

New & Improved Mission Statement

"Hilltop Montessori School's mission is for students to **practice** responsible independence **in a caring community of curious critical learners and thoughtful citizens.**"

This statement is a revision of the mission that has served the school for the past 15 years (and can be found on page 17 of the [Student and Family Handbook](#)). This new statement is even more succinct than the old one, and also has the additional emphasis on "practice" and on the "caring community".

The revision process was initiated last April by a subcommittee of the American Montessori Society (AMS) Accreditation Committee for our school. A board member (and parent), several staff (including school parents), and one parent met and determined that it was important to involve all of the teachers and staff in the mission review process. Last spring, all staff were informed and given a month to review and contemplate the mission; then, during the end of the year retreat, the entire staff dialogued for several hours over the history, values, strengths, and shortcomings of the former mission statement. This meeting resulted in a list of ideas concerning strengths and weaknesses as well as a clear call to update the language of the mission. The Subcommittee also put out a call for additional members who might bring a fresh perspective to the crafting of new language. The Subcommittee met during the summer to review the findings from the all staff meeting and to hear what input new subcommittee members might have to offer. At the end of the summer the entire staff met again to craft new language for an updated mission statement. This language was easily developed and four days later the subcommittee reconvened to polish and hone the mission which was then approved by the whole staff and presented to the board. As a staff, we have lived with the mission for a few months now, in our minds, on our desks, and in our classrooms. It continues to resonate well as an inspiration for, and reflection of, what we do daily here at Hilltop Montessori School.

The core of the old statement that we retained was the idea of "responsible independence". A concept that students, staff, parents, and friends recognize as the heart of the Hilltop mission and can rely on its simplicity and depth to guide their understanding of the school. We like that it is succinct and now also reflects the community that is so important to support that growing independence.

We hope you can join us for the Curriculum Morning on February 3rd, when we will be further explaining, demonstrating, and exploring how we bring the mission statement to life in each program.

January 12, 2018