



### **Mission**

The purpose of Scatter Creek Montessori farm school is to foster a lifelong connection to nature and a passion for learning in students aged 2.5 - 6 years by nurturing the whole child's development within a close-knit community of peers, guided by the teacher, nature, the animals wild and domestic, and the environment, providing the space for young children to develop into engaged learners and empathetic members of society with a high regard for our planet and all of its inhabitants. SCM works to meaningfully cultivate family relationships and to connect families with local nature.

### **Values Statement**

At Scatter Creek Montessori we seek to create a diverse community of learners and families. Within that diverse community, respect and empathy are of the highest values of our institution. We embrace and celebrate one another's identities, including race, creed, gender, and family make-up. It is the families' responsibility as well as the educator's to model joyfully embracing differences and to demonstrate ongoing respect for one another at farm school events, day to day interactions, and anywhere we may gather together.

### **Racial Equity Statement**

At SCM we are dedicated to advancing racial equity in early childhood education and to promoting an anti-bias, anti racist system. Celebrating and uplifting one another is a wonderful way for young children to begin learning about living in a diverse world, but without other intentional practices the biases inherent in our society are too often left to take root in the child anyway.

### **Anti-Bias Curriculum**

Alyssa engages in anti-bias work in an age-appropriate way, guiding young learners to become critical thinkers around subjects of race, ability, gender, socioeconomic status, biological sex, ethnicity, language and communication, and other identity markers. According to *Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves*, by Louise Derman-Sparks and Julie Olsen Edwards, the four main goals of anti-bias work with young children are:

**Identity** : Each child will demonstrate self-awareness, confidence, family pride, and positive social identities.

**Diversity** : Each child will express comfort and joy with human diversity; accurate language for human differences; and deep, caring human connections.

**Justice** : Each child will increasingly recognize unfairness, have language to describe unfairness, and understand that unfairness hurts.

**Action** : Each child will demonstrate empowerment and the skills to act, with others or alone, against prejudice and/or discriminatory actions.

These topics often arise naturally in children's play, children's questions, and conversations throughout the farm school day. Yet, these topics are too important to always wait for them to emerge organically from the children. Therefore Alyssa will also thoughtfully and intentionally introduce new ideas, activities, and discussion topics to share with the students that de-center dominant culture and promote broader narratives and perspectives.

How SCM curriculum and approach works to create a more equitable future for our children:

- Using a trauma-informed approach to each child
- Ongoing teacher professional development on anti-bias work
- Readings and storytelling from diverse cultures
- Exploring languages and communication possibilities beyond English
- Observing systems and patterns within our society
- Guided conversations
- Guiding learners in Courageous Conversations with Montessori Peace-Based education practices
- Caring for and connecting with the flora and fauna at the farm supports the development of empathy and understanding across differences
- Place-Based Education principles at farm school guide the way that we engage with our space and honor our land. Children become stewards of our farm school community, plants, animals, and people. We learn the real history of our land.