically disabled persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please contact the school at 775-624-2800 in advance so arrangements may be conveniently made. Supporting materials may be obtained from Stephanie Turner; by email at Stephanie@hdmsreno.com at the address or phone number above.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82772032563?pwd=Z1ZY3lqUGdrUjBTelZ2U3pLV3dCUT09>

Meeting ID: 827 7203 2563

Passcode: 798495

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,82772032563#,,,,*798495# US

+16699006833,,82772032563#,,,,*798495# US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 827 7203 2563

Passcode: 798495

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82772032563?pwd=Z1ZY3lqUGdrUjBTelZ2U3pLV3dCUT09>

AGENDA

The Board of Directors will receive public comment virtually, in person, or via email at publiccomment@hdmsreno.com All public comments received before and during the meeting will be provided to the Board of Directors. Such comments shall not be read aloud at the meeting but will be recorded in the public record and in the minutes. In-person public comment will be limited to 3 minutes. No action can be taken on any comments, but public input is welcome.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)
2. Public Comment
3. Adopt the Agenda (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)
4. Approval of Board Minutes from 6.8.22 (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)
5. Principal Update; academics, parent outreach, teacher support (DISCUSSION)
6. Montessori Advisor/Dean Update (DISCUSSION)
7. Executive Director Update; Phase 3, Nevada Montessori Week, Meal Program (DISCUSSION)
8. WCSD Board Training Update (DISCUSSION)
9. 22-23 Board Committees, bylaws, expansion, fundraising (DISCUSSION)
10. HDMS Fall Board Retreat (DISCUSSION)
11. Resignation of board vice-chairperson Linda Aaquist (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)
12. Public Comment
13. Adjournment and Future Agenda Items (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Items not acted on at this meeting may be acted on at future meetings.

"High Desert Montessori School provides a safe, nurturing school environment that fosters independence, problem-solving skills and great work in our students. We offer tools to explore the universe through Montessori's Cosmic Education, the purpose of which is to link all areas of human knowledge. We urge all of our students to be participating members of a socially conscious and green community by inspiring them to be critical thinkers capable of reflection, communication and action. We comply with all Nevada State and Common Core State Standards."

HDMS Board meetings are posted at the following places:

- Washoe County School District
- Sparks Library
- Washoe County Administration
- HDMS 101 Fantastic Drive, Reno, NV 89512
- HDMS Website www.hdmsreno.com



**Board of Directors Meeting
High Desert Montessori School
Wednesday, June 8, 2022 @ 5:00PM via Zoom**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Reid Riker
Linda Aaquist (not present)
Max Haynes
Nancy Smith
Nicole Commons
Ashley Allen (not present)
Bonnie Pillaro
Brigitte Frost
Jennifer Linn

2. Public Comment

None

3. Adopt the Agenda

Member Riker motions to adopt the agenda as presented with the addition of swapping items 5 and 6, Member Smith seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

4. Approval of Board Minutes from 5.25.22

Member Riker motions to approve the minutes from the May 25th board meeting as Presented, Member Smith seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

5. Construction Budget

Administrator Stockton introduced Dennis Banks project manager, Dan Joslyn, for him to review the phase 3 budget (see attached supporting documents.)

6. 2021-2022 Augmented Budget

Administrator Miller-Mintz presented the 22-23 Augmented Budget (see attached supporting documents.)

Member Riker motions to approve the 22-23 Augmented Budget as presented, Member Commons seconds the motion and it passes unanimously. Member Linn abstains.

7. 22-23 HDMS Board and Finance Meeting Dates

Administrator Stockton presented the dates for this item (see attached supporting documents.)

Member Smith motions to approve the 22-23 HDMS Board and Finance meeting dates as presented, Member Commons seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

8. 22-23 Administrative Restructuring

Administrator Stockton reviewed the specifics of this item (see attached supporting Documents)

Administrator Perez and Richards spoke to the board on their roles going forward..

9. World Class Montessori Schools Article (DISCUSSION)

Administrator Stockton reviewed the article (see attached supporting documents.)

10. Executive Session: Evaluation of Principal Eric Perez and Executive Director Tammie Stockton

Member Smith motions to approve the evaluations of Tammie Stockton and Eric Perez as presented, Member Riker seconds the motion and it passes unanimously. Member Lin abstains.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment and Future Agenda Items

Meeting on Montessori Week

Board Training

Member Riker motions to adjourn the meeting, Member Commons seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Items not acted on at this meeting may be acted on at future meetings.

DRAFT

Principal Board Update 2022-2023
High Desert Montessori Charter School

Submitted by Principal Eric Perez

Strategic Planning Pillars:

1. Montessori Principles and Tenets
2. Academics/Student Success
3. Parent Outreach and Engagement

August 31, 2022

Montessori Principles and Tenets:

- **National Center (NCMPS):** Katy Mattis at the National Center will be working with us at our Professional Development this Friday to begin working with their Montessori Curriculum to Standards Alignment project (MCSA). This project aims to provide tools to teachers to better address how specific lessons in the Montessori curriculum can be used to address common core state standards that are at the center of state tests.
- **School Wide SEL Focus:** We began our partnership today (8/31) with STREAMS. This group led by our own Jamie Berfield and her partner, Tisia Stemp. We will be beta testing their curriculum that aims to look deeply into culture and how it affects education and the whole child.
- **Specific Montessori Training:** Several staff members returned from training at various locations throughout the country this summer. We are excited to see the growth in Montessori pedagogy these faculty members will bring and the information they will have to share with colleagues this fall..

Academics/Student Success

- **SBAC and Science CRT Initial look:** Raw scores from the spring testing season have just been received and the data is being disaggregated. At first glance, scores seem to have dropped in many areas, but other areas show promise. The data will be used to help guide teacher evaluation, professional development, and PLC projects, as well as the School Performance Plan (SPP) this year.
- **MAP Testing:** We are in the fall MAP testing window and children are working hard to show where they are academically. When the window is completed, we should have a good picture of which children are on track, which need intervention support, and which need enrichment.

Parent Outreach and Engagement

- **Back-to-School Nights:** Level specific Back-to-School nights were completed yesterday, with the primary program doing theirs over zoom due to a higher than normal rate of ill children and adults. These meetings were a chance to discuss with

families the specifics of classroom procedures and expectations, as well as a roundtable discussion with teachers and families. The events were very well attended.

- **PTO:** The PTO continues to sell school calendars as a fundraiser. The money raised is being used to fund various projects through grant requests. They are also working to plan events such as Brews and Bites, as well as offering support to the Fantastic Faire, our elementary fall festival.
- **Weekly Newsletter:** We continue to update families through the newsletter, which is published in both English and Spanish and posted to the school's website, as well as the Facebook and Instagram pages, and links are sent to every family through text. Teachers are contributing to the newsletter with level and classroom updates, as well as photographs of students doing big work.
- **Blackboard Connect:** We continue to use Blackboard Connect as a means of sending text and voice messages to families. We have not needed to use the voice feature as much since we have had no smoke closures since fall break, but we continue to send updates to families via text.

NEXT STEPS:

- Meet with teachers starting next week to discuss goals and how to apply Montessori lessons to improve student's mastery of state standards.
- Complete the first round of formal teacher evaluation observations and individual post-observation conferences
- Schedule child-study meetings using the NCMPS child study process to target students with specific needs
- Continue to identify students needing intervention using results from MAP, SBAC, and various other assessments
- Continue to update health and safety policies based on guidance from the Washoe County Health District and WCSD
- Continue to design and implement professional development that is aligned with Montessori principles which are relevant and immediately useful to staff.



HDMS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MR. ERIC

So far, this has been an amazing opening to our 20th trip around the sun. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Nevada Montessori Week events, and I enjoy the smiles and excitement I see every morning and afternoon in the parking lot. I am really looking forward to getting to know all of our new families and being reacquainted with our returning families.

Each week, our school focuses on a theme as part of our Montessori grace and courtesy lessons. This week's theme is "Getting to Know You". With this in mind, I would like to introduce our teachers to you. All of our teachers are amazing professional educators, with years of experience in classrooms and extensive training, both in university settings and in training centers. Very few teachers ever come to us with Montessori training, but all commit to Montessori training when they join our staff. Going to a training center and receiving a Montessori diploma is quite an undertaking. It requires two to three summers away from their families, often on the other side of the continent, and extensive work during the school year. It is a big undertaking to become a professional Montessori guide. Teachers who have not yet had the opportunity to go to training are supported within our school by their peers, by our trained Montessori coaches, and by our professional learning communities.




Our teachers do all of this, as well as taking their kids to T-ball practice or piano lessons, volunteering in the community, and doing all the other things that you do with your families. They really are rock stars and I am so proud to have them in our classrooms.

When you see your children's teachers, please give them a pat on the back and thank them for all the work they do. Introduce yourself. Get to know them. We are all HDMS!

Sincerely,
Mr. Eric
Eric@hdmsreno.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 
- 8/22/22: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR KINDERS
 - 8/22/22: FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH SERVICE BEGINS
 - 8/23/22: 6:00 ELEMENTARY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
 - 8/25/22: 6:00 ADOLESCENT BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
 - 8/30/22: 6:00 PRIMARY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
 - 8/31/22: EARLY RELEASE (2 HOURS EARLY FOR ALL PROGRAMS)
 - 9/2/22: TEACHER WORK DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR ALL PROGRAMS
 - 9/5/22: LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. MISS TAMMIE



Thank you to those who attended the many festivities during Nevada Montessori Week! It was wonderful to have our special guest Mayor Hillary Schieve cut the ribbon at our grand opening with many HDMS students.

We will begin free breakfast and lunch service this Monday, August 22nd. Children need to simply let their classroom teacher or assistant know if they will be participating daily and if they want a regular or veggie option. Menus are posted weekly in the newsletter.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture is requiring all families to fill out a free and reduced application. Forms can be found in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) on our website or available at the front desk. Applications are due by August 19th.

Thank you for choosing to be part of the HDMS community!

Miss Tammie

Tammie@hdmsreno.com

QUESTION OF THE WEEK WITH MISS KALEIGH. OUR MONTESSORI ADVISOR



Each week, I would like to answer questions that arise about Montessori, our school philosophy and so on. If you have a question, you would like answered please email kaleigh@hdmsreno.com with "Question of the Week" in the subject line.

WHY ARE CARTOON CHARACTERS NOT PERMITTED AT HDMS?

Maria Montessori said, "The true basis of the imagination is reality". Cartoon characters are based on fantasy. Maria Montessori believed that fantasy was not developmentally ideal for young children.

In our society, children are exposed daily to advertising in many different forms of media. This makes them vulnerable to commercial exploitation. Research has shown that children who are exposed to commercials and advertisements often become materialistic, and may result in children developing a negative body image.

At HDMS, we believe in the uniqueness of each individual child. During the period of the absorbent mind, children are not yet capable of discriminating between fantasy and reality, and may choose unrealistic role models. We want children to have positive, real life role models.

We want every child to have the opportunity to learn and focus in an environment that is peaceful and minimizes distractions. For some children, cartoon characters can be a distraction.

FREE LUNCH & BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Meal service begins on Monday, August 22nd!

The Nevada Department of Agriculture is requiring all families to fill out a free and reduced application. Forms can be found in English or Spanish on our website or available at the front desk. Applications are due by August 19th.

Please make sure your child has their own utensils, cloth napkins & washable cup (unless your child's classroom teacher has let you know otherwise).

***Vegetarian option available daily when requested in the morning.**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
August	22 Yogurt w/ Homemade Granola with Fruit & Milk Spaghetti w/ Marinara Sauce and Beef (Veg. Option is Marinara Sauce), w/ Fruit and Milk	23 Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ Fruit and Milk Bean & Cheese Burrito (Vegetarian) w/ Fruit & Milk	24 French Toast Casserole or Waffle w/ Fruit & Milk Pepperoni Pizza (Veg. Option is Cheese) w/ Fruit & Milk	25 Bagel & Cream Cheese w/ Fruit & Milk Veggie Stir Fry w/ Rice & Fruit & Milk	26 Quesadilla w Fruit & Milk Chicken Sandwich (Veg. Option is Veggie Wrap) w/ Fruit & Milk
	29 Yogurt w/ Homemade Granola with Fruit & Milk Rotini w/ Broccoli and Cheese (Vegetarian) w/ Fruit & Milk	30 Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ Fruit and Milk Chicken Quesadilla (Veg. Option is Plain Quesadilla) w/ Fruit & Milk	31 French Toast Casserole or Waffle w/ Fruit & Milk Mushroom & Black Olive Pizza (Vegetarian) w/ Fruit & Milk	1 Bagel & Cream Cheese w/ Fruit & Milk Beef Chili (Veg. Option is Vegetarian Chili) w/ Fruit & Milk	26 Teacher Work Day

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR, MISS MARY

Hi Everyone,

I want to formally introduce myself, Mary Smith LMSW, CADC-intern, as High Desert Montessori School Counselor. I am so proud and excited to be back at High Desert Montessori. From 2016 to 2019 I had the honor of being a Teacher Assistant in Primary, Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, and Substitute Teacher for Adolescent programs. Three of my children attended High Desert Montessori as well.

Over the last 16 years I have worked with children and families in a variety of settings including schools, residential and outpatient programs, and group counseling. I am working towards my Clinical Social Work License and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor through the State of Nevada. I hope to complete a certificate and internship to obtain my Recreation Therapist certification.



I am looking forward to supporting you and your child. I'd love to share an [article](#) that I found helpful and enjoyed reading. I hope you find it as helpful as I did.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns or comments! I am looking forward to working with you and your children.

Warmly,

Miss Mary
Mary Smith LMSW, CADC-intern
mary@hdmsreno.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HDMS GREEN PARENTS GROUP

Happy new school year from the Green Parents! We are excited about the beautiful campus and hope to get you a bit more involved in composting and other eco-literacy projects! Just email greenparents@hdmsreno.com to learn more. Every idea counts!

