



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 3, 2019

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## **Belle Meade Montessori School Expands to Lower Grades**

(Sperryville, Va.)—Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, Belle Meade Montessori School will expand services to primary and elementary students. This expansion provides families an alternative option to public and charter schools in Rappahannock County and the surrounding areas and adds to the robust educational options already available to middle and high school students.

“We look forward to having new students and families grow with us through this expansion to primary- and elementary-level education,” says school owner Susan Hoffman. “Our students not only benefit from highly experienced teachers but also spend time with animals, gardens and nature. We are dedicated to providing children with hands-on learning experiences where students can work, play, grow and form lasting relationships.”

The primary level offers services for children ages 3-6. Young children spend the day developing their imaginations and spatial awareness. Physical activities are preferably held outdoors, and students engage in self-guided work. The classroom is a colorful, tactile experience where young minds engage in art, building and linguistic development. Students cultivate independence, coordination, responsibility and positive work habits.

The elementary level offers services for children ages 6-11. Older children spend the day developing their social skills and academic interests. Physical activities are preferably held outdoors, including swimming, hiking, field sports, gardening and animal husbandry. Short group instructions introduce students to academic concepts while still offering time to pursue personal interests with one-on-one guidance from teachers.

“Belle Meade has completely changed our son’s educational experience for the better,” says parent Kathryn Hughes. “Every day my son comes home from school excited to share what he learned and the projects he’s working on. He has gained so much confidence in his abilities.”

Belle Meade first opened its doors in 2007 to upper grades and received full accreditation in 2014. School owner Susan Hoffman has an A.B from Smith College, and Ed. M. Harvard, and an Ed. D. Johns Hopkins University. Head of school John Glass has a B.S. degree from Brigham Young University in Education and completed AMI/NAMTA Adolescent Orientation at Hershey, Ohio, in 2018.

Located in the foothills of the Shenandoah Mountains, Belle Meade provides an exceptional Montessori educational experience that includes individual responsibility as well as social and environmental consciousness through experiential learning. For more information, contact head of school John Glass at (540) 987-8970 or visit [www.bellemeadeschool.org](http://www.bellemeadeschool.org).

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