



HEAD OF SCHOOL Fernandina Beach, Florida

Amelia Island Montessori School (AIMS) is an independent, non-profit accredited school, in Fernandina Beach, Florida. Founded in 1973, AIMS sits on a beautiful, wooded campus within walking distance to the Atlantic Ocean. AIMS is a place where children love learning - and learn the skills that will prepare them for life.



MISSION

Amelia Island Montessori School (AIMS) embodies a child-centered education grounded in Montessori philosophy and methodology, supporting the “whole child,” inspiring independent thinkers and cultivating collaborative citizens.

HISTORY

In the early-1970's, a group of parents recruited a young British teacher named Jane Grieveson to provide their children with a Montessori education on Amelia Island. She arrived in the US with a steamer trunk full of Montessori materials and a desire to bring this special way of learning to this corner of the planet.

Since 1973, AIMS has educated thousands of children and remained true to the vision of providing an environment where the development of the whole child matters, and where students cultivate independent thinking and a true love of learning.

In recent years, AIMS has experienced growth after COVID and has the potential to grow further. At approximately 120 students, AIMS serves students from the ages of eighteen months in our Toddler program, to twelve years in our Upper Elementary program and a plan to expand to middle school in 2027.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Montessori Method embraces education as a tool for life. Based on scientific observations of the developmental needs of children from birth, it has been tested and implemented for over 100 years in diverse cultures throughout the world. The Montessori Method is a “whole child” approach based on a profound respect for children, a belief that learning is innate and natural and an understanding that children are curious and creative. Dr. Maria Montessori viewed children as more than scholars, seeing each child as a complete human being with dreams, fears, and desires.

Classrooms are arranged in multi-age groupings to encompass the many stages of a child's development versus their chronological age. Older children share what they have learned while reinforcing their own learning. Teachers, students, and parents are able to develop supportive, collaborative and trusting relationships.

In order for self-directed learning to take place, the whole classroom, materials, and social climate must be supportive of the learner. The environment is beautiful, natural and provides the necessary resources, including opportunities for children to function in a safe and positive climate. Montessori designed many concrete multi-sensory materials and activities which facilitate the learning of abstract ideas. Our curriculum fosters grace and courtesy, independence, peace, honesty, and integrity.



THE SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

AFFILIATIONS

- Accreditation: American Montessori Society; Florida Council of Independent Schools; Cognia

ENROLLMENT

- 120 students
- Tuition \$10,275 - \$13,330

MONTESSORI PROGRAMS

- Toddler (18 MO- 3 YRS)
- Primary (3 - 6 YEARS)
- Lower Elementary (6 - 9 YEARS)
- Upper Elementary (9 - 12 YEARS)

FACULTY AND STAFF

- Seven (7) FT Lead Teachers
- Nine (9) Assistants
- Three (3) FT Administrative Staff
- One (1) PT Administrative Staff
- Two (2) PT Enrichment Staff

PHYSICAL PLANT

- The idyllic 1-acre campus is located on Amelia Island's south end, shaded by live oak trees and within walking distance from the beach.
- Montessori prepared classrooms to accommodate children from 18 months through 6th grade.

FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Operating Budget: \$1.67 M
- Indebtedness: None
- Total Funds Raised:
 - Annual Fund \$50K

COMMUNITY

- The parent community is an engaged one, with a recently-energized association, AIMS Connect. The School is involved in many community activities such as, annual beach clean-ups, a popular Island-wide chili cook-off, sing-alongs at a local retirement community, and newly launched golf scramble.

ON THE WEB

<https://ameliaislandmontessori.com/home>



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OPPORTUNITY

The Head of School will have overall responsibility for the academic quality and institutional strength of AIMS as the community continues its tradition of providing a welcoming, open, and supportive atmosphere in which students are supported, challenged, and inspired. Through the School's mission, fostering and articulating Montessori pedagogy and its application, the incoming Head will guide an instructional plan that addresses the various needs of the Montessori program. The opportunity includes educating and supporting families to enhance their understanding of Montessori and to help extend Montessori education into the family home.

Providing meaningful professional development and mentorship to teachers, assistants, substitutes and staff members is a key accountability. Regularly observing classrooms and providing feedback to all teaching staff is an essential component to inspiring the School community on a day-to-day basis. Recruiting, developing, and retaining an outstanding faculty and staff who are committed to professional development and lifelong learning is expected.

