



Dear Brian,

It is with mixed and heartfelt emotions that I will resign my position as Head of School at the close of this school year as I will soon be relocating to North Carolina.

For the past seven years I have been privileged to lead the ASM community. I will truly miss its children and families. I have enjoyed getting to know each child at ASM; they are curious and joyful learners. I am delighted by the wonder years of our youngest students and am in awe of the achievements of our oldest students. It has been rewarding to watch them develop as individuals who are compassionate, creative and independent. ASM's parents, grandparents and caregivers are vital members of this warm and inviting community. I appreciate the many ways in which our school is sustained by the time and talent that our families give of themselves. ASM is strengthened by its cultural diversity and I have been enriched by our differences.

I am grateful to ASM's Board of Directors, past and present, for their counsel and support. Through our partnership, we have advanced an ambitious agenda and developed a strategic plan for the future. We have offered new benefits to ASM's employees, introduced year-round, full day programming for 3-year olds, invested in facilities and grounds, increased financial aid, refinanced the school's bond, improved building safety and augmented funding for faculty and staff professional development. Through the collaborative work of many, ASM has undergone significant, positive change during the past seven years, evolving into a Montessori school of distinction.

I will miss the day to day engagement with ASM's faculty and staff who possess a progressive mindset, are hard-working, and are deeply committed to the success and well-being of each of our students. Together, we have created a climate of mutual respect and a positive school culture. I have been inspired by their dedication to professional development and enthusiasm to implement new curriculum and programs for the benefit of our school community. We have strengthened the curriculum in every program level throughout the school and our graduates transition successfully into top-rated independent and public secondary schools. As a team, we achieved reaccreditation from the Association of Independent Schools of New England and the American Montessori Society, expanded field trips and extra-curricular offerings and developed collaborative learning environments. I thank them for upholding ASM's mission and core values every day.

It has been my honor to lead the ASM community. I wish you all the best. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

Sincerely,

Joanna DeStefanis
Head of School