



Strategic Plan 2013-2018

October 10, 2013

MISSION

To provide a rigorous Montessori education, guiding children toward academic excellence, lifelong learning, and stewardship of the greater community.

VISION

ECMCS will educate the human potential by being a model public Montessori program and by creating empathetic, innovative, accountable thinkers who foster and advocate for community and diversity.

VALUES

Foster community by engaging students in classroom management, holding events at the school open to the community and requiring school wide participation in year-long community projects.

Create diversity by instructing a global perspective, actively educating diverse communities about Montessori and modeling embracing different viewpoints.

Honor the Montessori Philosophy by adapting methods and pace, encouraging peer and self-correction and following the needs of the child.

Practice accountability by expecting best efforts from the staff and students, diagnosing areas in need of improvement and adjusting and giving the students the tools to be successful in regards to state requirements.

Educate human potential by addressing the needs of the individual student, respecting the different learning styles and needs and demonstrating the interconnectedness of life.

Cultivate innovation by promoting creativity in teaching and learning, adapting new technologies and seeking/implementing successful best practices.

ECMCS STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2018

EDUCATION COMMITTEE				
A. Academic Success East Cooper Montessori Charter School (ECMCS) will be committed to providing a genuine Montessori education consistent with the pedagogical and instructional philosophy of Maria Montessori in a public school setting.				
Goal A1: Successful public Montessori programs use Montessori pedagogy and align current research practices with current assessment practices.				
Action Steps	Priority	Time Frame	Responsibility	System of Measure
Adjust Common Core State Standards and align with Montessori and MAP standards of achievement with all subgroups including GT and struggling students across all grade levels	High	Fall 2014-2016	GT and SPED Teachers and Curriculum Coordinators	Completed streamlined curriculum pacing guides
Continue to align Common Core Assessments with ECMCS curriculum expectations and classroom assessments	High	Fall 2014-2016	Principal and Assistant Principal	Pilot testing outcomes
Continue to assess integration of gifted instruction into classrooms and identify areas for curriculum assistance or training, assessment and materials.	Medium	Annual	GT Committee	Fulfillment of committee recommendations and achievement as reported on Annual Report
Infuse Common Core State Standard vocabulary into the mathematics curriculum	High	2013-2014	Upper & Lower Elementary Teams	Completed vocabulary materials/ 10% increase in MAP Math scores
Conduct a needs assessment of informational texts and literacy needs across the grade levels and purchase additional needed materials	Medium	2014-2015	Curriculum Coordinator	Purchased materials
Implement DBQ (Document Based Questions) throughout the upper elementary and middle school social studies curriculum	High	Fall 2014	Teachers	Completed DBQ units/10% increase in social studies PASS scores
Ensure home learning assignments to be	Low	2015	Teachers	Homework

directly related to and integrated with class lesson topics				
Goal A2: Emphasize cultural studies, related arts, and inter-level activities as important aspects of the Montessori curriculum.				
Action Steps	Priority	Time Frame	Responsibility	System of Measure
Integrate related arts curricula with Montessori classroom curriculum	Medium	Fall 2014	Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator	Lesson planning
Explore new ways to integrate specials instruction and maintain specials teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> integrate curriculum link teachers provide time to interact create full time positions 	Medium	2014-2015	Assistant Principal/Special Area Teachers	New plan, Established, written curriculum showing connection to classroom and special areas
Provide a full and robust theater program for grades 1-8 with performance space to accommodate the full school with financial support and a stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 	Low Medium High High High	Spring 2014- Spring 2018	Principal Assistant Principal	Allocation of resources Production of annual programs
Develop opportunities for 8 th graders and 3 rd graders to connect their studies of South Carolina history	Medium	Fall 2015	Lead Teachers in Lower Elementary & Middle School Social Studies Teacher	10% increase in students scoring exemplary on PASS
Weave mathematics instruction throughout the entire curriculum including special areas in upper elementary and lower elementary	High	2014-2016	Lead Teachers	10% increase in number of students scoring exemplary on PASS
Restructure the science curriculum in upper elementary and lower elementary meet individual needs as well as make them inquiry based and not group and lecture based	Medium	2014-2015	Upper & Lower Elementary Teams	Lessons on shelf
Re-write the social studies curriculum	High	2015	Assistant Principal	New materials designed

