Dear Families,

Welcome to Nokomis Montessori Magnet North! We are very excited to begin our 2019 and 2020 school year with your child(ren) and your family! Each of you play an important part in the success of our students, we value your partnership and voice!

What a wonderful start to our new school year! We had so many happy and joyful students busily engaged in learning everywhere! It was a heartwarming sight to watch our wonderful students demonstrate their leadership skills, kindness to friends and staff, and be focused and engaged learners.

On Thursday, we welcomed our youngest learners to Nokomis. We now have all day Pre-K with our kindergartners! It was magical to witness how quickly our 5 year-olds can assume leadership roles on the first day to help out with their Pre-K peers.

As we were immersed in the happy chaos of dismissal at the end of Thursday, I overheard one dad ask his child “how was your day?”

“Grreeeaat!!! I wish I could stay here all night!” She exclaimed.

Pure Joy!

Thank you all for an amazing first week!

In partnership,

Ms. Terri

Principal

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**Upcoming Events**

**September 12**

Nokomis North PTO-6 to 7 pm in the science room. Childcare and light dinner will be provided. Please join us and bring a friend!

**September 19**

Montessori Parent Education Night 5:30 to 7:00 pm

5:30 to 6:00 pm - Pizza Dinner (in the cafeteria)

6:00 to 7:00 pm

Come and learn about Montessori philosophy and gain understanding of your child’s school day. Our teachers will be sharing their presentations in their classrooms.

**September 20**

10:00 am

International Peace Day Assembly in the Gym.
Important reminders:

- Morning drop off starts at 9:10 am. Doors will open at 9:15 am.

- For the safety of all children, please do not drop off your student(s) on Case or Ruth street, and drive through the drop off line. If you are walking your child into school, please walk at the cross walk, and not between the parked cars.

- Please call the school by 3:15 pm for last minute changes in transportation for your child. If we receive the call after 3:30 pm, we may not be able to get the message to your student before dismissal.

- Parent/family pick up will be in the gym, starting at 3:55 pm. All Parents/guardians must sign out in the gym before picking up your child. ***Parents: please add any other family members to your I-update online if they are allowed to pick up your child(ren.) Our students will not be able to go with any adult that is not listed on his/her I-update.

- If you think you may qualify for free or reduced meals, parents need to complete an application(one per family) at the beginning of the school year. Forms are available on-line at WWW.ns.spps.org and go to free/reduced meal prices.

Thank you so much!

Meet our new Prep Teachers

Ms. Marcella -Science

My name is Marcella Simmonds. I was born and raised on the island of St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands. I am the proud mother of an adult son. After attending Bethel College, now Bethel University, where I majored in Elementary Education I obtained my Master’s in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Thomas. In addition, I took courses at the University of Minnesota working towards a principal’s license. I have been an educator in the St. Paul Public Schools for many many years.

I recently returned to St. Paul after teaching fifth grade for one year in Hangzhou, China. Living in China was a wonderful eye-opening experience. It gave me the opportunity to immerse myself in another culture and appreciate the differences and commonalities of people.

I am glad to be back in Minnesota and excited to start working with you and your child as the new science prep teacher.

My interests outside of school include: dancing, reading and traveling.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Marcella Simmonds
Mr. Michael-Music

Dear Nokomis Community,

I would like to extend a welcome to you for the 2019-2020 school year. As it is my first year at Nokomis I am excited to be here and work with a new and exciting team that I can tell are passionate about teaching your children.

I am currently in my 14th year at SPPS. I taught at Crossroads Montessori 2005-2010, Capitol Hill Gifted Talented 2010-2013 as Middle School Band and Choral Director, Ramsey Middle School as Asst. Band Director and Choir Director 2013-2016 also African Drumming, and John A. Johnson Elementary as Music Specialist 2016-2019. Also a wonderful season in 2015 with Henry Sibley Marching band as drum line instructor.

I graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2004 with Cum Laude Honors and hold a degree in Music Education. I enjoyed learning a music education pedagogy but also the contemporary aspect of Jazz theory and performance while studying drum set and percussion as my principal instrument. I am currently a candidate for a Masters of Education from Hamline University.

I live in Eagan with my wife and two children Zach (14) and Micah (11). We have two fish named Kylo Ren and Billie. I enjoy travelling to Canada each year to fish on Rainy Lake, camping, cooking, hiking, and live music whenever possible.

Again I look forward to this year and working in a great community.

Best, Michael Rutschke (Mr. Michael or Mr. R)

Ms. Jones - Physical Education

Hello, Nyob zoo, Hola, Salaan,

My name is Kari Jones. I was born and raised in St. Paul, Mn. After attending Mankato State University, where I majored in Physical Education and Health. I obtained my Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Mary’s-Minneapolis Campus. In addition, I have been an educator in the St. Paul Public Schools for 22 years.

I worked at Capitol Hill Middle School for 18 years and before that I worked at Murray and Hazel Park Academy. I also worked as a physical education teacher in 29 Palms, California in 1994-1996 and there I worked without a gymnasium with 60 elementary students in a class outside—year round!

I am glad to be part of the elementary team here at Nokomis North. I am looking forward to working with you and your child as the new physical education teacher.
My interests outside of school include: running, walking, swimming, reading, dancing, listening to live music and traveling.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Kari Jones