

A Brief History of Arbor Montessori School





- **1970:** 10 newly certified Montessori teachers--including Betty Litsey and Arabelle Luckhardt--form *Montessori Child Development Centers* (MCDC). Four classes around Atlanta open to 45 primary students.
- **1974:** First Lower Elementary class (ages 6-9) opens at St. Bartholomew's Fellowship Hall. One year later, class moves to Emory Baptist Church. A total of 143 students are enrolled.



- **1977:** Cascade classes (three primary, day care, elementary) split away due to staff disagreement. Cascade represented 45% of school income. Teachers forgo three months salary to keep school afloat.
- **1977:** Parents join teachers on Board of Directors, formalizing the close, supportive role parents play at Arbor. First Upper Elementary class (ages 9-12) opens.



- **1978:** During summer, every classroom location loses lease and is required to move. Lower Elementary classes return to St. Bartholomew's. Upheaval dramatizes importance of acquiring permanent location and is impetus for first serious fundraising efforts.
- **1981:** LaVista Road property is located and purchased.



- **1982:** Parents chair committees. Parents have Board terms longer than one year.
- **1985:** First Capital Campaign Drive to fund building of Central Campus at 2998 LaVista Road.
- **1986:** Board of Trustees votes to formally adopt the name Arbor Montessori School.



- **1987:** Central Campus completed in time for school to begin for two Lower Elementary classes and one Upper Elementary class. Primary classes continue renting space around city.
- **1989:** First Capital Campaign concludes with total of \$315,680 raised. One Primary classroom completed at Central Campus. Third Lower Elementary class added. Toco Hills satellite campus closed. Three other rental locations remain.

- **1990:** First Annual Fund campaign.
First FAX machine!



- **1991:** Second Upper Elementary class added at Central Campus. Stone Mountain Primary class closed and moved into "temporary" trailer on LaVista Road property.



- **1994:** Twenty-four 6th year students graduate--largest class thus far. Additional property adjacent to Central Campus purchased and large playing field created. National Wildlife Federation names Arbor a Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat.
- **1995:** The CBS Morning Show includes Arbor in program on native gardening. Board approves launch of second Capital Campaign to fund Central Campus expansion. Annual auction raises \$31,000-- sets new fundraising record.

- **1998:** Capital Campaign concludes with \$435,268 in collected pledges, \$2.2 million bond



- secured, allowing expansion to include space for Middle School. Demolition and construction begins at Central Campus.
- **1998:** Construction completed just in time for school to begin. LaVista Road building now double in size. "Temporary" trailer removed. All-Day Montessori Primary program moves into 2400 square feet on garden level. Work completed on 4,000 square foot Middle School classroom in time for Halloween weekend move.



- **1999:** Arbor Middle School graduates 15 eighth graders from charter class.
- **2000:** Arbor Montessori School celebrates 30th anniversary. A total of 305 students are enrolled.
- **2001:** Founder's Fund established in honor of Arabelle Luckhardt (one of the original founders) who retires at the end of this school year.

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Growing and Thriving