With the start of the school year we would like to remind you that our kids need time to play! We are trying to jam in all these scheduled activities after their busy school day and forget to let them just breathe and enjoy themselves, being outside in fresh air (cross fingers it stays that way) and nature. Enjoy the wild!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PTO

A graphic titled "PTO INFO!" with a yellow banner that says "WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL". Below the title is a yellow banner that says "HOW TO STAY CONNECTED/GET INVOLVED". The graphic lists several ways to stay connected: Website (events, meeting notes, resources), Facebook Page (events, discussions), Group Me (planning, summer/break meetups), Newsletter (anything new and meeting Zoom links), and Meetings 3rd Thursday of every month on Zoom here. A QR code is provided for links. At the bottom, a yellow banner says "Follow the QR code for links". The background features school supplies like a clock, pencils, and a ruler.

Welcome back to all of our returning families and a big welcome to all of our new families!

The HDMS PTO is excited for a big year, with tons of exciting events and fundraisers planned! For those who are new, or interested in the PTO, we are a volunteer organization with a mission to build community amongst parents, teachers, staff, and students. We work hard to create events for families, and some just for parents, to help us all come together and relax. We also have exciting fundraisers to raise money for our school to fund grants for students and teachers, teacher training, and much more.

We also have resources on our [PTO website](#) for parents about the school, after school programs, and even summer camps and we are currently building a spot on our website to advertise HDMS family owned businesses. If you're interested in promoting your business just email us contact information to pto@hdmspto.com.

To learn more about the PTO, school, or to help out, please attend our meetings every third (3rd) Thursday of the month on Zoom at 5:30 PM or get in touch with us directly at pto@hdmspto.com. We'll let you know what we have going on and what we need help with and you can sign up whenever it is convenient for you.

Our next meeting is September 15th at 5:30 PM. Here is the [Zoom link](#)!

School calendars are still on sale for 2 more weeks! Get yours now for \$25! Calendars come with a complete HDMS schedule, including early releases, breaks, PTO events, and more! They also feature amazing artwork by our very own HDMS students.

If you'd like to stay connected be sure to check out our PTO Website, the HDMS Community Facebook Group, GroupMe (we plan get together and outings during breaks too!), and keep an eye out for our section in the Newsletter every week.

SUPPLY FEE INFORMATION

High Desert is a tuition-free school for all students in grades K through 8. Comparable Montessori tuition-based programs can cost thousands of dollars a year per child. We charge a flat \$125 supply fee per student.

SUPPLY FEE

Supply fees are used for many purposes, including the purchase and replacement of costly Montessori materials, classroom furniture, field trips, and renewable classroom supplies.

If you have not made a payment by the end of September, you will receive an invoice from the school for a supply fee. Your payment can be run via credit card, can be mailed in, or dropped off at either front desk.

We understand that times are tough for many families but know that the price of a Montessori Education is well worth the investment! If you need to work with the school to make payments towards the supply fee, please contact our Business Office at 624-2800 extension 3 or email Sherrie at sherrie@hdmsreno.com. We are happy to work with families needing this assistance.

NOTES FROM THE PRIMARY PROGRAM

LAHONTAN CLASSROOM

What a wonderful first week! The returning preschoolers went right to work and our new friends are intrigued by all of the Montessori lessons and activities. It is wonderful to see the Kindergarteners during their assessments. I look forward to welcoming them back next week!

Thank you to all of the families who helped us set up our new classroom this summer, including Brittany Avila, Christopher Blanford, Jill Hemenway, Amanda Herringshaw, Sue Chene, Amanda Richey, Norma Sanabria, Pete Shaw, Megan Yopez, Maureen Molini, Sarah Grosjean, Sunny's family (Ken Destefani, Doug Destefani, & Endika Beresarte), and Kelly's family (Abraham, Kai & Ismael). There were so many! I hope I didn't miss anyone. These lovely volunteers, moved, mounted things on walls, painted, cleaned, donated items and so much more. I don't know how Sunny and I would have gotten the classroom ready without their help. Thank you!



Finn working with
Nuts & Bolts

Benjamin
watering plants

Lexi examining the shells and rocks
that she brought from Puget Sound for
our observation tray (Thank you to
Lexi and her family for the donation!)

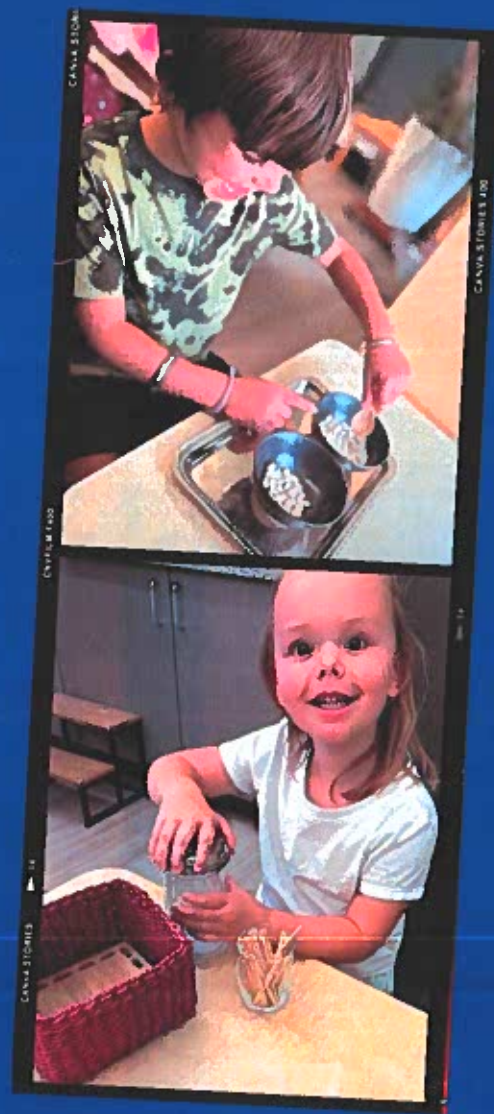
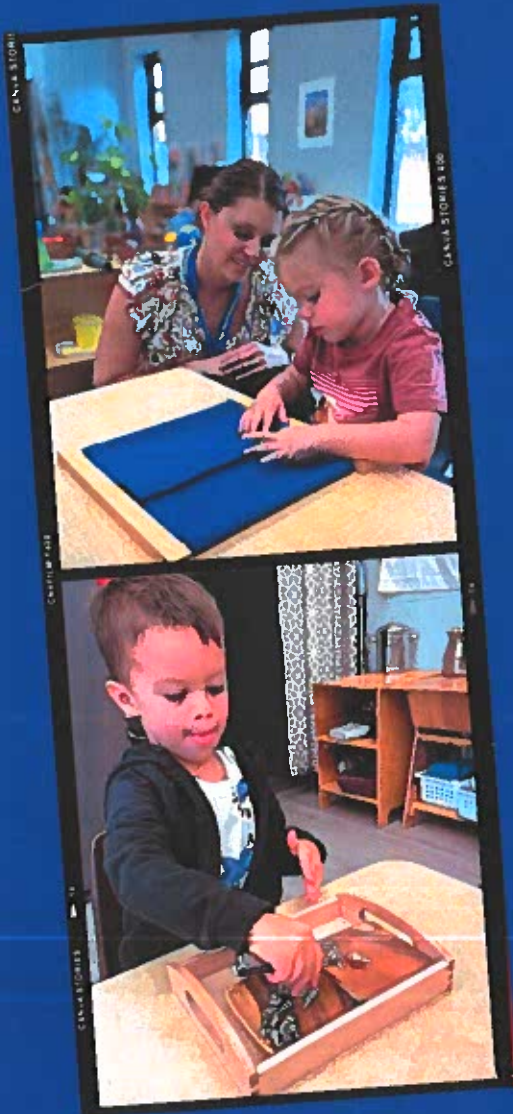
PINE NUT CLASSROOM

The Pine Nut Classroom would like to remind you that they are a nut free classroom this year!



TOQUIMA CLASSROOM

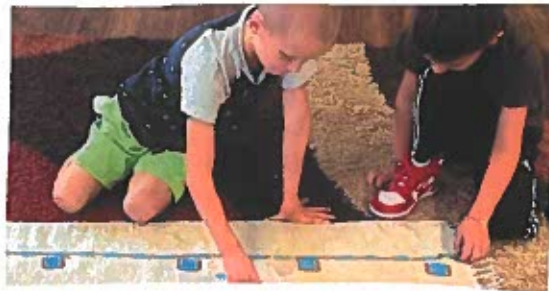
The Toquima class has gotten off to a great start this week! We are working hard on routines and ground rules and the children are really enjoying our new indoor and outdoor environments. Here are some snaps of the new lessons the children have been practicing. The concentration and joy on their faces is priceless!



NOTES FROM THE ELEMENTARY TEAM

ANTELOPE CLASSROOM

We have been having a great time getting to know each other and our new environment. We work together to take care of one another as well as our pets and materials. I enjoyed getting to meet many of you during our open house last week. For those that I did not get to meet yet, I hope to meet you Tuesday the 23rd for our back to school night at 6:00! We will be discussing school philosophy and classroom procedures. If you would like to donate to the class, we could use some small cups for our lunches, some food for our Axolotl and some shavings for our Guinea Pigs. Thank you so much for sharing your children with me! I am excited for this school year!!



CANDELARIA CLASSROOM

Learners in Candelaria classroom heard the story of the first great lesson, The Story of How the Universe Came to Be, one of five Great Lessons. The 5 Great Lessons are foundational to Montessori's Cosmic Education and understanding our place in the universe.



VIRGINIA CLASSROOM

Dear Virginia Families,

What a great first couple of days. Thank you for sending nutritious lunches. They look beautiful.

This week's homework is setting up or renewing your schedules. You and your child should agree on when you will be doing your 30 minutes of reading and generally where. My child likes to have a snack right after school so she likes to read in the dining room while she eats. I am unusually prepping dinner so I can help with harder words. If your child is not reading independently yet then you're going to need to work out when you can read aloud to them. Will you be going to bed 30 minutes early so you can read together then?

Next week we will be presenting the 1st great lesson about how scientists believe the earth was formed.

Thank you to our snack families. It's working out well!



Photo: Theo H. and Paige review the new "Who am I?" cards that I made at training.

RUBY CLASSROOM

Education is a series of transitions and experiences. Our program is designed to motivate students to become active learners, explorers, and teachers in their own right. I will begin slowly by getting to know each of the students and their personal learning styles. Most students are still learning "how to learn" and developing strategies and a sense of self. During this process I hope to:

- Help develop a positive attitude about education and learning.
- Develop a partnership between school and home (so thank you for reading this newsletter)

We look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday, August 23 at 6:00 pm. We are planning a lesson and explanation of other level and classroom expectations.

Volunteer Opportunities

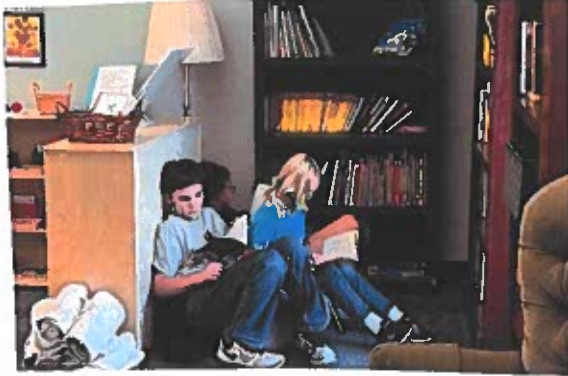
- We are already planning going outs for the year. We will be sending out more updates as they come out.

Gratitudes

- We will share more of these needs on Tuesday and next week.
- Thank you to everyone that made Montessori Week a success and attended the event
- Thank you to Chavez Reyes for donating a sharpener
- Thank you to Crespo family for donating vinegar and baking soda

JUNIPER CLASSROOM

The Juniper Classroom is having a great first week!



URBAN GRINDERS IS COMING TO HDMS!

Urban Grinders Coffee Truck will be at HDMS during morning arrival on Thursdays beginning August 25th!



YOGA AT HDMS

"Trilingual" Yoga Classes

Lower El ~ Tuesdays ~ 3:50-4:30 pm

4's & Kinders ~ Thursdays ~ 3:50-4:30 pm



SCAN ME

\$12 per session

(please contact me if you'd like to
request financial assistance)

Yoga Mats Provided

HDMS Library

Beginning the week of Sept. 5th

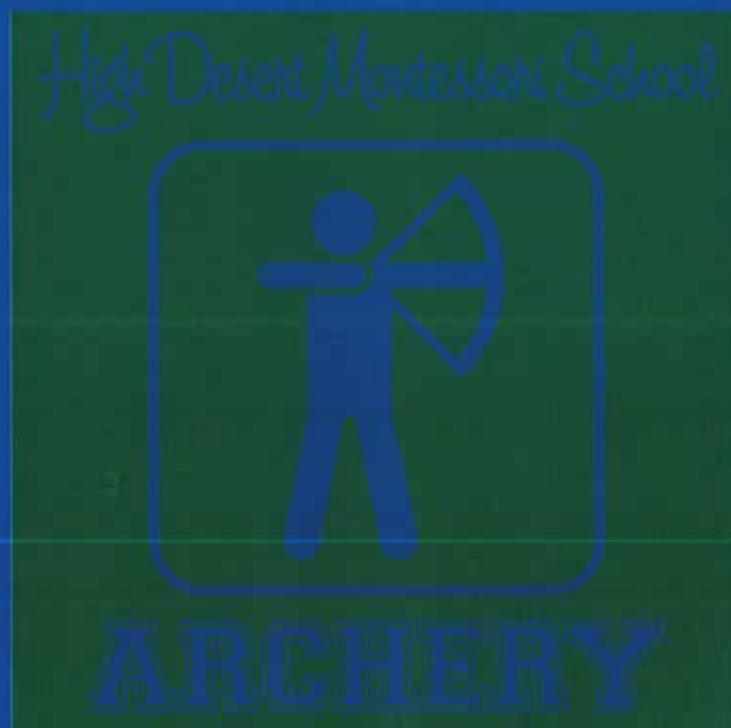
Alegria.A.Day@gmail.com

775.312.3645

UPPER EL ARCHERY

Update- Watch for Upper El Archery sign ups right here in the Newsletter by the end of August. Starting in September, we will have two groups- one from 3:20-4:20 on Mondays and one from 3:20-4:20 on Tuesday afternoons.

