

November 20, 2018

Hilltop's AMS Accreditation Self-Study Approved!

It was very gratifying to hear back from the AMS Accreditation Department that our 200 page self-study was approved with flying colors! They gave specific comments on many aspects of our program and of how we presented our material, concluding with:

"I feel the Hilltop self-study document is a model of thoroughness and clarity. I applaud the effort they put into embracing the spirit of AMS School Accreditation."

We are very grateful to the staff, parents, board members, and friends who contributed in so many ways to pull together this extensive self-study process and product. The next step in the accreditation process is to host a Team Visit on March 3-6th for a group of 3-4 Montessorians to see our school and confirm that we are doing what we say we do. It will be fun to share our pride in our programs and students!

If anyone is interested in reviewing the whole report, please feel free to stop in to the front office where it is available for your viewing pleasure. Also, if anyone has any questions about this process, please feel free to email **me** or stop by.

Diversity/Equity Focus Group

If you would be interested in being part of a Diversity/Equity Focus Group, please let me know! We are reconvening a group, that was part of our Strategic Plan process back in 2016, to help us work more on serving diversity and promoting equity at our school. Our school administration and board has moved forward on reframing our "Financial Aid" program to be "Indexed Tuition". We feel this name better reflects the goals and sentiment of how we support economically diverse families to be part of our school community. We will have our first meeting in December to review and give feedback on a draft format for our "Indexed Tuition" materials. As we move forward on this and other initiatives, we will

continue to consult this group. If you would like to be a part of this process please let **me** know!

- Tamara