creating the hands-on pieces missing from the Montessori curricula				and created at each level; test scores
Provide daily foreign language for students interested in becoming fluent in a second language	High	August 2015	Foreign Language Instructor	Fluency level of students
<p>Goal A3: Appropriately address the varied learning styles and learning potentials of ECMCS students. Montessori environments are prepared to meet the needs of three grade levels within a single classroom. Through targeted professional development and application of interventions and enrichments, ECMCS will continue to implement best practices that support learning differences.</p>				
Action Steps	Priority	Time Frame	Responsibility	System of Measure
Purchase support programs for RTI (response to intervention) in the area of mathematics and literacy across grade levels	High	Fall 2014-2015	Special Education leaders	Purchased RTI program and longitudinal student achievement within the subgroup of intervention students
Complete the making of non-reader kindergarten material for students not able to attain 1st grade level upon entering ECMCS	High	Spring 2014	Principal/Admin	Material available for non-readers
<p>Goal A3: Improve communication tools both within the school community and the community at large.</p>				
Action Steps	Priority	Time Frame	Responsibility	System of Measure
Implement a student driven video news program for parents to access school news with a selected platform for launch	Medium	Fall 2014	Rosie Herold	Archived Video
Complete training on Sharp School website and Google tools to fully access technology resources	High	Fall 2014	District trainer	% of teachers using systems and available reportsPro
Research and assess value of 1:1 Chrome Books for Middle School students to give students access to consistent technology both in and out of the classroom	Medium	Fall 2015	Media Specialist & Principal	% of students with access to technology 100% of their academic periods
<p>Goal A4: Support students transitioning to high school and track performance of graduates. As the number of ECMCS graduates moving on to high school increases, students and parents will need resources to ensure that the transition from Montessori to traditional is a smooth one. In addition, the ability to track our graduates and monitoring their academic performance after they leave ECMCS will help us gauge</p>				

the strength of our curriculum and make any necessary changes.

Action Steps	Priority	Time Frame	Responsibility	System of Measure
Contract with outside guidance counselor for IGPs, behavior intervention and other services	High	Annual	Assistant Principal	Hired Position/Completed IGP's for rising high school students
Create a form of measurement to capture qualitative and quantitative info regarding success of students transitioning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Surveys to parents b. Surveys to graduates c. Obtain information from high schools d. Develop a tool/panel interviews to get and use data about transitioning at all levels. 	Medium	2014-2015	Board Committee	Report to board/ annual consideration of curriculum or programming changes
Review findings of Riley Institute's Center for Education Policy study of Montessori education. (Self Foundation funded study)	Low	Annual 2014-2018	Board	Report to board
Ability to earn Carnegie Units in Algebra I, Spanish I, Technology	High	Annual	Principal/Board	% of students receiving credits
Continue to engage alumni in school functions beyond graduation to facilitate conversation and interaction beyond graduation	Medium	Annual	Alumni Committee/ Board	Annual alumni events

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

B. Faithfulness to Our Montessori Charter - ECMCS will continually strive to meet and/or exceed the stipulation in the Charter agreement by developing relationships both in and out of school.

Goal B1: ECMCS will provide seamless lines of communication and education with the school community and foster relationships with communities at large. ECMCS will continue to work succinctly with the Parent Teacher Network, the l'On community, and the school district to provide support and education.

Action Steps	Priority	Time Frame	Responsibility	System of Measure
Provide opportunity for a full mentoring program across all grade levels	Medium	Spring 2018	Staff	Learning opportunities created, feedback from student surveys
Create and maintain a school blog/news programming	High	2015	Administration	School report cards/ parent surveys
Create a Montessori 101 FAQ's for the website	Low	2015	Media Specialist/ Governing Board	Website Completion
Create a video series of school tour, new parent coffee, PTN meetings, and other repeated events to post on website re: to help facilitate in the understanding of the school for new parents and community	Low	2016	Governing Board Budgets	Completed media packages
Develop a plan or incentives for teachers to present Montessori best practices at conferences, local colleges and other available venues	Low	2014	Curriculum Coordinators at each level	Documentation of presentation per certification renewal period
Develop comprehensive teacher-led parent education series	Medium	Annual	PTN Liaison Principal Lead Teachers	Parent attendance
Provide opportunities for the principal to network in the community at least once a quarter re: school marketing and awareness	Low	Annual	Principal	Feedback to board about venues and responses.

Goal B2: Support the whole child. In addition to a strong academic program, Montessori Peace Education practices will include experiences to develop personal, social and global awareness and responsibility.

Action Steps	Priority	Time Frame	Responsibility	System of Measure
Involve students in submitting written observations of school events and milestones for area news sources.	Medium	Annual 2015	Staff Board	Articles written and submitted to Community Relations
ECMCS sponsored Peace Projects and Adolescent "Going Out" experiences will include student input	Medium	Annual	School Curriculum Coordinators	60% of projects serving non-profit organizations focused on service as opposed to monetary fundraiser