Questions? Email Miss Laurel at laurel@hdmsreno.com



PACIFIC MIST PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS AT HDMS



PACIFIC MIST MUSIC
GENERATING REVENUE, JOBS & MUSIC EDUCATION FOR PRIVATE & CHARTER SCHOOLS

In Partnership with High Desert Montessori School
Beginning to Advanced in-School Music Lessons

Piano Lessons



Guitar/Ukulele Lessons



Violin Lessons



Dear Parents

Pacific Mist Music offers an outstanding music program for the students of High Desert Montessori School. Enrolled in the program, your child will receive 30 minute private instruction weekly offering piano, guitar or violin. Weekly lessons will be taught at High Desert Montessori School.

The music teachers of Pacific Mist are seasoned professional musicians with many years of teaching & performance experience. Our teachers are excellent for students of all ages, keeping your child interested and excited about music.

Cost per lesson is \$30. Pacific Mist bills monthly by e-mail with Auto Pay. If instruments are needed, Pacific Mist can help with violins rentals, guitar, keyboard or piano purchases. Contact Steve Pfister for details. 775-324-1445

Register on the web at PacificMistMusic.com



Available lesson times are scheduled on a first come basis and they fill quickly..

CHESS WIZARDS AT HDMS



SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE COOLEST CHESS CLASS ON THE PLANET*

REGISTER NOW!
WWW.CHESSWIZARDS.COM

*WE CAN ONLY VOUGH FOR PLANET EARTH

Two photos are shown: one of two children in wizard costumes and another of a child celebrating a chess victory.

Your brain is your super power

Are you ready to use it? Join the Chess Wizards community today for fun, friendship and some serious chess skills. All experience levels welcome!

Class information

School Name: High Desert Montessori

Dates: 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15

NO CLASS ON: 10/6, 10/20, 11/24

Class Day and Time: Thursday 3:20-4:20pm

Ready to make new friends and amaze your parents?

Join Chess Wizards this year for challenging chess lessons, exciting tournaments, fun, team activities, and more! If you're brand-new to chess, we'll teach you the basics and get you playing right away. If you're a seasoned checkmate artist, we'll show you new ways to let your creativity show on the chess board.

Total # of Classes: 11

Location: Classroom

Price: \$176

Register Today At www.chesswizards.com!

Paper checks are not accepted, Online registration only.

REGISTER NOW!



Can't find a day and class time that fits your family's schedule?
Check out Chess Wizards Online!

Same exciting curriculum, now available online! Visit our website: chesswizards.jumbula.com

- Private lessons and groups
- Tactics, strategies, and puzzles
- Safe and secure

Register at: www.chesswizards.com

Call Us at: +1 866-949-4386

52 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR CHILD SMARTER!



The ACBL Educational Foundation, creators of **BridgeWhiz**, invite your kids to join a free, online beginning Bridge program that teaches young people, grades 4 through 12, the excitement of contract bridge.

- ◆ Bridge is a "mindsport" – the more it's played, the more it develops the mind.
- ◆ Bridge is a proven gateway to better concentration, focus, and reasoning, all scholastic benefits while your child is having fun playing with, and competing against, other kids.
- ◆ Bridge is an Ice-breaker – the BridgeWhiz program has graduates from the US, Canada, UK, Europe, Africa and Asia, all of whom "speak bridge."
- ◆ BridgeWhiz uses certified and background-verified bridge teachers. Students play in a secure area.

“Playing bridge improved nearly everything for me, whether it's my brain, my mind, or my swiftness of eyeing the cards.”

- Dora J., 5th Grade

Hurry! Classes begin October 17, 2022.
Register your children today at [BridgeWhiz.org](https://www.BridgeWhiz.org).



The American Contract Bridge League Educational Foundation (ACBL EF) is a nonprofit organization established in 2017.





HDMS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL. MR. ERIC

It really has been a great couple of weeks at HDMS. I have loved seeing all the kindergartners starting school this week, and I am so happy that the breakfast and lunch program has begun with our in-house partners, Farm Fresh Catering. If you happen to run into Ms. Ximena and her team, they really do deserve a pat on the back. It was great to see so many families at Elementary Back to School Night. Adolescent is this Thursday, and Primary is next Tuesday. Look for information from your child's teachers for time and location. Some classes are doing zoom and some are in-person.



Our grace and courtesy theme for this week is Following Community Guidelines. All classes are working hard to establish procedures and routines so that children know the expectations and classes can run peacefully and smoothly. Before and after care are also working hard to establish the norms that make us a peaceful and thriving community. You can do your part by reading the Parent Student Handbook, as well as discussing the norms and routines you have at home with your children. Doing this kind of work teaches children the discipline and self regulation they need to do well, not only in school, but in life as a whole.


Thank you for your ongoing support. Without such an amazing community of families, friends, and supporters, we couldn't do this important work for our children.

Sincerely,
Mr. Eric
Eric@hdmsreno.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. MISS TAMMIE

One of our top priorities continues to be the health and safety of all staff and students. We remain diligent with cleaning practices, handwashing, and overall care of the environment. HDMS works with our healthcare partners at WCSD and the Washoe County Health District (WCHD), gathering the most up to date information related to COVID, Monkey Pox, and more general illnesses. Our most current COVID screener is HERE. As a general rule of thumb, keep your child home and notify the school if they are experiencing symptoms. At this time, students or staff who have been exposed do not need to quarantine unless they are symptomatic. Please feel free to reach out to the school if you have any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 
- 8/25/22: 6:00 ADOLESCENT BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
 - 8/29/22: URBAN GRINDERS AT ARRIVAL
 - 8/30/22: 6:00 PRIMARY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
 - 8/31/22: EARLY RELEASE (2 HOURS EARLY FOR ALL PROGRAMS)
 - 8/31/22: HDMS BOARD MEETING [LINK](#)
 - 9/2/22: TEACHER WORK DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR ALL PROGRAMS
 - 9/5/22: LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL

Thank you for choosing to be part of the HDMS community and let's have a healthy school year!!

Miss Tammie
Tammie@hdmsreno.com



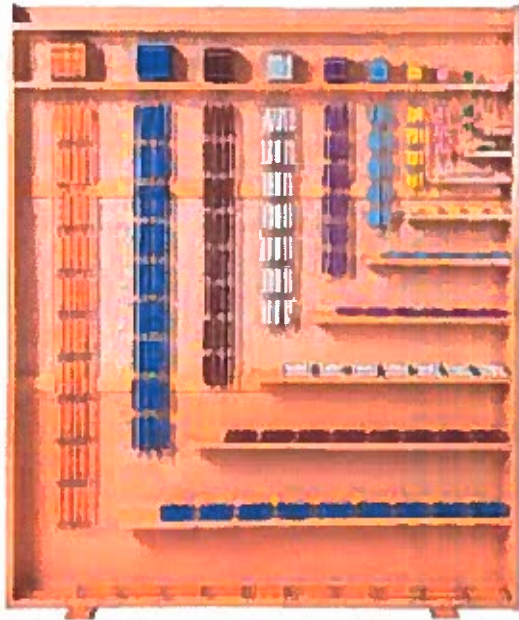
QUESTION OF THE WEEK WITH MISS KALEIGH, OUR MONTESSORI ADVISOR



Each week, I would like to answer questions that arise about Montessori, our school philosophy and so on. If you have a question, you would like answered please email kaleigh@hdmsreno.com with "Question of the Week" in the subject line.

If you have had an opportunity to tour our Montessori classrooms, you have seen the variety of materials available for children to learn from. You may have wondered what the material was used for.

This week, we are going to look at a Montessori material found in Primary, Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary. The Montessori Bead Cabinet



The Bead Cabinet represents a BIG work. The Bead Cabinet provides a concrete representation of abstract mathematical concepts.

In Primary classrooms, the Bead Cabinet is used to sensorially demonstrate linear counting from 1-1000. In Lower Elementary, the Bead Cabinet is used to concretely demonstrate skip counting, and multiples of numbers. In Upper Elementary, the Bead Cabinet is used to concretely demonstrate squared numbers and cubed numbers.

In many cases, the use of the Bead Cabinet will overlap across levels.

FREE LUNCH & BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Our menu can always be found on our website [HERE](#).

The Nevada Department of Agriculture is requiring all families to fill out a free and reduced application. Forms can be found in English or Spanish on our website or available at the front desk.

Please make sure your child has their own utensils, cloth napkins & washable cup (unless your child's classroom teacher has let you know otherwise).

29 Yogurt w/ Homemade Granola with Fruit & Milk Rotini w/ Broccoli and Cheese (Vegetarian) w/ Fruit & Milk	30 Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ Fruit and Milk Chicken Quesadilla (Veg. Option is Plain Quesadilla) w/ Fruit & Milk	31 French Toast Casserole or Waffle w/ Fruit & Milk Mushroom & Black Olive Pizza (Vegetarian) w/ Fruit & Milk	1 Bagel & Cream Cheese w/ Fruit & Milk Beef Chili (Veg. Option is Vegetarian Chili) w/ Fruit & Milk	2 Teacher Work Day
5 Labor Day	6 Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ Fruit and Milk Pulled Pork Tacos (Veg. Option is Bean Tacos) w/ Fruit & Milk	7 French Toast Casserole or Waffle w/ Fruit & Milk Cheese Pizza (Vegetarian) w/ Fruit & Milk	8 Bagel & Cream Cheese w/ Fruit & Milk Veggie Curry w/ Rice (Vegetarian) w/ Fruit & Milk	9 Quesadilla w/ Fruit & Milk Beef Burger (Veg. Option is Veggie Burger) w/ Fruit & Milk

THANK YOU!



A big thank you to HDMS parent Michelle Gustavson who recently tuned both of our pianos at no cost AND decorated our music lesson room!



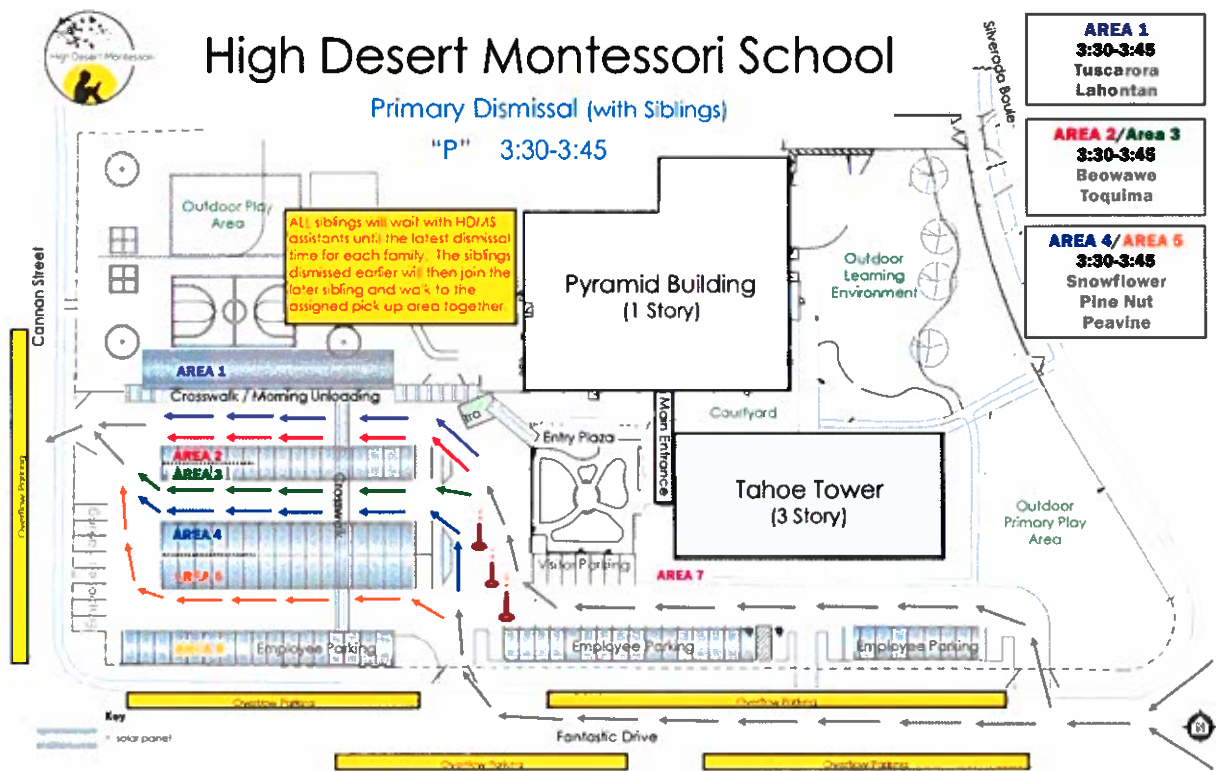
SCHOOL SAFE ID CHECK IN SYSTEM

As you know we have implemented a new visitor check-in system at HDMS to enhance the safety of our students, faculty and staff. SchoolSafeID will require all visitors to present a valid state-issued ID. The system will compare the visitor's name and date of birth to the national database of registered sex offenders.

SchoolSafeID will be managed through a kiosk in the front office with the assistance of Ms. Martha and Ms. Stacey. ALL Visitors must scan their valid state-issued ID, and once approved, the visitor will be issued a badge that identifies his or her name and purpose for visiting the school. The system will only record the visitor's name and date of birth. The system can also create a fast pass which takes the place of scanning your ID each time. However, it does not automatically check out your child. Visitors will not need to use the system should they simply need to drop off something in the main office.

During the student check-out process for aftercare, any parent or approved guardian will have to check their student out using the kiosk and take an up-to-date and accurate photo for ID verification purposes. Although in this learning phase, the process may take a couple of additional minutes of everyone's time, please know that the safety of the children is our number one priority. We appreciate your patience and understanding.





Primary dismissal areas will change on Monday August 29th.

Dismissal times will not change.

Please watch the informational video [HERE](#)

Area 1- first (east) entrance

Tuscarora

Lahontan

Area 2/Area 3- first (east) entrance

Beowawe

Toquima

Area 4/Area 5- second (west) entrance

Snowflower

Pine Nut

Peavine

New placards for all Primary classrooms (except for Lahontan) will be placed in children's backpacks on Friday 8/26/22. Lahontan's placards have not changed (the only change for Lahontan is to enter in the first (east) gate instead of the second).

