

The Albrook School

Message to Peaceful Schools International

The Albrook School's journey began over 42 years ago when our doors opened with a clear vision of a caring environment that inspires a love of learning while embracing peace education and building global awareness. True to the Montessori philosophy, the teachers continue to focus on educating the "whole child" socially, emotionally, physically, and academically. The dream of our beloved co-founder Ms. Albers became a reality in 2014 when our school was acknowledged as an International Peace Site through Peaceful School International. As an International Peace Site, the Albrook School is committed to creating and maintaining a culture of peace. We continue to instill a commitment to caring for our global community. We have continued our participation in many outreach programs and also created yearly goals to focus our school community's attention on particular facets of building and spreading peace.

For over 20 years, Albrook has supported Hearts for Honduras. The Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church started the project to support a school. The students collect school items such as backpacks, lunch boxes, pencils, erasers, books, and personal hygiene products. Additionally, our families donate food to support our local food bank in late fall. Beginning 29 years ago, during the holiday season, we partner with a local organization to provide gifts for children in need. Albrook families may take home a paper heart hung on the tree and donate a child's wish, a need, and an educational item. Furthermore, in January of each year, our school's Christmas tree turns into our kindness/peace tree to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of peace.



After becoming an International Peace Site, our journey expanded as we were inspired to set a school goal each new school year. This goal is woven into various aspects of our school year whenever appropriate. Teachers brainstorm ways to work towards the yearly goal in our classrooms before the school year starts. The APA, our parent association, incorporates the goal as their theme for our Spring Event fundraiser each year. Each class creates an original masterpiece with the help of our APA, which is auctioned off at our Spring Event. These masterpieces also incorporate our school goal for the year. One of the most beautiful items ever created for our spring event was a photo montage of every student at Albrook that year which was made into one picture shaped like a lotus flower, the flower of peace. The winner donated it back to the school and it is proudly displayed in the main office. The concept of being a responsible Global Citizen is considered to be so important that we used this as a goal for 3 years. In 2018-2019 our school goal was Global Citizenship. During the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, our goals were more specific: our goals were Every Drop Counts and then Every Action Matters. In 2021-2022, our goal was Better Together, and our community came together to great effect to help those in need. After the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, our school community demonstrated in action the principles of global citizenship and compassion we hope to instill in our students. We collected medical supplies and clothing for a Ukrainian Church in Newark that sent the items to people in need in Ukraine. Our school community displayed an overabundance of care and compassion: we collected more than the church could receive, so we donated to another charity helping the effort as well.



In the words of Dr. Maria Montessori, “Peace is what every human being is craving for, and it can be brought about by humanity through the child.” Every Montessori classroom has peace at the very heart of its curriculum. Albrook teachers share the Peace Poem with their students in a mini-meditation where students are encouraged to make silence and feel their love. The children sit crisscross, a peace candle is lit, and the poem is recited follow by a period of silence. In our beautiful child-centered classrooms, the multi-age range creates a strong class community. It provides an

opportunity for children to learn from each other and learn because of each other. This constant interaction offers the children an environment to take responsibility for themselves and others, develop independence, and build self-esteem while building a broader understanding and respect for the world around them. The Albrook School continues to strive to make a positive impact not only in our classrooms, but also in our local and global community. True to our mission statement, “we love to learn the world:” our students are encouraged and guided to become peaceful, respectful citizens of the world.

