



Dear Families,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I regret to inform you that Joanna DeStefanis will be stepping down as Head of School at the end of the current school year.

Since Joanna began her tenure seven years ago, she has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of ASM in significant ways. Joanna's vast accomplishments include leading ASM through its joint re-accreditation in May 2018, creating a strong brand awareness, working diligently with the Board on our long-term plan and financial sustainability, advancing STEM initiatives, and instituting the multi-level curriculum. Sharing a vision of exemplary education, Joanna has steered a course that leaves ASM well-prepared for future growth and opportunities.

While it is easy to recount the many contributions made by Joanna, her influence on the climate and culture of our school cannot be overstated. Joanna has provided a safe and supportive environment for each child. Her empathic, passionate leadership has strengthened the school by any educational measure. She has demonstrated unwavering encouragement to the faculty and tireless support to families who have trusted their children to her care.

From the Board's perspective, Joanna has been a true partner, fostering a strong relationship built upon mutual respect, trust, and transparency. By sharing her vision and providing sound rationale in support of her recommendations, the school has grown and flourished.

We thank Joanna for advancing Andover School of Montessori with abundant grace, wisdom, and vision. Her lasting impact will be felt for years to come.

As we move forward, the Board has begun the search process for our next Head of School. We have secured the services of Educators' Collaborative to assist in the search and are in the process of forming a Search Committee. We look forward to your participation in the search and in the coming days we will send you a survey to elicit your thoughts regarding future leadership. The Educators' Collaborative consultant, Mary Seppala, will be on campus to meet with constituent groups on March 10, 2020. We will keep you apprised as the process advances.

Thank you for your continued support of Andover School of Montessori.

Sincerely,

Brian Banigan

President, Board of Directors