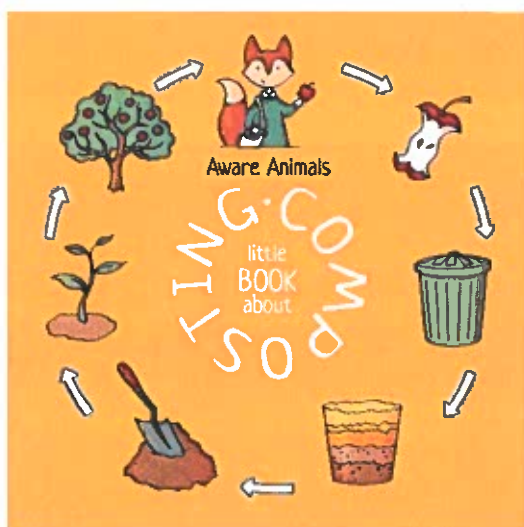
A MESSAGE FROM OUR HDMS GREEN PARENTS GROUP

As a school committed to eco-literacy, HDMS prioritizes composting. But what is composting and why is it important?

Composting is the collection of organic waste such as apple cores, banana peels and bread, as well as paper, that is left to decompose and thereby return to the soil as nutrition. Composting is the healthy alternative to simply throwing into the trash, as trash goes to the landfill and produces toxic waste and gases. It is an easy process and deeply satisfying as a healthy and constructive daily action.

The school has an area designated on its grounds where each classroom can deposit their organic waste. The challenge is to get our children to separate the waste effectively - each class has a bin for recyclables, compost, and trash for the landfill. Let's help our kids develop this healthy habit and have fun in the process!

SAVE the DATE! The Green parents' team will have their first get-together on Wednesday August 31st at 5.30. Email us for details! greenparents@hdmsreno.com



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PTO

There is still time to buy the school calendar for \$25! Get yours today. On Monday 8/29 the price increases to \$35. Calendars come with school schedule (never forget to pick up the kids on early dismissal again) and amazing artwork by our very own students. Calendars will be shipped directly to you starting this Friday!

Thanks to everyone who came out to our first PTO meeting. It was one of our biggest turnouts! We hope to see everyone at the next PTO meeting on September 15th at 5:30PM.

Check out the [PTO Website](#), the [HDMS Facebook Group](#), and [GroupMe](#) to stay connected and ask questions about the school or PTO.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

PTO INFO!

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED/GET INVOLVED

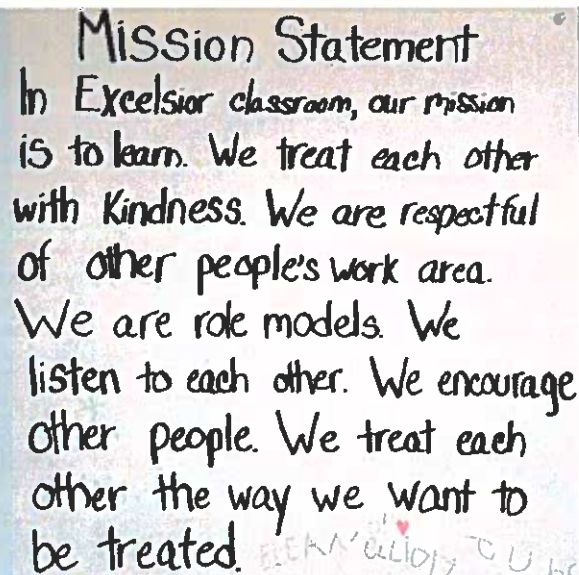
- Website** (events, meeting notes, resources)
- Facebook Page** (events, discussions)
- Group Me** (planning, summer/break meetups)
- Newsletter** (anything new and meeting Zoom links)
- Meetings** 3rd Thursday of every month on Zoom here

Follow the QR code for links

NOTES FROM THE ELEMENTARY TEAM

EXCELSIOR CLASSROOM

The Excelsior classroom has been working to get to know each other, teachers, and the classroom and school routines. This week we are focusing on using indoor voices, keeping hands and feet to ourselves, and being respectful to classroom materials and to each other. The first year children received a Science lesson on "Growing Crystals," the second year children got a Science lesson on "Sound Experiments," and the third year children had a Science lesson on "Eye Tricks." A helpful tip for Montessori families is to read with your child for 30 minutes each day. We would like to ask that you send your child with a spoon for breakfast and lunch.

A photograph of a handwritten mission statement on a light-colored surface. The text is written in dark ink and reads: "MISSION Statement In Excelsior classroom, our mission is to learn. We treat each other with kindness. We are respectful of other people's work area. We are role models. We listen to each other. We encourage other people. We treat each other the way we want to be treated." Below the main text, there are several names written in different colors and sizes, including "NIXON", "MICHAEL", "ASTOR", "JIM", "CLAYTON", "Monsieur", "LUCAS", "Nancy", "HARV", "MARTIN", "NICK", "MARTIN", "MARTIN", "MARTIN", "MARTIN".

MISSION Statement
In Excelsior classroom, our mission
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We are role models. We
listen to each other. We encourage
other people. We treat each
other the way we want to
be treated.

RUBY CLASSROOM

Classroom Info: Review of Elementary Expectations

- [The Montessori Method: Education for Life](#)
- Characteristics of a Montessori Classroom
 - Mixed aged children
 - Freedom of choice and movement
 - Long uninterrupted periods of work (3 Hour AM Work Period and 2 Hour Pm Work Period)
 - Mutual respect and positive discipline
 - A prepared environment including Montessori materials
 - Two adults in each classroom (Teacher/Guide and assistant)
 - Teacher/Guide giving individual or small group lessons
 - Children working individually or in small groups with follow up work
 - Homework typically consists of reading and practical math practice
- For children to be successful in a Montessori program, home life should mirror school life.
 - "Help me to help myself" (takes A LOT of time)
 - Child encouraged to accomplish independent tasks (making lunch)
 - Regular reading & practical math practice takes place
 - Child has ownership of household duties (folding laundry)
 - Child guided toward organization
 - Limited screen time
- Classroom routines and expectations
 - Watch our brains grow
 - Be Kind
 - Use calm, mindful body
 - Take breaks and use words when upset
- Gratitudes
 - Thank you to all the families that attended the Parent Night.
- Volunteers Needed
 - Library helper (pick up books and drop off books) In school library
 - Teach lessons (starts in Sept. P.E., Art, Special Skill)
 - Help with Scholastic Book Orders
 - Going out supervision (Field Trips starts in Sept. trying for one each month.)
 - Help with the Fall Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 22nd will need volunteers. Sign-up link will be coming soon.
- [Wishlist](#): only the parent link

SIERRA CLASSROOM

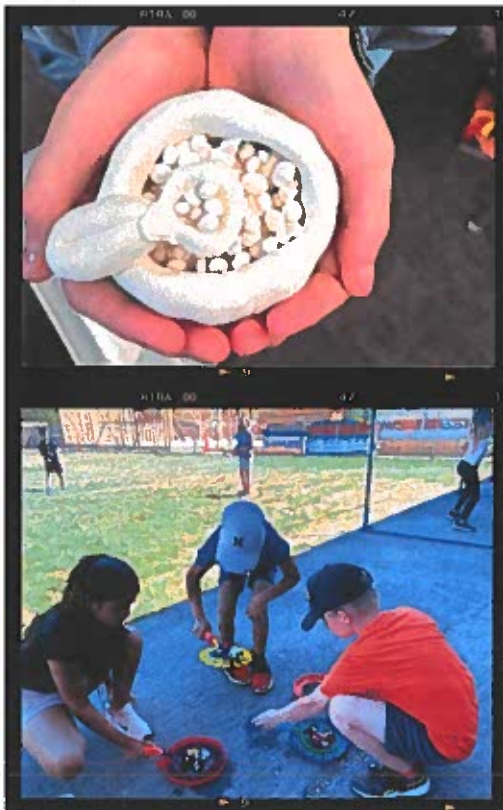
Thank you to all of the families who joined us for Back to School Night! We had quite the crowd! If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please reach out to me via email at Jen@hdmsreno.com.

This week we took the beginning of the year MAP assessments in Reading and Math. I think we are all looking forward to a more normal work schedule!

I am doing science demonstrations that go along with our 'First Great Lesson - The Coming of the Universe'. These demonstrations show key science ideas that are discussed in the story and allow the students to begin science demonstrations and experiments in class.



JUNIPER CLASSROOM



TOIYABE CLASSROOM

We are really enjoying getting to know one another and our new space. Thanks to all of you who were able to attend back-to-school night. If you were not able to attend and would like to volunteer for our class or for our school in some way, please let me know. Thanks to Cathy O'Donnell as well as our students, Olivia and Bella, for helping to set up our classroom library this summer. Thanks also to all of you who have donated items to our class. If you want ideas on how to support your child's education at home, see [Montessori Home Work - Toiyabe 2022-23](#)

We need rocks for an art project! Specifically, if you need to rid your yard of rocks, we need flat rocks (or at least a flat side) about the size of an adult hand. Thank you!



Urijah and Paulina engineering a spaghetti tower.



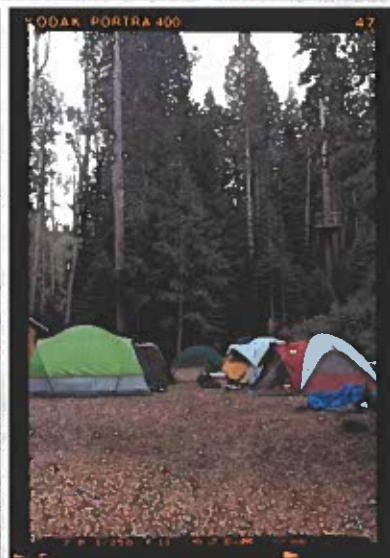
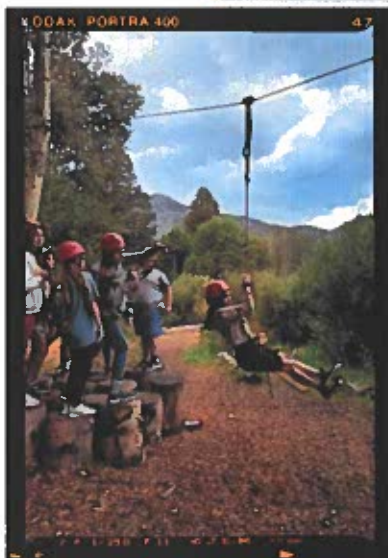
Mila, Diego, and Jameerah working on the Decanomial, Tower of Jewels.



Kanin, Diego, and Hadley with their very stable spaghetti tower.

ADOLESCENT OVERNIGHT TRIP TO PROJECT DISCOVERY!

Last week our Adolescent program got to spend the night up in the mountains at the Project Discovery team building and ropes course!



STEP INTO MUSIC CLASSES FOR PRIMARY AGE STUDENTS

Step into Music Classes for Primary students with Steven. The first class will be September 6 at 3:45 and will be every Tuesday at that time. This is the website for parents to check out <http://stepintomusicreno.com/>

Depending on how many kids sign up we may do 2 classes.

\$50 a month or \$12.50 a class. [registration form](#).

Step Into Music



ELEMENTARY (1ST-6TH GRADE) AFTER SCHOOL CHOIR

Wednesday afternoons for any interested Elementary aged student. Please use this [link](#) to sign up.



September 7th **Every Wednesday**

\$10 each lesson **3:30-4:30 PM**

Lower and Upper Elementary

Music Director
Ms. Keishla Cortés Martínez

For more information:

✉ keishla@hdmsreno.com



Space is limited to 35 students.

YOGA CLASS FOR LOWER EL / 4'S & KINDERS

"Trilingual" Yoga Classes

Lower El ~ Tuesdays ~ 3:50-4:30 pm

4's & Kinders ~ Thursdays ~ 3:50-4:30 pm



SCAN ME

\$12 per session

(please contact me if you'd like to request financial assistance)

Yoga Mats Provided

HDMS Library

Beginning the week of Sept. 5th

Alegria.A.Day@gmail.com

775.312.3645

Children will strengthen their bodies, increase flexibility & balance, & explore themes like mindfulness, & friendship through music, stories, & games learning new words in 3 languages: English, Spanish, & Sanskrit. This creative children's yoga class will be taught by Kelly Bodtke, HDMS Montessori guide, yoga teacher, & former elementary school general music teacher.

Sign Up [HERE](#)

Email Alegria.A.Day@gmail.com

UPPER EL ARCHERY

8 Weeks starting September 12th. No classes during Fall Break or Conference Week, ends the week before Thanksgiving Break. Winter Archery (Tournament Team) will take place January-February and will be by invitation.

School equipment is provided at no cost for all students. Students may not bring private equipment unless it is a standard Genesis Bow that meets the correct eye dominance of the student. Please talk to the coaches before purchasing your child a bow.

Please use this [link](#) to request a spot for your child in Fall Upper El Archery Club. Due to high demand and long wait lists, we will be offering three sessions of Upper El archery this fall. Monday 3:30-4:40 OR Monday 4:25-5:25 OR Tuesday 3:20-4:20. We cannot guarantee your choice of time, please check all times your family could make work. (NOTE: after early registration for returning students, Monday from 3:20-4:20 is now full)

Questions? Email Miss Laurel at laurel@hdmsreno.com



PACIFIC MIST PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS AT HDMS



PACIFIC MIST MUSIC
GENERATING REVENUE, JOBS & MUSIC EDUCATION FOR PRIVATE & CHARTER SCHOOLS

In Partnership with High Desert Montessori School
Beginning to Advanced in-School Music Lessons

Piano Lessons



Guitar/Ukulele Lessons



Violin Lessons



Dear Parents

Pacific Mist Music offers an outstanding music program for the students of High Desert Montessori School. Enrolled in the program, your child will receive 30 minute private instruction weekly offering piano, guitar or violin. Weekly lessons will be taught at High Desert Montessori School.

The music teachers of Pacific Mist are seasoned professional musicians with many years of teaching & performance experience. Our teachers are excellent for students of all ages, keeping your child interested and excited about music.

