



# HILL COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

December 12, 2025

Dear Hill Country Montessori School Faculty, Staff, and Families,

It is with joy and tremendous enthusiasm that I write to you for the first time as your next Head of School. I am deeply honored and excited to be joining the vibrant and dedicated community of Hill Country Montessori School beginning in July 2026.

When I visited HCMS in mid-November, I was impressed with the school's commitment to providing an authentic, child-centered educational experience. While I have not previously worked in a Montessori school, I do believe in the transformative power of the Montessori Method. The work at HCMS aligns so beautifully with my educational philosophy and experience, as I believe deeply in creating a learning environment where students are joyfully and actively engaged in their learning. I also know and strongly believe that our children grow and thrive when parents and educators work together, collaboratively and in partnership, to ensure our students' success. It was evident that these qualities are lived out each day at HCMS.

One of the many things that draws me to HCMS is the opportunity to partner with all of you, the exceptional faculty and the engaged families, together with the Board of Trustees, to build upon the strong foundation already in place. Looking ahead, I am eager to focus on two key priorities. First, I look forward to working together to strengthen Hill Country Montessori School's position as a premier educational institution in the greater Boerne area. We will ensure the school continues to grow thoughtfully and remains a beacon of excellence for local families. Second, I am passionate about sharing and promoting the wonderful qualities of Montessori education with the wider community. The philosophy's emphasis on fostering independence, critical thinking, a lifelong love of learning, and a profound respect for the individual child is more relevant now than ever. I am committed to making sure the excellence of what happens in the classrooms at HCMS is widely known.

As a resident of Fair Oaks Ranch, having moved here with my husband, Eric, in 2023, I am truly looking forward to becoming part of the HCMS community and contributing in meaningful ways. Eric and I were drawn to the Boerne area to be closer to my parents and family, and we are grateful to now call this place home. While my experience as an educational leader spans coast to coast from serving at a small independent school in California to my current role as Interim Head of School at St. Anne's Episcopal School in Middletown, Delaware, I am excited to continue my journey of servant leadership and stewardship at Hill Country Montessori School. I am also grateful for the opportunity to partner with your current Interim Head of School, Marie Kidd. Marie and I first crossed paths years ago while working in independent schools in Southern California, and it has been a pleasure to reconnect. HCMS is in very capable hands with Marie's thoughtful leadership, and I look forward to working closely with her over the coming months to ensure a smooth and intentional transition.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community, and I look forward to meeting each of you in the coming months to hear your stories and dreams for HCMS. Together, we will continue to grow and celebrate this extraordinary community.

With warmth and anticipation,

Tonya A. Beilstein