Working closely with all key constituents on the strategic direction of the School, raising funds for its support, and executing on the strategic plan will be one of the core opportunities for the new Head of School. Promoting diversity among students, faculty, and staff, will include establishing and fulfilling a strategic vision to build and sustain an inclusive school community for all. Demonstrating at all times that he or she is a visible and caring leader, committed to the mission of the School and the well-being of its constituents, is at the heart of this leadership opportunity.



WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The headship of Amelia Island Montessori School (AIMS) represents an extraordinary career opportunity for an entrepreneurial Montessori leader who demonstrates creativity, warmth, approachability, kindness, and optimism. AIMS is committed to finding the right leader and encourages applications from a diverse pool of candidates. The compensation package will be competitive.

Ideally, AIMS next leader will be:

- Accessible, approachable, and welcoming.
- A leader who is actively involved in the total life of the community and acts as a caring, mindful guardian for the student community.
- A role model who is connected and visible, one who thrives in the active life of the school community.
- A leader with a working knowledge of and experience in diversity, multiculturalism, equity, and justice in an independent school, committed to an inclusive School community.
- Balanced and possess discipline, vision, and practicality, as well as a sense of urgency to achieve the strategic initiatives for the School community.
- A leader whose clarity of thought and passion inspire involvement with the School.
- Ambitious and able to build a peaceful School culture rooted in Montessori principles, practice, and philosophy.



THE CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will possess a minimum of five (5) combined years as a senior administrator and teacher in an independent school, with a background that demonstrates a capacity to lead organizations through transformation and continuous improvement. A Bachelor's degree and Montessori credential is required, with a master's degree preferred. A successful track record attracting, empowering, and retaining highly-qualified, knowledgeable, and diverse educators who inspire a love of learning, self-confidence, and self-esteem is highly desirable.

Additional qualities include

- Strong interpersonal and public speaking skills, including the ability to communicate concepts and ideas effectively to a wide range of constituents.
- Knowledgeable of current educational theory and practice in the context of early childhood and adolescent development
- Business and management acumen necessary to develop strategic plans, install and improve administrative infrastructures, prepare school budgets and work closely with a volunteer Board of Trustees.
- A person of unquestioned honesty and integrity with a pro-social orientation.
- A "master educator" who loves children and is dedicated to fulfilling the School's mission to guide them in their intellectual and emotional growth.
- One who is straightforward, objective, decisive and consistent in the context of fair and compassionate application of policy and discipline.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS



Candidates should submit no later than Friday, February 20, 2026, with an application package including the following:

- A cover letter indicating why they are particularly interested in and qualified for the position.
- A current resumé.
- A statement of educational philosophy.
- The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references. (We will obtain permission from candidates before contacting references.)

Please send material to ..

Amelia Island Board of Trustees
boardoftrustees@ameliaislandmontessori.com





FERNANDINA BEACH & AMELIA ISLAND



Amelia Island is the southernmost of the Sea Islands, a chain of barrier islands stretching along the east coast of the United States from South Carolina to Florida. It is thirteen miles long and approximately four miles at its widest point. Amelia Island was voted third best island in the United States by Conde Nast Traveler. Fernandina Beach is the northernmost city on Florida's Atlantic coast, and is one of the principal municipalities comprising Greater Jacksonville.



The area was first inhabited by the Timucuan Indian tribe. Known as the "Isle of 8 Flags", Fernandina has had the flags of the following nations flown over it since 1562: France, Spain, Great Britain, Spain (again), the Patriots of Amelia Island, the Green Cross of Florida, Mexico, the Confederate States of America, and the United States.

Word continues to spread about the attraction and peacefulness of living on Amelia Island and specifically in the historic community of Fernandina Beach. Enjoy upscale amenities with a laid-back vibe. The area is perfect for everyone from families with children, to golf enthusiasts, nature lovers, entrepreneurs, couples looking to settle down, and retirees. The average winter temperatures in the area hover around a perfect 65 degrees, making this barrier island perfect for outdoor activities like golfing, fishing, kayaking, hiking, sightseeing, shopping, or taking a relaxing stroll along its 13 miles of beaches. Not many other cities can match its charm and incredible wildlife and scenery.