Cost per lesson is \$30. Pacific Mist bills monthly by e-mail with Auto Pay. If instruments are needed, Pacific Mist can help with violins rentals, guitar, keyboard or piano purchases. Contact Steve Pfister for details. 775-324-1445

Register on the web at PacificMistMusic.com



Available lesson times are scheduled on a first come basis and they fill quickly..

UPPER EL ROBOTICS STARTING SOON!

Upper El Robotics is coming back to HDMS and sign ups will be happening soon!



CHESS WIZARDS AT HDMS



SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE COOLEST CHESS CLASS ON THE PLANET*

REGISTER NOW!
WWW.CHESSWIZARDS.COM

*WE CAN ONLY VOUGH FOR PLANET EARTH



Your brain is your super power

Are you ready to use it? Join the Chess Wizards community today for fun, friendship and some serious chess skills. All experience levels welcome!

Class information

School Name: **High Desert Montessori**

Dates: **9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 12/12/8, 12/15**

NO CLASS ON: **10/6, 10/20, 11/24**

Class Day and Time: **Thursday 3:20-4:20pm**

Ready to make new friends and amaze your parents?

Join Chess Wizards this year for challenging chess lessons, exciting tournaments, fun, team activities, and more! If you're brand-new to chess, we'll teach you the basics and get you playing right away. If you're a seasoned checkmate artist, we'll show you new ways to let your creativity show on the chess board.

Register Today At www.chesswizards.com!

Paper checks are not accepted, Online registration only.

REGISTER NOW!



Can't find a day and class time that fits your family's schedule?
Check out Chess Wizards Online!

Same exciting curriculum, now available online! Visit our website: chesswizards.jumbula.com

- Private lessons and groups
- Tactics, strategies, and puzzles
- Safe and secure

Register at: www.chesswizards.com

Call Us at: **+1 866-949-4386**

**Executive Director Board Update
22-23 School Year**

8.30.22

ED Major Responsibilities

- Support HDMS Mission
- Ensure a clean, safe, and orderly school campus
- Support principal and dean of students as needed
- Oversee school management and operations
- Oversee school meal program
- Oversee school construction
- Oversee capital campaign/fundraising/grants

Phase 3 update:

- West play area in use; 4,000 sf grass field, swings, climbing wall, basketball hoops, tetherball pole, benches
- 4,000 sf community center; water, sewer, foundation in place, framing started
- 2nd play area; working with SPEC on plans

Nevada Montessori Week:

- Mayor Hillary Schieve attended the ribbon cutting
- Public open house was well attended
- HDMS open house was packed
- HDMS Alumni events was well attended with former staff and students
- RSVP tours occurred throughout the week
- Gala was a success- 180 attended
- Raffle brought in \$3,180
- Silent Auction & Gala brought in \$13,288
- Donations brought in \$6,025
- Total earnings: \$22,493

Meal Program:

- 8th year of partnership with Farm Fresh Catering
 - 21-22 served 100,000 free meals
 - 21-22 grant revenue \$364,000
 - 22-23 all students eat a free breakfast and lunch
 - NDA and USDA funded
 - Collecting FRL applications from all families
-

- 22-23 service started on August 22nd

12 RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHARTER SCHOOL BOARDS

Boards that govern for greatness understand management's role is to execute, and the board's role is to ensure. Be proactive, ask wise questions and focus on what truly matters. Ensuring your board fulfills these 12 responsibilities will help advance your school towards greatness.

1. **ENSURE** all students are being prepared for success in college, work and life.
2. **ENSURE** the public's money and resources are well stewarded.
3. **ENSURE** the school is run by a great leader and infused with a positive culture and learning environment.
4. **ENSURE** the terms of the charter contract are fulfilled and the organization is prepared for renewal.
5. **ENSURE** the school is true to its mission, vision and values.
6. **ENSURE** goals are clear and people and programs are wisely empowered, supported, evaluated and held accountable.
7. **ENSURE** the school operates legally and ethically.
8. **ENSURE** the school continuously improves and stays viable.
9. **ENSURE** the board recruits, orients and develops its members and its capacity to govern.
10. **ENSURE** the board adopts and properly maintains its governing policies.
11. **ENSURE** the board speaks with one voice.
12. **ENSURE** the board and its members are positive ambassadors for your school and the charter idea!

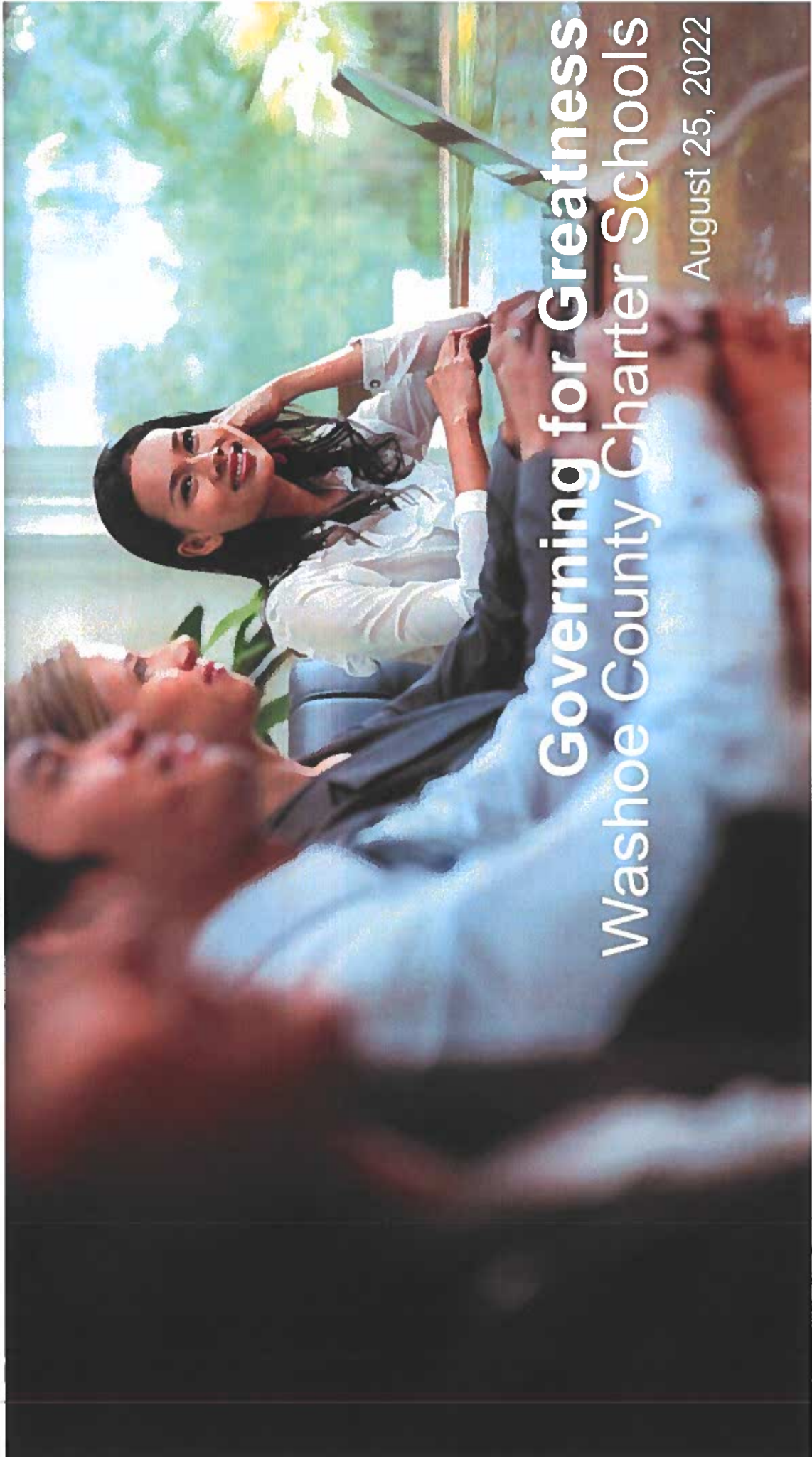




NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS
INSTITUTE
EXPERIENCE • INNOVATION • RESULTS



Washoe County School District
Every Child, By Name and Face, to Graduation



Governing for Greatness Washoe County Charter Schools

August 25, 2022

Goals for Today

- 1 **Introduction & Overview**
- 2 **What's Your Why?**
- 3 **Focus on the Foundation:
The Charter Contract**
- 4 **Governing for Greatness:
The Basics**
- 5 **Key Board Duties**
- 6 **Have Fun!**

Welcome! Create a Virtual Nametag:

- Turn on your video
- Go into gallery view
- Find your square
- Hover over your square until you see the upper right you see “mute” and three dots.

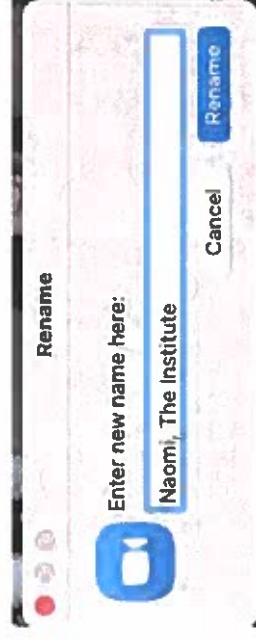


Select the three dots



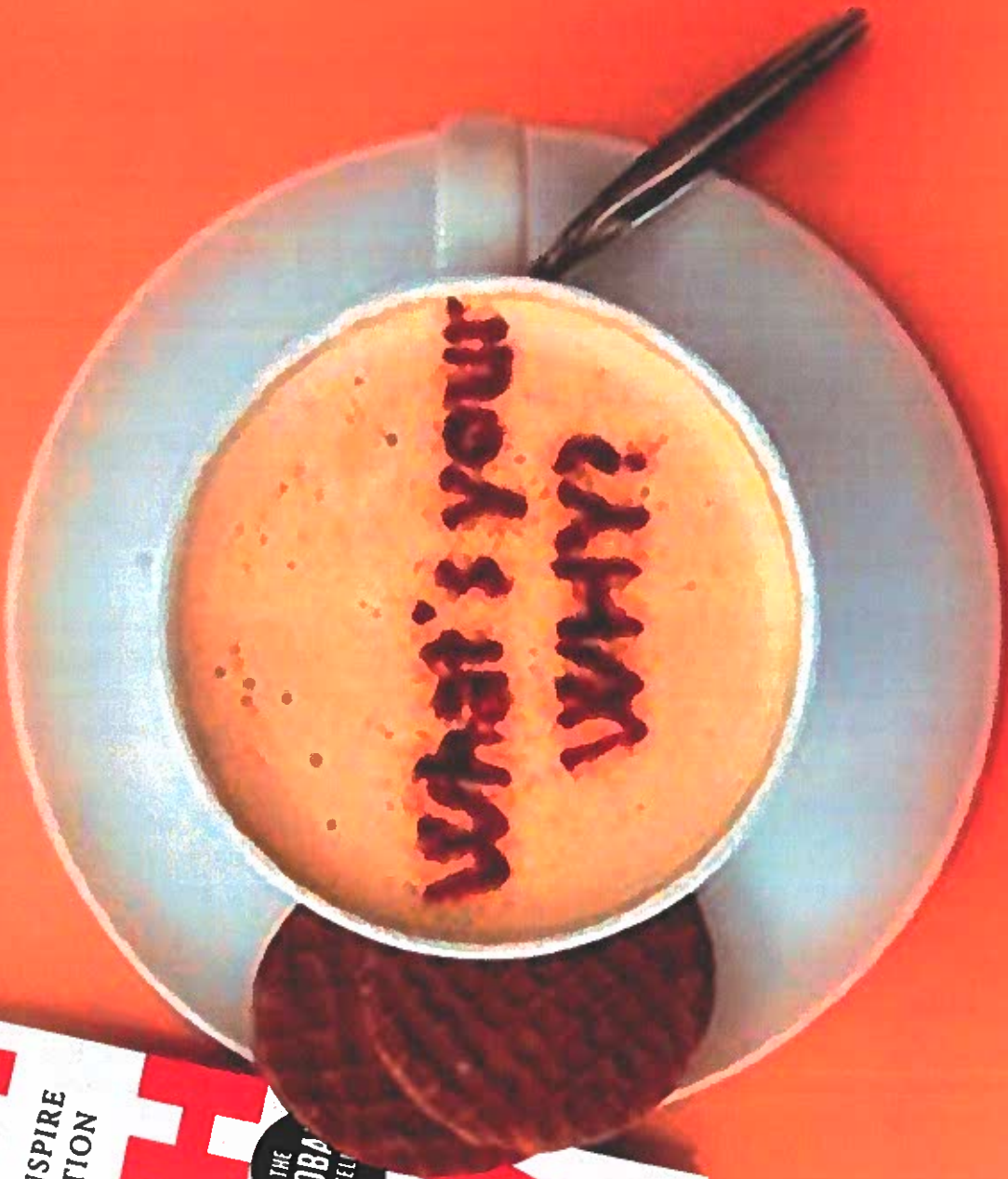
Select
Rename

Add full name and
organization



START
HOW GREAT LEADERS INSPIRE
EVERYONE TO TAKE ACTION
WITH
SIMON SINEK
WHY

THE
GLOBAL
BESTSELLER



My “Why” = More *great* schools for kids!



From here ...

