



# HEARTWOOD

## MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Quality Montessori education in the heart of Cary for ages 18 months to 18 years

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### Jan 3: First Day of School

Happy New Year, and welcome back!

#### Jan 8: Curriculum Night: Extended Day (Kindergarten)

[RSVP](#) to learn more about HW's Kindergarten program. Childcare available (ages 3+).

#### Jan 14: Brixology Club Begins

Our new Lego Engineering club meets Mondays from 3:15-4:45pm and is open to ages 7+. [Register here](#), or find out more in the article to the right.

#### Jan 16-17: CH Teach Your Parent

Check your email for a link from your teacher with sign-up information.

#### Jan 21: NO SCHOOL

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

#### Jan 24: Curriculum Night: LE

Learn more about HW's 1-3 grade program. [RSVP](#) for childcare (ages 3+)

#### Jan 29: Curriculum Night: UE

Learn more about HW's 4-6 grade program. [RSVP](#) for childcare (ages 3+)

#### Feb 5: Curriculum Night: TH

Learn more about HW's toddler program. [RSVP](#) for childcare (ages 3+)

#### Feb 7: Curriculum Night: MS/HS

Learn more about HW's Middle and High School. [RSVP](#) for childcare (3+)

#### Feb 12: Curriculum Night: CH

Learn more about HW's preschool program. [RSVP](#) for childcare (ages 3+)

#### Feb 18: NO SCHOOL

Presidents Day / Teacher Workday

## Re-Enrollment Form Coming Soon

Re-enrollment forms will be out next week. If you'd like to continue with us next year, please return your re-enrollment form by **Monday, Feb 25** to hold your spot before we open to new families.

Not sure what lies ahead? Check out our Curriculum Nights, or schedule an observation in your child's classroom. Know someone who's interested in Montessori? Bring them along!

### Curriculum Nights

All programs and childcare begin at 6:30pm.

**Toddler House:** Feb 5; ([RSVP](#))

**Children's House:** Feb 12; ([RSVP](#))

**Kindergarten:** Jan 8; ([RSVP](#))

**Lower Elementary:** Jan 24; ([RSVP](#))

**Upper Elementary:** Jan 29; ([RSVP](#))

**Middle & High School:** Feb 7; ([RSVP](#))



## New on Mondays: Brixology Club

Starting in January, we're pleased to welcome a new club to our after-school line up. Mad Science, which has partnered with us in the past on in-school field trips, will offer [Brixology](#), a Lego engineering club for ages 7+.

Each 90-minute-long meeting centers around a different engineering principle, and students collaborate to build, test, and refine their work.

One week, they'll work with their fellow civil engineers to build and test different bridge designs; the next, they'll learn about friction, transmissions, and

gear ratio by creating and optimizing a motorized vehicle.

Other weeks, they'll explore aerospace, structural, mechanical, or nautical engineering. There's even a section on biomimicry, where students build a walking insect machine and test different ways to help it climb a branch.

The club will meet Monday afternoons from 3:15-4:45pm, beginning January 14. [Registration](#) is \$119 for the 8-week

session and includes a take-home project with each meeting.



## OFFICE NOTES

### Bundle Up -- We're Going Out!

The outdoor environment is a pillar of Montessori philosophy, even in winter. We may eat lunch indoors when temperatures drop, but we make every effort to play outside.

Often, the kids tell us that they don't feel the cold. Please encourage them to bring proper outerwear anyway, even if it stays in a locker. The cold can sneak up on them, and we don't always have the right size to outfit them from Lost & Found.



### Summer Camp 2019

Registration is now open for [Heartwood Summer Camp!](#)

Camp runs weekly from June 3 until July 26 (except the week of July 4), from 8am - 5pm. It is open to current and rising Heartwood families, ages 3-6 years old, and is led by our own beloved teachers and staff.

Check our website for dates and more information, or to [register](#).



## Space Available in Spring Clubs

### Baking Club - New Format!

Love Baking Club but can't commit to that many Saturdays? A new stand-alone workshop format lets you sign up for the meetings that work for your schedule. Club still meets Saturdays from 12:00-3:00pm at Ms. Rebecca's house (511 Kildaire); the \$45/meeting fee covers all ingredients, plus recipes and baked goods to take home. [Register now](#) to reserve your spot!

### Mystery Science

Combining engaging presentations with hands-on learning, Mr. Jay's [Mystery Science](#) club gives students ages 7+ a great intro to STEM.

Mystery Science is broken into two groups: Upper Elementary & Middle School on Tuesdays (3:15-4:30pm) and Transition & Lower Elementary on Thursdays (3:15-4:15pm). Rising and current students are [welcome](#).

### Chess Club

Suitable for novices as well as experienced players, [Chess Club](#) teaches fundamentals and advanced strategies while preparing students for competition against other schools. Meets Wednesdays starting Jan 9 (3:15-4:30pm).

