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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Fort Collins Montessori School Purchases Property for School Expansion**

*PSD charter school under construction at the southwest corner of West Harmony Road and South Shields Street*

**Fort Collins, CO, December 30, 2019** – On December 12, 2019, Poudre School District public charter school Fort Collins Montessori School (FCMS) announced the purchase of five acres at 1109 West Harmony Road in Fort Collins, Colorado by the Fort Collins Montessori School Building Corporation. This property will be the future home of a permanent, unified FCMS campus. A groundbreaking is scheduled for Saturday, February 1, 2020.

Since its founding in 2014, FCMS has leased space for its seven classrooms, 141 students and 21 staff from two church properties in Fort Collins. Upon completion of Phase I of construction, the FCMS Harmony Campus will accommodate three additional classrooms and 200 students.

*“In April 2019, the Poudre School District renewed the FCMS charter, which allowed us to build and expand upon the FCMS offering to the Fort Collins community through this permanent location. We are excited about what our new, prime location has to offer—designed specifically for our Montessori program and connecting our school with neighboring Front Range Community College campus and the Poudre District Harmony Library,”* shared FCMS Board member, Daniel Rinehart.

Fort Collins Montessori School is the only public elementary Montessori option in northern Colorado. It offers full- and half-day preschool as well as a tuition-free K-6th.

*“FCMS is very pleased to be making southwest Fort Collins its permanent home. With this move, we will be able to offer more seats for enrollment and more Fort Collins families the Montessori experience. It is a rare opportunity to be in a position to build a Montessori school from the ground up. Everything on our new campus—from cabinetry to flooring to ceilings—was designed with child development and the needs of the*



*child in mind. Natural lighting, soft colors, and uncluttered spaces will set the stage for activity that is focused and calm.*” says Paul Vincent, Head of School at FCMS.

The Montessori method of education was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori—an Italian physician and a child developmental psychologist. Dr. Montessori discovered that all children innately want to learn, and that encouraging, respecting, and supporting the “whole child” (their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions) leads to the best outcomes for each individual and each community of learners. Dr. Montessori was deeply committed to advocating for children and to supporting the growth of each child’s inner potential, regardless of socio-economic status.

Fort Collins Montessori School is an Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), AMI/USA Member School, a John Irwin award recipient, a member of the Colorado League of Charter Schools, and is validated by the Colorado Montessori Association.

Construction has begun on the site and Phase 1 building is scheduled for completion in August 2020 will accommodate up to 200 students. Phase II is expected to begin within 5 years to accommodate an additional 112 students.

Applications for school enrollment are now being taken. More information at [www.focomontessori.com](http://www.focomontessori.com)

#### **ABOUT FCMS**

[Fort Collins Montessori School](http://www.focomontessori.com) (FCMS) provides a classic PreK-6th grade Montessori program that inspires and empowers children with an exceptional educational experience based on the principles and philosophy of Doctor Maria Montessori. Founded in 2014, FCMS is a Poudre School District public charter school and is the only Montessori school in northern Colorado to offer Montessori education past kindergarten.

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