... to here

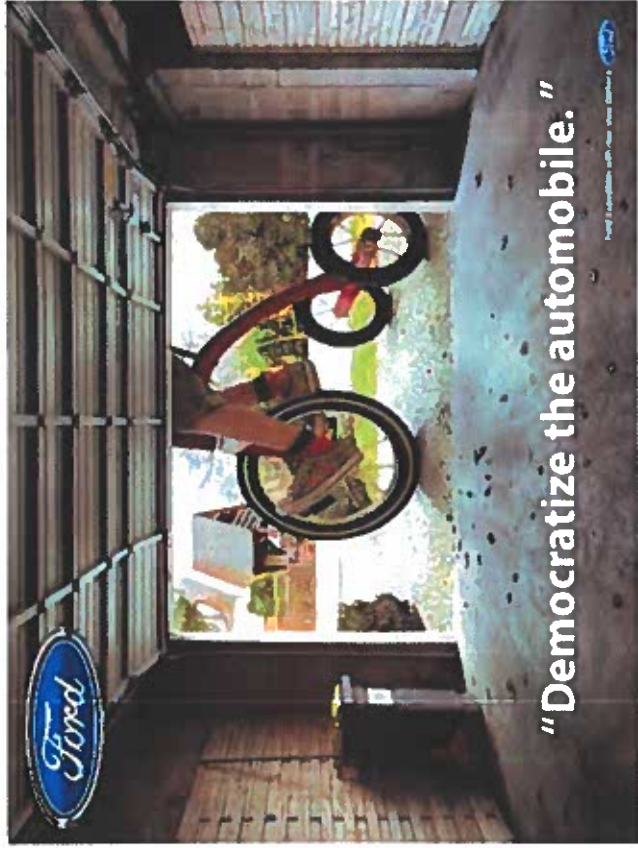




**TWO STONECUTTERS WERE
ASKED WHAT THEY WERE DOING.**

**THE FIRST SAID,
“I’M CUTTING THIS STONE INTO BLOCKS.”**

**THE SECOND REPLIED,
“I’M ON A TEAM THAT’S
BUILDING A CATHEDRAL.”**



“Democratize the automobile.”



“To democratize technology by providing products everyone will want to use.”



**WALDEN GREEN
MONTESSORI**

TUITION-FREE • K-8 • PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

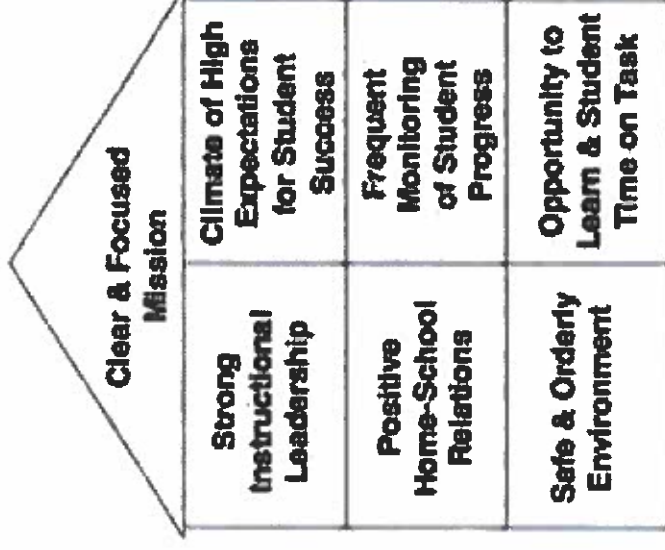
“To educate to the human potential”

School Mission: The Research

“The more I work with schools, the more I become convinced that the issue of mission is one that must receive substantial discussion.”

Larry Lezotte

Effective School Correlates



F-15
revised 2/02

Ronald Edmonds, W.B. Brookover and Dr. Lawrence Lezotte

Effective Schools Foundation



...teaches skills for today's professional careers in construction, engineering, transportation, mining, and manufacturing through integrated academics with a focus on workplace readiness, which prepare students to graduate and be productive citizens.



... providing a supportive environment, which encourages students to connect their knowledge to the real world through inquiry-based learning and differentiated instruction.



...to provide a safe learning environment, supported by a diverse community, and a student body that is dedicated to a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.



High Desert Montessori

...to provide a safe, nurturing school environment that fosters independence, problem solving, and great works in our students.



...to put every student on the pathway to graduate high school with a seal of bi-literacy, prepared for college, and life success!



Guiding Students to Bright Futures



... leads education innovation through personalized learning via PLAY, choice, and exploration within our small school community.

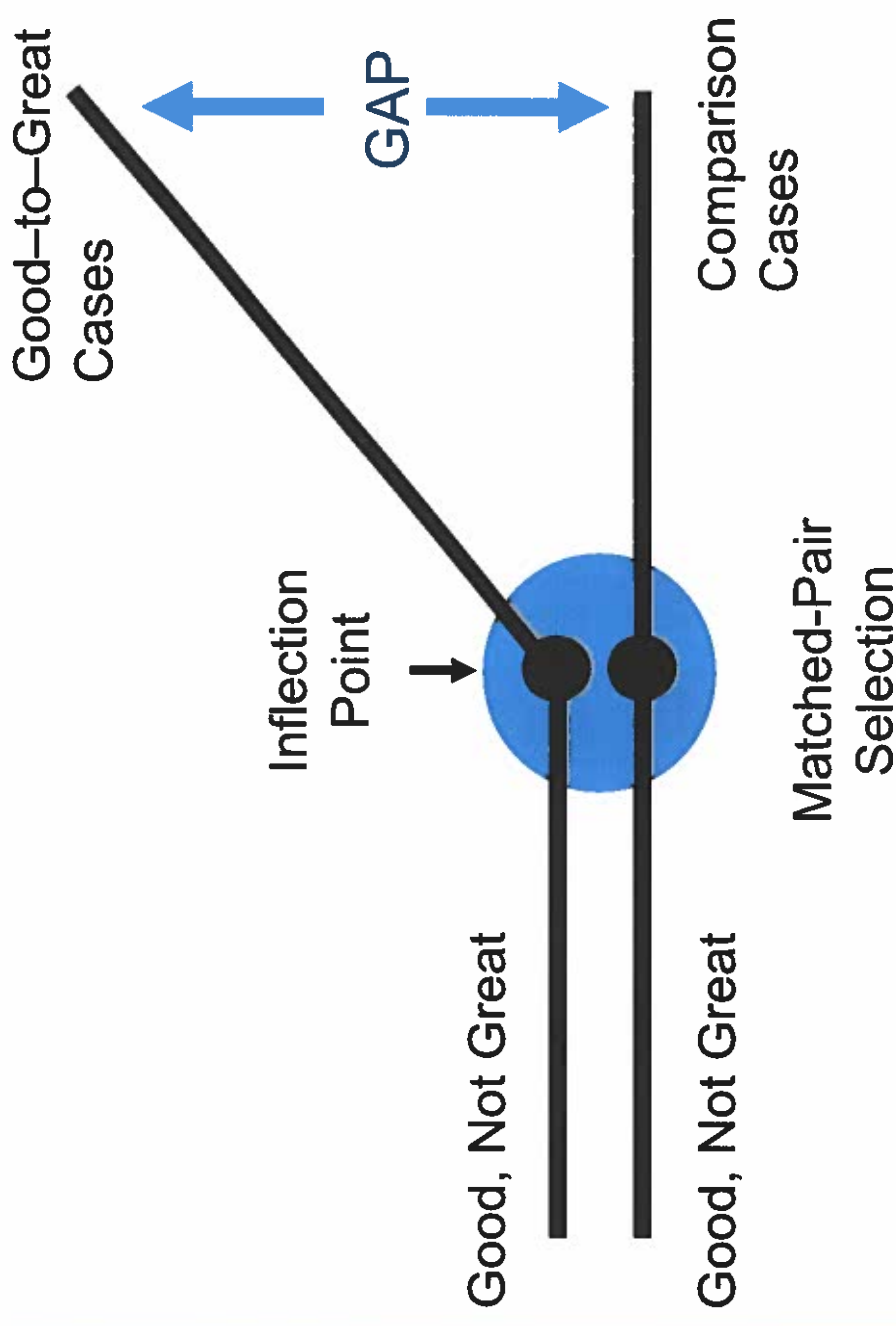
Exercise:

Start with WHY...

What is your school's mission?
How do you make your mission
matter?

Break out, report out.

Framework for Greatness



Great Organizations...



Deliver Superior Performance

Make a Distinctive Impact

Achieve Lasting Endurance

Aligning for Greatness

1

Establish a Shared Mission, Vision & Values

2

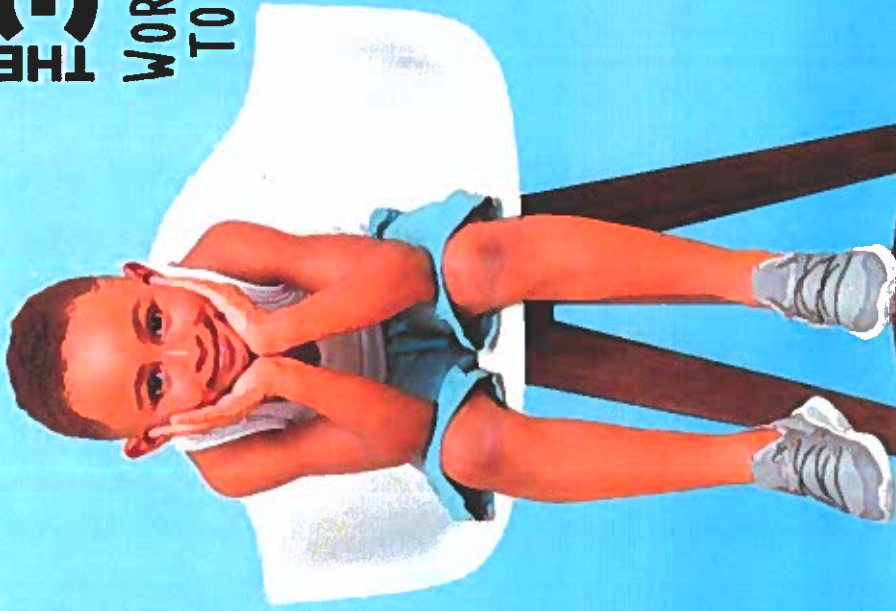
Develop a Relationship of Mutual Trust & Respect

3

Set Clear Performance Expectations –
No Surprises!

3 Legged Stool

**WORKING TOGETHER
TO SUPPORT KIDS
& FAMILIES!**



AUTHORIZERS

BOARDS

SCHOOLS







Purpose of a Charter School Governing Board

“To ensure, on behalf of the public, that students are learning, money and resources are well stewarded, and the organization passionately pursues greatness, while modeling the highest legal and ethical principles.”

A Simple Way to Frame Roles

Boards

=

To Ensure

Management

=

To Execute

Governance & Leadership

Effective board members understand the difference between governance and management.

Board (Governance)	Leaders (Management)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate leader / CMO• Monitor performance goals• Ensure school(s) meeting expectations of charter contract• Approve budget• Adopt school policies• Know local and state charter laws• (Fundraise for the school)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make curricular decisions• Recruit and hire staff• Manage day-to-day affairs of the school• Interact with the parents• Execute the strategic plan• Regular communication with stakeholders• Report to the board

12 Responsibilities of Charter School Boards

Boards that govern for greatness understand management's role is to execute, and the board's role is to ensure. Be proactive, ask wise questions and focus on what truly matters. Ensuring your board fulfills these 12 responsibilities will help advance your school towards greatness.

- 1 ENSURE** all students are being prepared for success in college, work and life.
- 2 ENSURE** the public's money and resources are well stewarded.
- 3 ENSURE** the school is run by a great leader and infused with a positive culture and learning environment.
- 4 ENSURE** the terms of the charter contract are fulfilled and the organization is prepared for renewal.
- 5 ENSURE** the school is true to its mission, vision and values.
- 6 ENSURE** goals are clear and people and programs are wisely empowered, supported, evaluated and held accountable.
- 7 ENSURE** the school operates legally and ethically.
- 8 ENSURE** the school continuously improves and stays viable.
- 9 ENSURE** the board recruits, orients and develops its members and its capacity to govern.
- 10 ENSURE** the board adopts and properly maintains its governing policies.
- 11 ENSURE** the board speaks with one voice.
- 12 ENSURE** the board and its members are positive ambassadors for your school and the charter idea!



BOARDPOLICIES

Exercise:

Which of the 12 “ensures” is either your board’s strongest suit, or conversely its greatest challenge.

Where will you place your focus in 2022-23?

Governing for Greatness

“We believe boards that govern for greatness ask wise questions and measure things that really matter.”

Dr. James Goenner
National Charter Schools Institute



AN INTRODUCTION TO EFFECTIVE CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD UNIVERSITY



NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS
INSTITUTE
EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION • RESULTS

SECOND EDITION

BRIAN L. CARPENTER, PH.D.



GOVERNING FOR GREATNESS

TEN FUNDAMENTALS EVERY CHARTER
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER NEEDS TO KNOW



BRIAN L. CARPENTER

FOREWORD BY JIM GOENNER



Topic 1: The Charter

Understanding the nuts and bolts of the charter contract is the foundation to effective governance because *boards exist to make sure the school performs according to it.* To be capable of fulfilling this role, we believe it is imperative that every board member reads the charter contract and becomes knowledgeable about its material provisions.



Activity/Questions – The Charter

1. On what date does the contract expire?
2. What are the performance outcomes specified in the contract? How many are there?
3. Does the charter list specific grounds for revocation of the contract (i.e. reasons for early termination)?



WCSD Charter Agreements

CHARTER CONTRACT AGREEMENT

This Charter Contract Agreement ("Agreement") constitutes a Charter Contract executed on July 1, 2020 by and between the Washoe County School District (the "School District"), and ACADEMY FOR CAREER EDUCATION (the "Applicant(s)") (collectively, the "parties") to establish and operate the ACADEMY FOR CAREER EDUCATION (the "Charter School"), an independent and autonomous public school authorized to operate in the State of Nevada.