To sign up for Chess Club, visit [trianglechess.com/school-programs/](http://trianglechess.com/school-programs/) and click on "Join a Team."

### Brixology (Lego Engineering)

See page one for more details on this exciting addition for ages 7+. Session begins Monday, Jan 14 (3:15-4:45pm); each meeting includes a take-home.

[Register online](#) to join the fun!

### Girls on the Run

GOTR is on hiatus this semester and will return in the Fall. Stay warm and keep running!

## Private Piano Lesson Opening

Piano teacher [James Catton](#) has an opening on **Mondays at 3:50pm** for private lessons. Contact him at [jamescatton3@yahoo.com](mailto:jamescatton3@yahoo.com) for details and pricing.

## Many Hands Help in Cancer Fight

*By Bridget Dickerson, LE1 Lead*

In March of 2018, our colleague, teacher, friend and sister, Ranny Mast, was diagnosed with recurrent ovarian cancer. Ranny was first diagnosed in 2014, and underwent surgery and chemotherapy into 2015.

Her past experience has made her very knowledgeable about her care and her needs during treatment. One of the therapies that is proving to help Ranny greatly is mistletoe, a viable non-FDA approved treatment option that is not covered by insurance.

Although newer to the US, the liquid extract of mistletoe has long been used in Europe to improve quality of life and increase the survival rate of cancer

patients. Ranny has been receiving mistletoe injections three times a week, since March, when she was diagnosed, but the next phase of her treatment is estimated to cost \$17,000 out of pocket.

It's hard for us, at times, to know what we can do and how we can help Ranny and her family.

A [gofundme](#) campaign has been established to help the Mast family and support Ranny while she gets the treatment she needs without worry of further financial hardship for her family. If you feel moved to

contribute, thank you so much -- when we all pull together, many hands can indeed make light work.



# Why Choose Heartwood for Middle and High School?

By Missy McClure, MS/HS Lead

There's a flow in Montessori schools that begins in the Toddler House and continues through the all of the levels, in all of the classrooms -- Dr. Montessori's steadfast belief that "The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind." (*Education and Peace*).

In the Upper School, we continue that flow and maintain the focus on the child as a whole. While our grade groupings (6-8 and 9-12) do not follow the typical Montessori 3-year cycle, they work well for our community and allow us to best meet each child's needs -- academic and beyond. These groupings also tend to follow more traditional programs, making it easier for students to enter our program without previous Montessori experience.

## Peace in the Midst of Tumult

When students enter the Upper School, they are at a rather tumultuous time in their development. Dr. Montessori advised that: "The adolescent must never be treated as a child, for that is a stage of life they have surpassed. It is better to treat an adolescent as if he had greater value than he actually shows than as if he had less and let him feel that his merits and self-respect are disregarded." (*From Childhood to Adolescence*).

Their bodies are changing at a rapid rate, but so are their emotions, cognitive abilities, social identity, and world view. Dr. Montessori called this period "the second toddlerhood," because it is the only other time in a human's life where so many changes take place simultaneously, and our programs take it into account.

We are very intentional about creating community between the Middle and High School groups -- it's one of the ways that we "do" peace education. A hallmark of Montessori education is that older students serve as mentors to younger ones; while they're on two different developmental sub-planes, they have a lot of knowledge and support to offer each other; by fostering a strong connection between the two groups, and supporting them as they interact and engage with each other, we create a model for living and operating in peaceful communities.

## A Collaborative Curriculum

The Heartwood Upper School bases its curriculum on North Carolina's State Standards, which currently adheres to Common Core. However, as a private school, we are not required to administer the standards in the same way as public schools; instead, we can look to our students, covering the material in a way that's engaging and accessible to them.

Montessori's culture of layered lessons and "student as teacher" leadership is integral. For example, in each Science unit, the students learn concepts first through teacher-created material (facilitating further in-depth study and reflection, based on the standards). They then choose some aspect of that unit to explore in more depth and prepare a lesson to teach their classmates.

As part of that layered assignment, we include guidance on how to present an effective lesson to a group, as well as class discussions on how it feels to present, how it feels to be prepared, how it feels when you are not prepared, and how to process all of those feelings.

## Teaching the Whole Child

Helping students establish effective executive functioning skills, such as time management, multi-tasking and prioritization, is rolled into many Upper School lessons. However, teaching these skills without any follow-through from the teachers will not benefit the students. Each day, the teachers check in about progress in managing assignments, as well as how the students feel about the way they are approaching their work.

We also make time to have group discussions about current events and issues the students are facing. When they bring something to the discussion, we take it seriously, inviting respectful, reflective questions and answers that allow us to model processes for handling big emotions or problem solving, and to normalize those thoughts and feelings.

