



Sea Pines Montessori Academy
9 Fox Grape Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders Since 1968

Nonprofit

Welcome Letter from the Head of School

Nestled amongst the forest preserve and Atlantic Ocean lies a beautiful school at the south end of Hilton Head Island. We are Sea Pines Montessori Academy. Thank you for showing interest in our stunning grounds by visiting. As you continue to observe our indoor/outdoor space, meet some teachers, and see our children engaged, I am sure that you will grow as fond as SPMA as I did during my first tour! Sea Pines Montessori Academy is truly an authentic, enriching environment.

We are South Carolina's first and oldest Montessori school. Established by Mary Fraser, wife of Sea Pines Plantation developer, we are rich in history and experience. Montessori is about community, trust, and growth. We nurture not only the whole child, but also the families. At SPMA, we know that when we work together and become one unit, each child feels comfortable, safe, confident, loved and most importantly, happy.

Choosing a school is easy. Choosing the right school is a challenge. As you peruse your packet or remember your visit, try and imagine your child AND your family in the building, at school events, and walking into school each morning.

A Montessori school should feel like home, a "Children's House" to be exact. When Maria Montessori opened her first classroom in 1907, she dubbed it *Casa dei Bambini*, or Children's House. It was "owned" by the children -- materials, art, and windows at eye level, child size desks and tables, small sinks and toilets, and most importantly, children of all ages in a familial setting. This is truly what sets Montessori apart from other schools. This ownership of the environment that the children feel contributes to their pride, independence, confidence and love of learning.

In the same regard, Montessori teachers are very special. They are trained for a specific age group and know that range in and out- socially, emotionally, academically, physically, and spiritually. You will not find a general K-12 instructor here. Instead you will see a highly developed curriculum, amazing enrichment courses, Spanish immersion activities, and a growing athletics program. We welcome your questions about our work, philosophies, and school life, and value the opportunity to begin this journey together.

I look forward to welcoming you soon!

Cheerfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melinda A. Cotter".

Melinda A. Cotter
Head of School