

Mary Beth Ricks

Head of School

SKILLS

Strong leadership skills, presentation skills, and staff development skills

Expertise in: Montessori methodology, school operations, facilities, and fundraising

EXPERIENCE

Bowman School, Palo Alto CA - *Head of School*

July 2008 - PRESENT

- Led Bowman through the transition from “start-up school” to “fully evolved” school
- Led Bowman through Capital Campaign to reach 10MM by 2021
- Led Bowman through the purchase of additional land, development of the second property to include a gym, theater, 3-6 program, and STEAM labs
- Led Bowman through additional accreditations with WASC and IMC

Bowman School, Palo Alto CA - *Director of Education*

August 2006- July 2008

- Led the Level Lead team to create school-wide documentation of curriculum
- Led Bowman through initial accreditation with WASC (2007) and IMC (2008)

Bowman School, Palo Alto CA - *Lower Elementary Teacher and Level Lead*

August 1995 - August 2006

- Served as Bowman’s first teacher
- Developed the Lower Elementary curriculum, methods of tracking, and school events that are still in place today

Happy Hollow School, West Lafayette IN - *Classroom Teacher*

August 1991 - June 1995

- Model classroom for Inclusion Study
- Model classroom for Language Development Study with Purdue University

Sacred Heart School, Fowler IN - *Classroom Teacher*

August 1988 - June 1991

- Served 4th grade and 2nd-grade teacher in a rural school setting

Kingsley Montessori School, Boston MA - *Head of Summer Program for 3-6*

June 1990- August 1990

- Served as headteacher for the summer program in the 3-6 level
- Supervised and coordinated assistant teachers

- Planned summer program for ages 3-6 including going out opportunities and thematic summer units

Whitby School, Greenwich CT - *Assistant Teacher*

August 1984- December 1987

- Served as an assistant teacher to various levels during holidays and summers

EDUCATION

Purdue University - BA Elementary Education / Early Childhood

August 1984- May 1988

Graduated with honors

CMTE Administrators Training- Administrators Credential

June 2005-July 2006

ORGANIZATIONS

Bay Area Montessori Association (BAMA) - *President*

2010 - PRESENT

Served as President leading organization through period of growth from 35 members to 700+ and financially from \$1000 to \$11,000 annual revenue

International Montessori Council (IMC) Accreditation Commission- *Co-Chair*

2010 - PRESENT

Served as a member and co-chair of the accreditation organization for the IMC overseeing the school accreditation process for the organization.

American Montessori Society ELF (Emerging Leaders Fellowship)- *Mentor*

2017 - PRESENT

Served as a professional mentor for an emerging leader, providing support and guidance through the year-long program

The Institute of Montessori Education (TIME) - *California Advisory Council Member*

2019 - PRESENT

Organized and coordinated the sponsorship of Nienhuis

Teachers Encouraging the Love of Literature (TELL) - *Board Member*

1991-1995

Served as a Board Member of TELL hosting authors and illustrators in rural Indiana schools

AWARDS

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN (TWIN Award)

2012

YWCA's Tribute to Women Awards honors women who have excelled in their fields.

PUBLICATIONS

Strong BOT & HOS Partnerships = Successful Montessori Schools

Montessori Leadership Vol 20, Issue 3, 2018

The Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Head of School (HOS) have multiple roles and responsibilities within each Montessori school. However, one element that is often underestimated is the power of their well-defined relationship can bring to the ultimate success of their school.

The Bowmen Expansion Project

Montessori Leadership 21, Issue 2, 2019

An Interview with Mary Beth Ricks, Head of School, Bowman in Palo Alto, California

SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

AMS Washington DC 2019: *Building Community Through a Capital Campaign*

AMS Denver 2018: *Second Generation Montessori Leadership*

AMS San Diego 2017: *Panelist: Heads of School Round Table*

AMS Chicago 2016: *Panelist: Heads of School Round Table*

AMS Philadelphia 2015: *Montessori and Khan Academy: Can the Marriage Work?*

AMS Dallas 2014: *Managing and Inspiring a Multi-generational Staff*

IMC 2019: *Admissions and Marketing*

IMC 2019: *Brown Bag Philosophy*

IMC 2018: *ABC's of Board Development and IMC School Accreditation*

IMC 2017: *Writing the Annual Report and Other Not-So-Glamorous Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and the Head of School*

IMC 2016: *Within the School Lies the Future of Montessori*

Bay Area Montessori Association 2013: *Practical Life work for Elementary and Adolescence*

Bay Area Montessori Association 2011: *Using Research, A Head of School's Perspective*

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Board of Trustee Retreat for Tru School, Palo Alto: *Smooth Sailing: Charting the course for school success by understanding the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and Head of School*