

## NEWS RELEASE

February 10, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHESTERFIELD MONTESSORI SCHOOL BECOMES ST. LOUIS MOSAIC PROJECT AMBASSADOR SCHOOL

Helps St. Louis Grow by Serving a  
Diverse International Community of Families

ST. LOUIS, MO – Chesterfield Montessori School is proud to join the St. Louis Mosaic Project as part of their Ambassador School Program. By partnering with the St. Louis Mosaic Project, Chesterfield Montessori has agreed to support this important initiative by reinforcing a welcoming and inclusive culture to our international families. By helping make the St. Louis area attractive to international professionals, the Project aims to have St. Louis be the fastest-growing US metropolitan area for foreign-born by the year 2020. With a long tradition of serving international families, Chesterfield Montessori School offers authentic Montessori education, a method of pedagogy successfully in practice in more than 110 countries around the world.



Chesterfield Montessori is recognized by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), the organization established in 1929 by Maria Montessori to ensure the authenticity and integrity of Montessori education. All of the teachers at Chesterfield Montessori have received intensive training by the Association Montessori Internationale, and the school adheres to a rigorous set of Montessori standards. As a result, the education offered at Chesterfield Montessori is consistent with that offered

in AMI Montessori schools around the world.

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A large number of students currently enrolled at Chesterfield Montessori come from families with at least one foreign-born parent, and over 16% of the students themselves have immigrated to the US. Many current students are bilingual and several are trilingual. Members of the faculty and staff are immigrants, including the school's founder and Head of School, Anita Chastain, who is a native of Germany.

Committing to the St. Louis Mosaic Project reflects Chesterfield Montessori's long tradition of supporting international families. CMS will continue to celebrate the diversity of its school community at a number of events throughout the year. These include an annual *International Grill Fest*, where families bring food from their native cultures to share, and *Holidays Around the World*, where children research and present holiday celebrations in order to better understand and appreciate the importance of a global community.

As an Ambassador School, Chesterfield Montessori School is committed to contributing to the success of the St. Louis Mosaic Project. Ms. Chastain personally understands the importance of this project: "As someone who has immigrated to the US, I appreciate the opportunities I have had, and I am happy that our school can join with other organizations to help make opportunities available for others in a way that benefits our St. Louis community."

Chesterfield Montessori's committed parents and staff enthusiastically embrace their new role in the St. Louis Mosaic Project, recruiting ambassadors from the school community, and continuing to help new families integrate into the St. Louis community. "We are thrilled to be a part of this exciting initiative," says Lise Riet-Lague, Director of Advancement for Chesterfield Montessori School. "Montessori naturally attracts families who move to St. Louis from around the globe. We strive to make our international families feel connected within our school community and work to help them feel at home in their new country."



### **About Chesterfield Montessori School**

Chesterfield Montessori School was founded in 1981 and currently serves children of toddler, preschool, kindergarten, elementary and adolescent ages, from 16 months old through 15 years. CMS is a non-profit school offering authentic Montessori programs at all levels. Every child has a passion for learning, for exploration and for discovery. When their environment nurtures this natural enthusiasm, children reveal to themselves valuable lessons that last a lifetime. The beautiful sunlit facility features classrooms that are open, inviting, well organized, and equipped with the full spectrum of materials scientifically developed by Dr. Maria Montessori. The partnership of parents, children, and teachers creates a place where children and families flourish.

For more information, visit [www.chesterfieldmontessori.org](http://www.chesterfieldmontessori.org), or [www.facebook.com/chesterfieldmontessorischool](https://www.facebook.com/chesterfieldmontessorischool).

### **About the St. Louis Mosaic Project**

St. Louis aims to be a cultural mosaic because this community believes that immigrants invigorate our region, drive innovation and take us back to our roots. The St. Louis Mosaic Project's goal is to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing metropolitan area for immigration by 2020 and promote regional prosperity through immigration and innovation.

The St. Louis Mosaic Project was launched in 2012 in response to an economic impact report, outlining St. Louis to be lagging in immigrant growth as well as highlighting the economic benefits of increasing its foreign-born population. The Mosaic Project is a regional initiative that is professionally managed by St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, World Trade Center St. Louis and a 22-member committee.

For more information contact Betsy Cohen at [ecohen@worldtradecenter-stl.com](mailto:ecohen@worldtradecenter-stl.com) or visit [www.stlmosaicproject.org](http://www.stlmosaicproject.org).



ST. LOUIS MOSAIC PROJECT

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