

Park Road Montessori Community,

I am honored to have been selected as the new principal of Park Road Montessori. This is such an amazing school and I am thrilled to join this phenomenal team of staff, parents, and students. I am a true believer in the Montessori philosophy and I am committed to maintaining the high standards that Park Road has been and continues to be recognized for not only in CMS but in Montessori Community.

I grew up in Charlotte and attended CMS schools, graduating from Olympic High School. I also attended first grade right here at Park Road Elementary when it was a neighborhood school. I have been married to my husband, Mark, for 11 years and we have a 10-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son who have both attended Park Road Montessori since pre-k. In my free time I enjoy hiking, camping, and running. In fact, I recently completed my first marathon. You might often see me in the community with my family as we are involved in a variety of activities with other PRM families such as soccer and Girl Scouts. We also enjoy riding our bikes to Park Road Shopping Center for Gelato. When we are able to get away we love spending time in the mountains.

I received my bachelor's degree in elementary education as well as a master's degree in special education from Western Carolina University. While I was at WCU I fell in love with the scenic mountain views and chose to begin my career as a special education teacher in Madison County near Asheville, NC, for 5 years. Once I completed my National Board Certification, I returned to Charlotte to be closer to my family. I earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Winthrop University while teaching special education at Carmel Middle School. I was appointed assistant principal at Carmel Middle where I served the community for 9 years. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as the assistant principal at Chantilly Montessori. It was this opportunity that confirmed my aspiration to become a Montessori principal. I began working on my Montessori School Leader's certificate the summer before I made the move Chantilly and completed it during my tenure within the school. This past August, I transitioned to Highland Mill Montessori where I continued to develop my leadership skills, make new connections, and grow in order to accomplish my goal of becoming a Montessori principal.

I am so happy to have found my home here at Park Road Montessori. I look forward to working with the wonderful staff and students and getting to know everyone in the community.

Sincerely,

Melanie Francis
Principal
Park Road Montessori

"We must therefore turn to the child as to the key to the fate of our future life."-Maria Montessori