We do not assign homework (unless a student is not working during their work time), for we believe that students

need time and opportunity to pursue their passions as well as to be an active participant in family life.

## Personalized Opportunities

We base our High School offerings and credits on the UNC system admission requirements, but though we provide all of the courses required by the UNC system, we don't offer them all each year.

This allows the Montessori mixed-age classroom experience to continue with multiple grade levels within each course. There may be Freshman and Sophomores taking English Survey (English I), or Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors taking British Lit (English IV). These class groupings are based on graduation needs and interests, knowing that all students will take all of the classes eventually.

Math is done individually or in small groups, so each student gets the math lesson and support that they need in order to make meaningful progress.

In High School, we don't focus on grades, although we do give them. We prefer to emphasize content mastery, and intend that graduates will have a thorough understanding of the processes of learning as well as the content.

## Preparing for a Bright Future

Heartwood graduates work closely with teachers to foster their development and to further explore their interests. Rather than aiming for a certain G.P.A. or class standing, they work toward self-actualization and realizing their potential. We want them to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze effectively, rather than memorize facts for a test.

At the end of this journey, the student should be prepared for whatever feels right to them as they progress on their personal road map. Our focus on real-world skills encourages students to grow academically, emotionally, and socially, building skills that will open doors to the future of their choice.



*Missy McClure, M.Ed., has been a Montessori teacher for 21 years. She holds undergraduate degrees in English Literature and Early Childhood Education, and earned her Master's Degree in Education from Xavier University. Missy holds Montessori certifications at the 3-6, 6-9, and 9-12 age levels; she is a faculty member at the Center for Montessori Teacher Education/North Carolina and sits on the board for the Montessori Association of North Carolina.*

## LEARN MORE

### [2018-2019 School Calendar](#)

Also available as a PDF on our website

### [Our Montessori Philosophy](#)

Or why we do what we do!

## FIND US ONLINE

### [HeartwoodMontessori.com](http://HeartwoodMontessori.com)

Our official school website

### [Heartwood on Facebook](#)

Our official page on Facebook

### [HW Families on Facebook](#)

The unofficial community group for Heartwood families



## QUESTIONS?

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## CREDITS

### [Christina Rose Studios](#)

Selected photography, Missy's portrait

# What's Next? HW Ages & Stages

We're not exaggerating when we say Heartwood serves 18 months to 18 years. Our student body ranges all the way from toddlers to high school seniors.

So what do all those ages and stages look like? Read on for a brief overview of each level, and [sign up](#) to attend a curriculum night, where you'll find more information as well as hands-on demonstrations of materials.

## Toddler House: 18m-3 years

Here, we work on skills that will prepare the child to understand academic concepts. Toddler children are provided with a fluid learning environment and hands-on activities that meet their developmental needs in the areas of cognition, gross and fine motor skills, language, independence, and social skills.

## Children's House: 3-6 years

The Montessori 3-year cycle gives preschoolers an opportunity to progress through an expanding curriculum of work and social interaction while still experiencing the same classroom environment.

The multi-age classroom empowers students with leadership and learning opportunities as they interact with their older and younger peers.

## Kindergarten: 5-6 years

The Children's House experience culminates with Extended Day (ED), the Montessori equivalent of Kindergarten. Children spend the morning in their CH classroom, then move to the ED room after lunch. The afternoon curriculum features special activities appropriate for this stage of development, emphasizing team cooperation and leadership skills.

Continuing the child in the Montessori program for his/her Kindergarten year allows him/her to realize concepts and skills that were previously experienced and practiced, but not yet mastered.

## Transition: 6-8 years

The Transition class provides expanded curriculum opportunities in a setting that supports emotional and social development. It can be a great choice for children with "late" birthdays or those who want another year of Montessori challenge before entering public school.

## Lower Elementary: grade 1-3

Montessori in the elementary years is characterized by an emphasis on academic curiosity, independent work, and research. A traditional range of subjects is presented through small and large-group lessons, combined with a strong peace curriculum.

## Upper Elementary: grade 4-6

The research curriculum intensifies as students' skills develop. Social engagement becomes a focus as well; students participate in "Reading Buddy" partnerships with the ED and Transition classes and compassion projects for the larger community.

## Middle School: grade 6-8

Academic instruction melds with a "whole child" approach in the Middle grades, helping students navigate adolescence while preparing for success in high school, college, and the workplace. Community service continues to be emphasized, as does peaceful conflict management and intellectual curiosity.

## High School: grade 9-12

Small class sizes mean that HW high schoolers receive highly individualized lesson plans, customized to their interests and skill levels. A rigorous academic environment teaches accountability while equipping students with the credits needed for entry into a college system such as UNC. Students have the chance to explore a variety of electives as well as opportunities for independent learning as they approach adulthood.