RECITALS

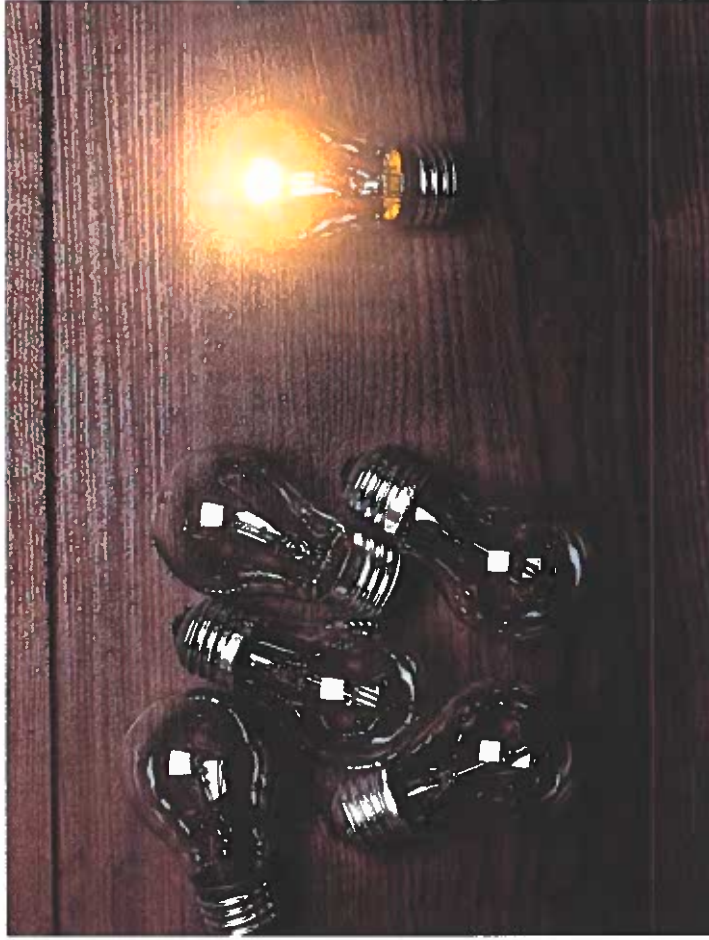
WHEREAS, by decision on March 31, 2020, the Board of Trustees of the School District ("Board") granted the Renewal Application under NRS 388A.270, 388A.276, 388A.360 and 388A.285 contingent upon the negotiation and execution of an agreement acceptable to the Applicant (and the School District, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 388A.270, 388A.276, 388A.360 and NAC 386.050, the written charter includes both the charter school Renewal Application approved by the School District and a written agreement signed by the School District and the Applicant. The written charter will constitute the Agreement between the parties regarding the methods and procedures for the School District to monitor the progress of the Applicant;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing Recitals and the mutual understandings, releases, covenants and payments herein described, the parties agree as follows:

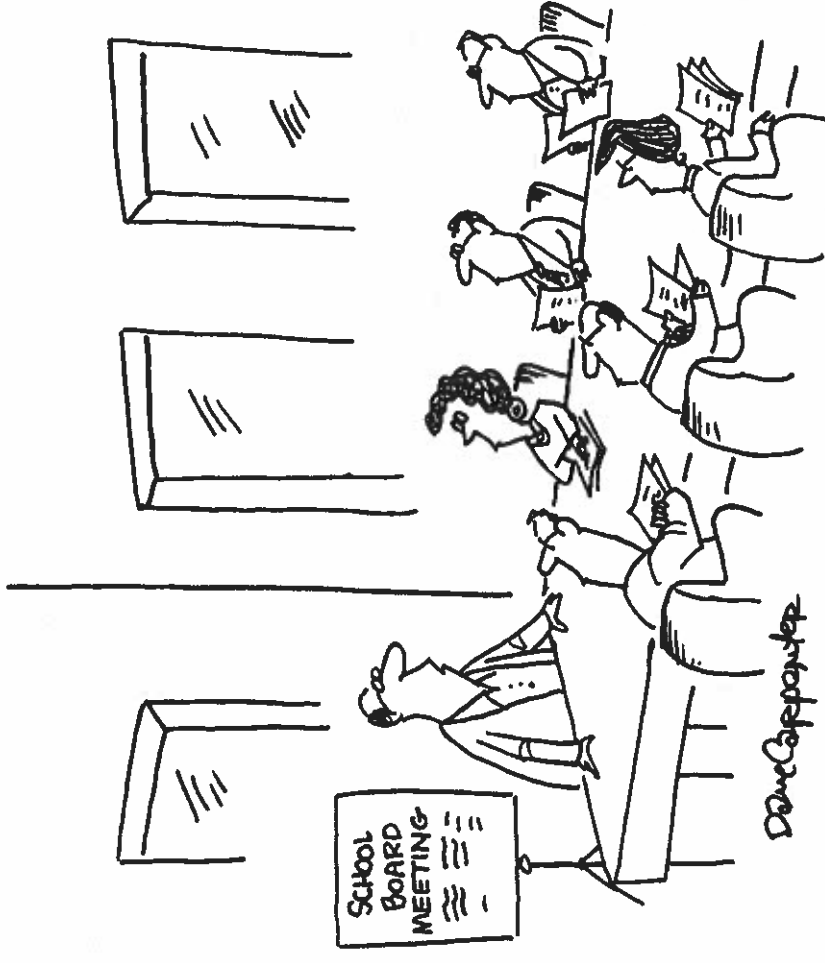
AGREEMENT

1. Compliance with Nevada Law. The statutes and regulations which establish the Charter School, as well as the Renewal Application, are hereby incorporated by reference as a part of this Agreement. The Charter School agrees to comply with current statutes and regulations regarding the creation and operation of the Charter School in Nevada, including, but not limited to, NRS 388A.240, 388A.243, 388A.246 and NRS 388A.366.
2. Term. It is the intent of the Board of Trustees of the School District that the Charter and this Agreement are to be effective for a period of TEN fiscal years, to begin on July 1, 2020 and to terminate on June 30, 2030.
3. General. The Charter School shall not operate for profit and may be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation pursuant to the provision of chapter 82 of NRS. The Charter School certifies



WCSD Charter Agreements

The Governing Body shall have final authority and responsibility for the academic, financial, and organizational performance of the Charter School, and the fulfillment of this Agreement.



"In hindsight, I believe that our oversight was shortsighted, at least that's my insight."

Authorizer Expectations

- Is the charter school's academic program successful?
- Is the charter school organizationally and financially viable?
- Is there a demonstration of good faith in following the terms of the charter contract and applicable law?



WCSD Annual Performance Audit

Washoe County School District Annual Charter School Performance Audit

Name of Charter School:
School Year: 2022-2023 SY



Auditing Department	Name of Auditor	Compliance with Statutes and Regulations	Evidenced By:	Compliant Non-Compliant	Comments
Accountability	Kemp, Kyle	The charter school has met the requirements of the NDE with regards to any state reporting. The charter school maintains data accuracy and integrity of all data elements and complies with requirements to participate in the automated system of accountability information for Nevada (SAIN). NRS 385A.800, 385A.810 and 385A.820.	Offsite review of IC		

- Student Accounting
 - Assessment Division
 - Counseling Services
 - Curriculum
 - 504
 - Facilities
 - Human Resources
 - Information Technology
 - Internal Audit
- Nutrition Services
 - Office of School Improv.
 - Charter Oversight
 - Distance Education
 - Risk Management
 - Emergency Management
 - Student Discipline
 - Student Health Services



The View from the State

2020-2021 Academy For Career Education At a Glance
School Rating in 2020-2021: ACE ACAD HS ★★★★★



 **193**
Total Enrollment

 **N/A**
Student Teacher Ratio

 **N/A**
Teachers

 **\$9,497**
Per Pupil Expenditures

 **>95%**
Graduation Rate

 **18.8%**
Chronic Absenteeism Rate

 **0**
Bullying and Cyber Bullying Resulted in Suspension

 **0**
Bullying and Cyber Bullying Resulted in Expulsion

ELA Proficiency

 **N/A**
Elementary Middle

39.5%
High

Math Proficiency

 **N/A**
Elementary Middle

25%
High

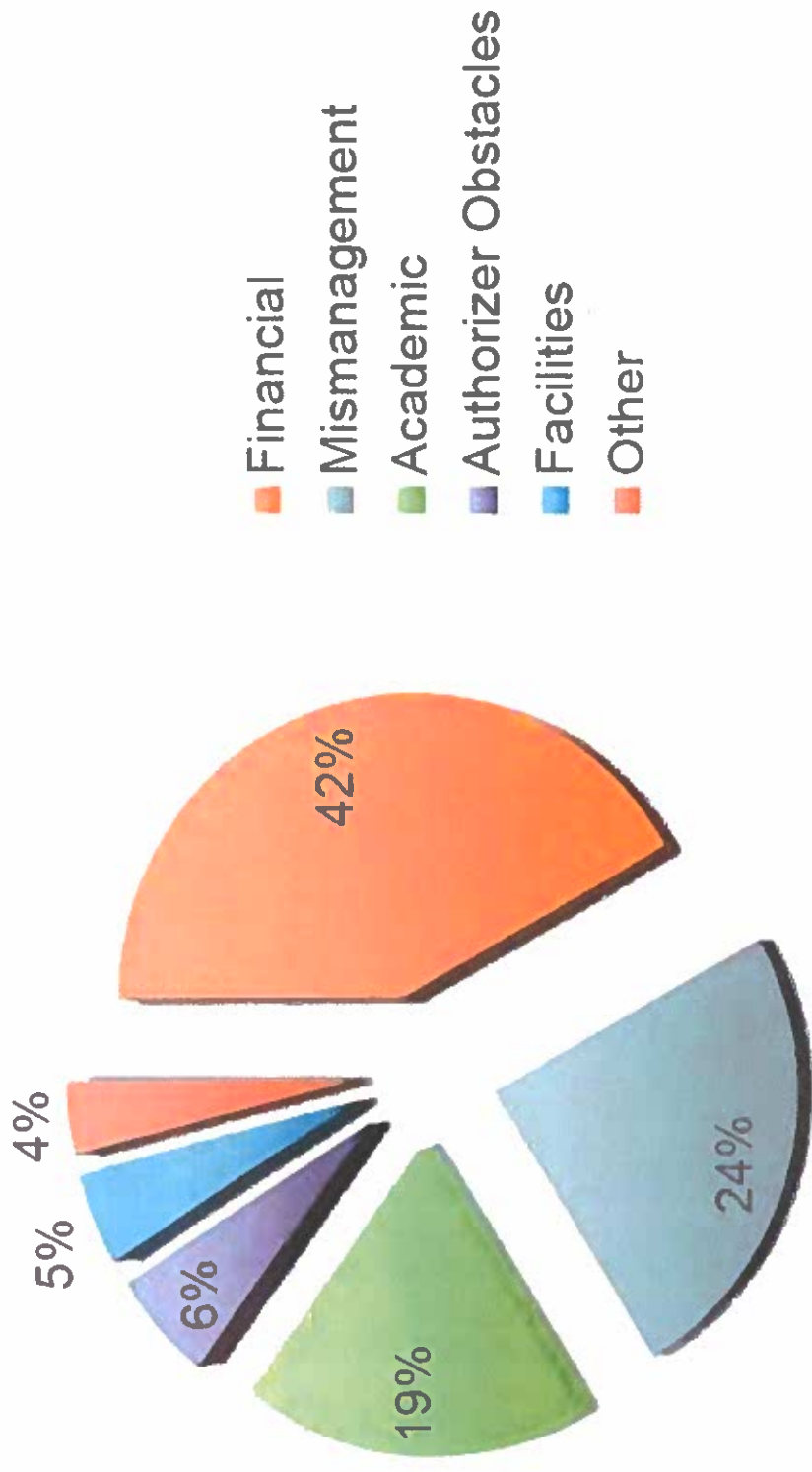
<http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/di/>



Why the authorizer expectations matter

Driven by the charter agreement

Reasons for charter school closures

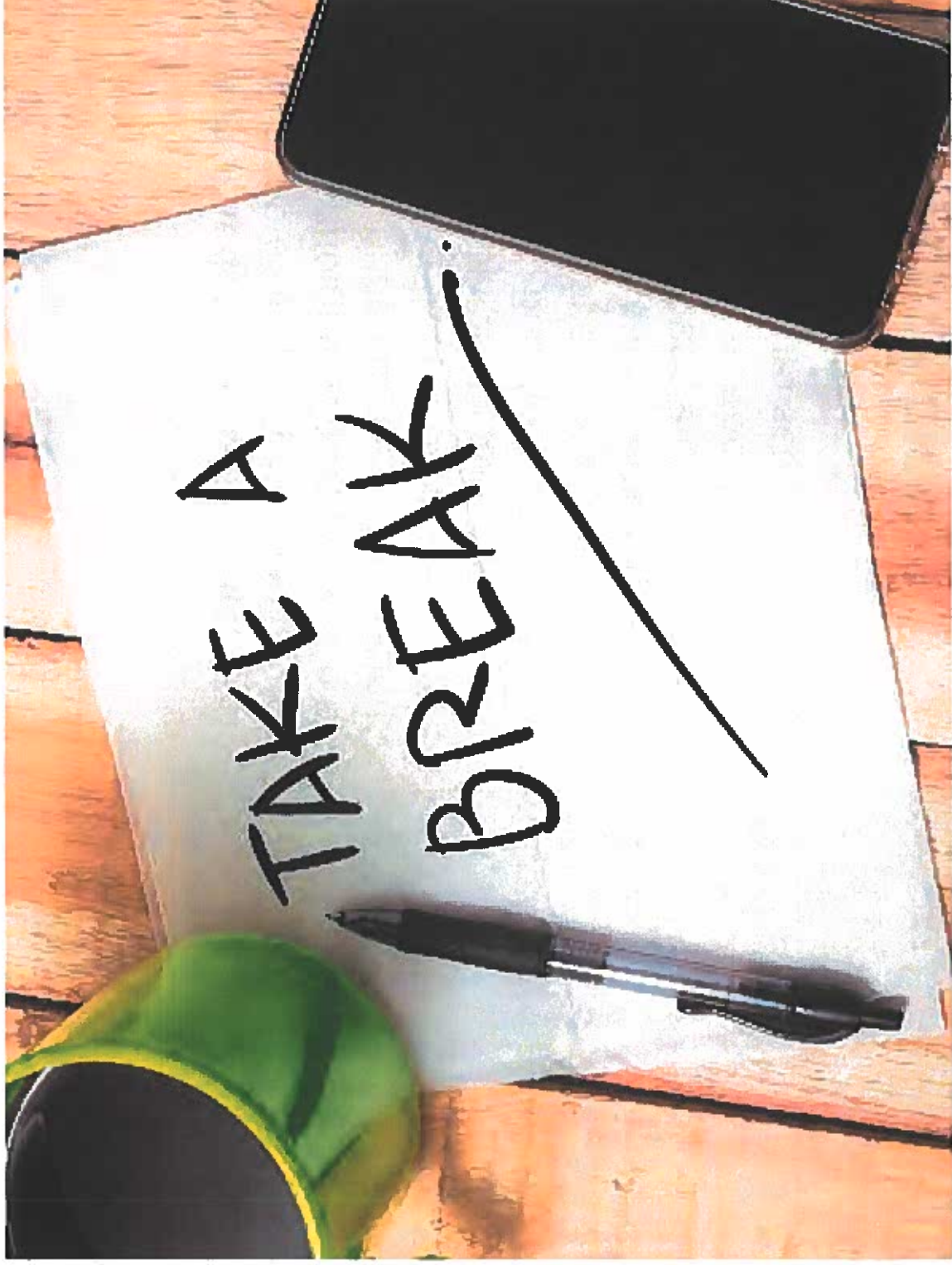


Reflection

- Does our board understand the authorizer expectations?
- Do we receive reports from the authorizer and our school leadership reflecting the charter contract performance expectations?
- What can our board do differently in monitoring performance of the school?



