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BRINGING MONTESSORI INTO THE PUBLIC CONVERSATION IN PRINT AND ONLINE • EXCERPTED FROM: **SPRING 2023 (VOL. 7, #2)**

Opening and closing

New public programs



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Even as schools across the country have contended with teacher shortages and the challenges of emerging from the pandemic, at least ten new public Montessori programs opened this year:

- **Denver Public Schools** (Denver, Colorado) added a new classroom of 15 three- and four-year-olds at College View Elementary in southwest Denver, in partnership with the Montessori Collective, covered on MontessoriPublic here: Montessori on the move in Denver.
- **Creekstone Montessori School**, a new K-6 charter school in Red Wing, Minnesota, opened its doors in September, serving 114 children with waiting lists at all levels. The school offers a fee-based preK with some financial assistance available.
- **Tulsa Public Schools** (Tulsa, Oklahoma) has added a third Montessori school at Eugene Field Elementary. The school opened with three- and four-year-olds and will expand through elementary at a grade per year.
- **Whitmore Lake Public Schools**, in Whitmore Lake, Michigan took over a struggling private program, Go Like the Wind Montessori, and is incorporating the school into the district. The program is tuition-supported for three- and four-year-olds, and has plans to expand through fifth grade.
- **Canutillo Independent School District** opened the first public Montessori program in the El Paso, Texas region at Gonzalo & Sofia Garcia Elementary School. The program opened with free, full-day, dual-language Montessori for students who will be three years old during the 2022-23 school year.
- **Hillsborough County Schools** in Tampa, Florida, opened a Montessori magnet program in September, offering three classrooms for three-to-six year-olds at Montessori Academy at Essrig Elementary School. NCMPS worked closely with the district to support the launch.
- **Lawrence Public Schools** in Lawrence, Kansas, has launched a new program at New York Elementary, starting with three classrooms of three- and four-year olds and expanding to Elementary in the fall.
- **Premont Independent School District** in Premont, Texas, launched a kindergarten class at the Premont Montessori Academy, a new program which will grow to a K-5 model over the next few years.
- **The Riverseed School**, the first campus of DC Wildflower Schools, a charter network in Washington, DC, opened its doors with three- and four-year olds, and plans to grow through 5th grade.
- **Lansing School District** in Lansing, Michigan consolidated its two existing Montessori programs into a single PK-8 program at Wexford Montessori Academy.

Sadly, we've seen a few schools close this year as well:

- **The Lagunitas School District Montessori Program** in San Geronimo, California, will be merged with an "Open Classroom" elementary program this fall. It's not clear if the new program will be Montessori.
- **Penfield Montessori Academy**, an innovative charter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin serving children with special needs and sponsored by the Penfield Children's Center, a long-standing program for children with developmental delays, looks to be closing its doors after a series of funding shortfalls.

The National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector adds new schools to the Montessori Census, a national database of public and private Montessori schools. Schools can search for their listings, claim them, and update information if needed.

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MontessoriPublic

MontessoriPublic, the communications and advocacy platform for public Montessori is a publication of

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