

ACADEMIC RETREAT MINUTES – AUGUST 5, 2015

Attendance: Melinda, Renae, Dan, Christina, Brian, Yvonne, Alicia, Carrie, Jeremy, and Drew

The Board and staff met to determine what we need to do as a school to meet and exceed our academic goals.

We first agreed that we serve the following: Our current IMS children; our future IMS children; and our own children. We must think big picture and long term.

We discussed and brainstormed our academic reality vs. perception. We further discussed the need for additional parent training in terms of the Montessori method and the focus on peace, respect, problem solving and the other skills we nurture that are not a product of an academic test. We want to continue to emphasize their importance and value.

We then discussed the following ideas:

- A. Starting our new children one day early each year;
- B. Welcome back breakfast;
- C. Orientation day for new children; orientation night for returning children.
- D. Spending necessary money for parent education - Samara
- E. Video our parent training
- F. Create an inviting space where parents in the carpool line could meet and talk prior to the release of their children – Christina and Dan
- G. Handout laminated articles to parents in the carpool lane – Brian and Samara
- H. Continue to post parent letters and information. Continue to tell the parents and teachers there are NO GRADE LEVEL expectation in Montessori. We follow the child.
- I. Make sure we are continuing to assess ourselves with the question – Are we executing the Montessori philosophy to our utmost?
- J. We must continue to bring in outreach programs and going outs.
- K. Teachers need more practical life. Will use the new practical life albums to enhance the classroom. Carrie and Samara will follow up with practical life training and sharing.

We had a great brainstorming session. We will have a second academic retreat in January, 2016.