



As San Tan Charter School embarks on its 14th year as a Montessori school in Gilbert we are excited and grateful for the community support to expand our Montessori program. Our Montessori program began in 2006 with one Primary-Kindergarten classroom and now for the 2020-2021 school year we have ten classrooms spanning from Toddler to Upper Elementary!

This year, our Montessori K-6 community will have its own building, lovingly named "Our Montessori Village," based on our founding mantra, "It takes a village to raise a child."

## **Welcome to our "Montessori Village" and our 2020-2021 Montessori Team**

### **Montessori Kindergarten Classroom**

Ms. Clarissa Pollack joins San Tan's Montessori Program this year as the Kinder Montessori Lead Teacher.

Ms. Pollack was born and raised in Montana and has lived all over the world. She attended Montessori schools growing up and after the birth of her daughter, Ms. Pollack was inspired to become a Montessori teacher (just like her mother and grandmother!). Before training in Montessori Early Childhood Education, she earned her B.A. from The University of Texas at Dallas in Art and Performance and then spent several years travelling, learning, and teaching throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, and the United Kingdom. Ms. Pollack is also an internationally accredited yoga instructor and yoga teacher trainer. Ms. Pollack loves going on adventures with her husband and their wonderful daughter, Eleanor, and she enjoys riding her horse, spending time in nature, and creating art and music. She is excited to share all of her knowledge with her students!

### ***Ms. Melinda Hatch – Kindergarten Assistant***

Ms. Melinda Hatch was San Tan Montessori's lead Toddler/Primary Transition Montessori classroom assistant and is entering her second year within the San Tan Charter School community. Ms. Hatch has a son, Carter, who will be entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year at San Tan. She has been working with younger children since he was a toddler. Previously she has been an assistant in other Montessori schools working with toddlers and Primary for 5 years helping them grow independently in a prepared learning environment.

Ms. Hatch grew up in Midwest City, OK but later decided to move out to Arizona for new adventures. She immediately fell in love with all the beautiful sunshine, sunsets, and mountains! Moving out here was when she first learned and was taught the Montessori Philosophy from her sister-in-law and immediately started to fall in love with it. Ms. Hatch loves being around kids and is passionate about learning. Her goal is to provide an environment with materials and activities that adhere to each child's unique interests and helping each child feel safe to explore individually, believing children learn through sensory activities to help them with development. She strives to model respect, patience, and care for both children and adults she comes in contact with. When Ms. Hatch is not working she enjoys spending time with her family, going to baseball games, sightseeing, shopping, baking/cooking, and going to movies.