Break?





Topic 2: The Bylaws

Once a board has ratified its bylaws, **the board is duty bound to obey them**. If you've never served on a board, or perhaps served on one that didn't pay much attention to its bylaws, it may seem odd that a document the board created is binding on itself, its committees, and its individual members, but that is the nature of corporate governance. A charter school board can, of course, amend its bylaws (although authorizer approval is sometimes required before doing so), **but it must always obey whichever ones are currently in effect**.



Topic 2: The Bylaws

BAILEY CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS RULES OF GOVERNANCE

Approved by Board January 22, 2014

ARTICLE I: INTRODUCTION; LEGAL STATUS

Introduction: The name of the charter school is Bailey Charter Elementary School (hereinafter referred to as the "School"). The School is located at 210 Centry Way, Reno, Nevada 89502.

Bylaws

of the

High Desert Montessori School:

A Washoe County School District Public Charter School

(Amended on 25th of August, 2021)

Article I:

Introduction

Section I: Name, Location and Address

The name of this Charter School is the High Desert Montessori School, hereafter referred to as "HDMS" or "School." It maintains its offices at 2590 Crovada Street, Reno, Nevada.



Topic 2
pgs. 7-11



Activity/Questions – The Bylaws

1. Do your board's bylaws stipulate a parliamentary authority such as Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised?
2. Do your board's bylaws prescribe terms of office for board members and officers?
3. Are there any provisions in the bylaws that the board does not appear to be following?



Topic 3: School Management

“Price is what you pay. Value is what you get.”

— Warren Buffett

Broadly speaking, charter schools are operated (i.e., managed) by one of two entities: a chief executive or an education service provider. In either scenario, the board’s responsibility is to ensure that management delivers results and the school performs according to its charter.

In either case, a management contract (not to be confused with the charter contract) should exist between the board and the leader of its school, whether that be a person or a company.



Topic 3: School Management

Continued

In a nutshell, your school's management contract should address four central topics:

1. Responsibilities;

We recommend that the management contract emphasize the accomplishment of the specific student outcomes the school was chartered to accomplish.

2. Scope of Authority;

The chief executive or ESP should be the board's single point of delegation for all operational matters.

3. Accountability to the Board;

Management is accountable to the board as a collective—not its officers or members individually or its committees.

4. Compensation

This should be equitable and based on market research.



Activity/Questions – School Management

1. Does your school management have a contract with the board?
2. If you do have a contract, how well does it address the four key areas described (responsibility, scope of authority etc.)
3. Did an independent attorney that is knowledgeable about the charter school sector review the management contract before the board approved it?





Topic 4: Financial Controls

In recommending that all board members familiarize themselves with the school's financial controls, we recognize that this is probably not the most exhilarating governance activity. *But we urge board members to do so because hundreds of charter schools have been victims of fraud, waste and abuse due to the simple fact that they either lacked key financial controls or the board failed to ensure they were being followed. More than a few of these schools have had their charter revoked or been forced to close.*





Topic 4: Financial Controls

1. Separation of duties policy
2. Purchasing policy
3. Debit card policy.
(We recommend having a board policy that prohibits the existence of school debit cards unless they are coded to block cash withdrawals)
4. Credit card policy
5. Cash handling procedures
5. Vendor approval procedure

Activity/Questions – Financial Controls

1. Does your school have written financial controls (i.e., policies and procedures) that include, at a minimum, the six described in this section?
2. When was the last time your board verified the existence of written financial controls, especially a separation of duties policy?





Topic 5: Risk Management

Broadly speaking, a charter school can manage risks by:

- (1) hiring **competent** individuals at all levels;
- (2) being **proactive** in identifying potential risks;
- (3) having a method for **monitoring** data and information related to key risk indicators;
- (4) **adopting and following sound policies** and procedures;
- (5) **retaining and consulting competent legal counsel**; and
- (6) **maintaining proper insurance coverages**.



Activity/Questions – Risk Management

1. Does your board require management to conduct an annual risk management assessment and to report its findings?
2. On what date does your school's liability insurance coverage expire?





Topic 6: Financial Health

In charter school financial oversight, it is common for members of a board to rely on the judgements of just one or two members that have experience reading and interpreting financial reports. While this is understandable, we recommend that *all* board members possess a familiarity with at least three basic financial performance indicators ;

- **unrestricted cash on hand,**
- **liquidity and**
- **total margin.**



Activity/Questions – Financial Health

1. Is your school's management currently producing a monthly financial report that consists of a revenue and expense statement and a balance sheet?
2. How many days of unrestricted cash on hand does your school currently have?





Topic 8: Meetings & Minutes

What has your board been doing in the past year?

Has it entered into any major contracts?

Has it formally evaluated management?

Has it had to address any unusual challenges?

Has it undertaken plans for expansion?

Is it fully dialed into its financial oversight responsibilities?

Is it monitoring the school's academic performance?

Has it established any committees? Are those committees reporting at board meetings?

Has it approved any policies or verified compliance with them?



Activity/Questions – Meetings & Minutes

1. Do the minutes indicate that your board generally follows a standard order of business?
2. Are the minutes devoid of running dialogues and individual comments, suggestions, etc.?





Topic 10: Board Development

Governance is a discipline that is distinct from management. As such it has a knowledge base that must be mastered— *even if the board is composed of individuals that have excelled at management in their own careers.*

A recommended standard order of business for regular charter school board meetings is ongoing board development and self-assessment.

Beyond studying Governing for Greatness on a monthly basis, what else is involved?



Topic 10
pgs. 55-59

~~Reactive~~

Proactive

Reflection & Commitment

- What surprised me today?
- What is one thing that I need to follow-up on and examine more closely?
- What is one thing I am going to take back to the board for consideration?
- What excites you?



POST-WORKSHOP ACTION PLAN

Charter School Board Development Goal: In order to move my board along the trajectory from good to great I will ...			
Action Text:	Supports/ Resources:	Timeline (or Frequency):	
1.			
2.			
3.			

Please use NCSI's Post-Workshop Action Plan to measure what you will do to support your board, or the ones you work with, to implement Governing for Greatness in your charter school.



Leverage our experience & expertise!

- Leadership & Capacity Building
- Authorizer, Board, & School Relations
- Board Training & Policies
- Responsive Performance Goals
- School Startup & Growth / Facilities



Mary Bradley



Wendy Larvick



Ray O'Laughlin



Jim Goenner



Mark Weinberg



Naomi Rubin
Deveau



THANK YOU!

WWW.CHARTERINSTITUTE.ORG

Key Board Duties

Duty of Care

Exercising the “care” a prudent person would when making decisions.

Duty of Loyalty

Gives undivided allegiance and putting the organization above self when making decisions; avoiding conflicts of interest and keeping confidential matters confidential.

Duty of Obedience

Acting in a manner that supports the school’s mission and values; and fulfills the public trust.



The Duty of Care

- This duty requires board members to be reasonably aware of what is occurring at the school so they can make informed decisions.
- Fulfilling this duty requires board members to:
 - Consistently attend meetings.
 - Be prepared by reading materials prior to meetings.
 - Enact policies that guide the school's practices.
 - Ask questions in meetings.
 - Monitor compliance with law and the contract.
- In other words, be prepared for meetings, actively participate in planning and decision-making, and make informed judgements.



The Duty of Loyalty

- This duty requires board members to always put the best interests of the school above any personal or professional interests.
- Fulfilling this duty requires board members to:
 - Be free of real conflicts of interest.
 - Be free of perceived conflicts of interest.
 - Not engage in related party transactions.
- Board members should not serve on the board for financial or other gain for themselves or their families.



The Duty of Obedience

- This duty requires board members to ensure that the school complies with all applicable state and federal law, rules, and regulations.
- It also requires board members to ensure that the school is acting in good faith to fulfill the terms of its charter contract and other policies established by the authorizing body.
- The board should also ensure that the school is obeying the policies that the board has adopted.



POST-WORKSHOP ACTION PLAN

<p>Charter School Board Development Goal:</p> <p>In order to move my board along the trajectory from good to great I will ...</p>		
Action Text:	Supports/ Resources:	Timeline (or) Frequency:
1.		
2.		
3.		

Article IV: Committees

Section I: General

1. The Board, by majority vote of all its members, may designate one or more committees, each consisting of at least one Board Members, to serve at the pleasure of the Board to assist it in performing its duties.
2. Though such committees shall perform all responsibilities and duties explicitly assigned by the Board, the Board may not delegate any of its statutory duties to such committees nor delegate the powers to enter into contracts, or to hire and terminate employees to any such committee.
3. The Board may request such committees to make recommendations to the full Board for approval concerning such matters and such committees are encouraged to propose actions to the Board when appropriate.
4. Upon the creation of a committee, the Board shall outline the committee's responsibilities, duties, tasks, and authority with enough specificity to allow such a committee to clearly understand its role. The Board may amend, from time to time, such a role for good cause.
5. The Board may unilaterally revoke, by a majority of its members, any delegated activity or decision making authority it has given to any such committee at any time.

Section II: Specific Committees

Identification. There may be a Finance Committee, a Personnel Committee, Academic Committee and Governance Committee; Other committees will be identified as needed.

1. Personnel Committee

- a) Membership: If the Board of Directors chooses to have a Personnel Committee, rather than to perform the below described functions itself, only Board Members may serve on the Personnel Committee.
- b) Function:
 - 1.b.i. Annual review of designated supervising employees (Principal and/or Executive Director) with recommendation to the full Board.
 - 1.b.ii. Periodic review of staffing patterns to ensure that such is consistent with the School's annual and five-year plans. (Recruitment and retainment)

2. Finance Committee:

a) **Membership:** The Finance Committee will perform the below described functions itself, that committee shall include a minimum of one Board Member. If there is only one Board member on the finance committee, it shall be the Treasurer. Regardless of the number of Board members on this committee, the Treasurer shall be the committee's chairperson.

b) **Meetings:** The finance committee shall meet a minimum of 4 times a year and must notify the full Board if a special meeting must be called to deal with budget exigencies.

c) **Function:**

2.c.i. Ensure that a draft budget for the next fiscal year is presented to the entire Board no later than April 1 of each year and that updates of the budget are presented to the Board as necessary throughout the year.

2.c.ii. Assure that all contractual commitments are being appropriately discharged.

2.c.iii. Ensure that relevant and adequate financial statements are presented to the Board in a timely manner.

2.c.iv. The Board shall not delegate any financial or budget making or modification authority to the Finance Committee, however such committee is responsible to make informed and reasoned recommendations to the full Board including major contracts, grants or donations.

2.c.v. Ensure that the School's financial affairs are properly functioning pursuant to standard accounting practices, state law and the requirements of the School's charter.

2.c.vi. Ensure that the School's final budget is submitted to the Department of Education on or before June 8 of each school year or other date upon regulatory change.

2.c.vii. Ensure that any and all contracts into which the School enters to assist it with its financial affairs including any audit required are periodically reviewed for sufficiency and their performance.

3. Academic Committee:

a) **Membership:** If the Board of Directors chooses to have an Academic Committee rather than perform the below described functions itself, such committee shall be composed of the or more statutorily defined teachers on the Board and the School's designated Supervising Employee.

b) **Function:**

3.b.i. Implementation of the policies adopted by the Board as they relate to the academic program and the development and implementation of the School's academic program subject to those matters under the law and the School's charter, which the Board cannot delegate. However, for such academically related matters, this committee is responsible for making appropriate recommendations for approval of the full Board. The committee shall, however, fully inform the full Board of its activities by no less than written quarterly reports.

4. Board Governance Committee:

a) Membership: The Governance Committee shall perform the below described functions itself, such committee shall be composed of at least two (2) Board members and the School's designated Supervising Employee.

b) Function:

- 1.1.1.1. Create and communicate individual board member roles and Responsibilities
- 1.1.1.2. Manage board composition and nomination process, including new member orientation
- 1.1.1.3. Encourage board development
- 1.1.1.4. Assess board effectiveness
- 1.1.1.5. Prepare board leadership

Committee/Tasks	Membership	Meeting Dates	Notes	Board Members
Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal and/or ED evaluation - Staff recruitment - Staff retainment 	-Parent representative -Licensed educator	- September (formulate leadership eval). -Nov. (R/R trends) -Feb. (leadership eval tasks, R/R) -May (leadership evals)	-Principal and/or ED evaluation at June board meeting	-Nancy Smith
Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budgets - CPA Audit - WCSD Audits - NDE Audits 	-Treasurer	9/21 10/19 1/22 3/8		-Reid Riker
Academic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Montessori focus - STAR rating - Montessori teacher training center 	-Licensed educator	HDMS 9/19,10/10, 10/31, 12/19, 3/6, 6/5		
Board Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment - Orientation - Board retreat 	-Chairperson			-Nicole Commons

To: HDMS Board of Directors

From: Linda Aaquist

Re: Resignation from the HDMS Board of Directors

This letter will serve as my official resignation from the HDMS Board of Directors as of August 31st, 2022.

I have enjoyed serving on the Board and working with everyone, including the administration, teachers, and staff at High Desert Montessori School. We have gone through some challenging times and some truly rewarding times. The opening of the new renovated three-story building was a pinnacle in my serving on the Board.

I wish everyone all the best in the future. I am available for any questions about Montessori education as you may need it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Aaquist

Linda Aaquist
