

The Future of Learning

Hilltop Montessori School's Strategic Plan



Fall 2018

Our mission is to light the flame of learning to achieve a lifetime of success.

THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

CAMPUS ENHANCEMENT

RATIONALE

With a recent 3.4 million-dollar capital project complete, the school finds itself with a unique opportunity to consider the best ways to enhance our campus in the future. The creation of a master plan, feasibility study, business plan and other mechanisms to augment our physical infrastructure will assist in planning for the future, while we also work to address short term needs such as parking and campus security.

INITIATIVES

1. Create a master plan for all the school's property, including current landscaping, outdoor classroom space, edible plants and facilities.
2. Address parking issues for special events and school functions, as both a temporary solution and within the master plan.
3. Create a feasibility study and a business plan for a possible Montessori infant program.
4. Investigate the need for a "brick and mortar" campaign to enhance the middle school learning environment with the expansion of an enclosed sunroom.
5. Continue to ensure the safety and security of all students through campus security protocols, enhancements, and additions.

THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

ENHANCEMENT OF CURRICULUM AND OPERATIONS

RATIONALE

HMS is working to remain authentic to the Montessori method, while also engaging 21st century families to strengthen our operations and curriculum with technology. Streamlining our enrollment, updating our entire curriculum, and equipping our learning environments to the fullest extent possible ensures that our children will be fully prepared for the future and our parent lives more manageable. Mission driven through the utilization of an authentic Montessori model, but still focused on living in the 21st century, our stakeholders will be more engaged and included in the lives of their children.

INITIATIVES

1. Pursue a mission driven atmosphere that permeates through all aspects of student life and encompasses all stakeholders.
2. Revise the entire school curriculum to include a peace education curriculum, added technology integration, global citizenship initiatives, and 21st century learning outcomes.
3. Equip all new classrooms and replace older classroom materials to embrace new initiatives in curriculum, global citizenship and 21st century learning outcomes.
4. Identify and implement technology to assist with a new continuous enrollment initiative, office record keeping, enrollment, admissions and student records. Develop the appropriate infrastructure needed to implement these initiatives.

PROVIDING FOR THE LONGEVITY OF THE SCHOOL

RATIONALE

At 21 years old, Hilltop finds itself with the unique opportunity to engage in conversations and initiatives to drive and secure the future of the school financially. It is not only important but necessary to continue to provide for the longevity of the school through comprehensive development of our endowment, expansion of our development initiatives and making the proper financial decisions needed to protect the school moving forward.

INITIATIVES

1. Continue fundraising for an endowment to strengthen the long term financial health of Hilltop Montessori School.
2. Continue to increase stakeholder involvement in development opportunities to better utilize school resources.
3. Hilltop Montessori School will conduct a full benefits and salary study and utilize the data to ensure that the school can compete in the marketplace for quality faculty and other employees.
4. Create and follow a 4-year replacement plan for school technology to continually update technology to meet each learners need and also to remain state-of-the-art for the life of the school.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

RATIONALE

An authentic Montessori education embodies all current trends in education deemed successful, such as project-based learning, critical thinking, fostering a love of learning/creativity and the ability to address specific learning styles. Inherent within the three-year cycle for each prepared environment is a strong bond of communication and trust between all participants of the Montessori “triangle”: student, parents and faculty. New initiatives regarding learner outcomes will allow us to address each learner’s progress more fully, strengthen the “whole” child to navigate toward the 21st century and empower parents to be better informed as to their child’s strengths and challenges. By working within our community and in our neighborhood, Hilltop will truly empower our students, and their support systems, so that each child can meet his or her fullest potential.

INITIATIVES

1. Review anecdotal style progress reports for independent Montessori schools and create a new format for progress reports that addresses each learner on a more individual basis.
2. Make changes to the existing parent conference format to better engage parents in their child’s progress and target specific learner outcomes.
3. Revise school calendar and school events to include parents, involve students in showcasing their accomplishments and to include the MT Laurel community. Provide opportunities for parents that cannot attend all events to be better informed through the use of new technology such as apps, videos and texts.
4. Strengthen learner outcomes through an active counseling curriculum across all ages that addresses bullying, friendships, social media, and 21st century challenges.