

Southeast Alaska Friends of Montessori

PO Box 21142, Juneau, Alaska 99802

Catherine Fritz SEAFOM Scholarship For Montessori Education 2022-2023

I. Overview.

This scholarship began in 2001 through the fundraising efforts of Southeast Alaska Friends of Montessori (SEAFOM). **Contributions** to the fund are welcomed and are tax deductible to the extent of the law. This fund was created in honor of Catherine Fritz, a longtime patron and friend of the Montessori community in Juneau, Alaska.

SEAFOM is a non-profit organization committed to the development and implementation of Montessori education throughout Southeast Alaska. Incorporated in 1994, our mission is:

“To support schools and individuals throughout Southeast Alaska by promoting, developing, implementing, and maintaining Montessori education, as created by Dr. Maria Montessori.”

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance to families who have demonstrated a commitment to Montessori education and may not be able to afford the full cost of tuition. This is not intended to fully fund a child's entire tuition for the school year, but, rather to complement other financial efforts that the family is making to pursue Montessori education.

Allowing children to complete what is typically their third year at the Primary (Kindergarten) level is of great benefit to the child and also strengthens both the Primary classrooms and the Montessori elementary classrooms, which in turn, builds a strong Montessori Community.

II. Scholarship Guidelines.

The SEAFOM Board of Directors provides scholarship funds to the Families of Montessori Kindergartners or, in some cases, preschoolers. An annually designated SEAFOM Scholarship Committee will administer these guidelines and review applications. All contact with this committee may be done so through the mailing address above.

Montessori Education is a continuum from infancy to adolescence. Families applying for this scholarship shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to their child's Montessori education. This scholarship is for children attending the Juneau Montessori School (JMS). **Preference will be given to families with siblings currently enrolled in JMS or the Montessori Borealis elementary and/or adolescent programs in Juneau's public schools, families who plan to continue their child's education in Montessori beyond the Primary years, and families who are actively participating members in SEAFOM.**

The amount of funds awarded will be determined by the applicant's demonstrated financial need and may vary between individual applicants. Awards are based on the total scholarship funds provided by SEAFOM (which varies from year to year), the total number of eligible applicants, and the Scholarship Committee's determination of financial need. Decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

Applicants who are awarded scholarships have until August 31st, 2022 to notify the SEAFOM Scholarship Committee of their acceptance of the scholarship. At the discretion of the SEAFOM Board, scholarship funds that are not accepted by individuals may be offered to applicants on the “alternate” list, to other applicants who accepted scholarship funds and continue to demonstrate financial need, or returned to SEAFOM for other expenditures.

Information submitted to the Scholarship Committee shall remain confidential within the SEAFOM Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee may require additional information from an applicant. These guidelines and criteria for scholarship awards are subject to annual review and modification.

III. Scholarship Application Criteria:

- a. Scholarship awards are based on financial need. Applicants must provide a copy of their **2020 and 2021 Income Tax Return**, as well as a **current wage verification statement from all employers within the household**. Other income or additional financial assistance (including financial gifts) not stated on your tax return must be included. If you have not completed a tax return by the scholarship application deadline, provide a letter of explanation that also summarizes your total and adjusted income.
- b. Applicants must complete the **attached application** form.
- c. Applicants shall complete the Juneau School District's Free/Reduced Lunch Form to assist you in the process of the lottery system for first grade. *Please submit a copy to the Juneau School District when you apply for the first grade lottery.*
- d. Applicants must commit to enrolling their child in the JMS program for the 2022-2023 academic year.
- e. Scholarship applicants must commit to applying for enrollment in the Montessori Borealis public school program for first grade and beyond, *although this does not guarantee access to the program due to the school district lottery system.*
- f. Each family receiving a scholarship is expected to maintain current SEAFOM membership and volunteer a minimum of 10 hours per academic year to SEAFOM activities or projects. The annual membership fee is \$10.00 (June 1-May 31).
- g. The applicant must notify the SEAFOM Scholarship Committee of any change in financial status within 30 days of such change that may affect their eligibility for this scholarship. (Change in marital status, employment, new sources of income or funding, etc.).

IV. Timeline

August 1, 2022 - Distribute applications to families for the 2022-2023 school year.

August 15, 2022 - Completed applications due back to the SEAFOM committee

Week of August 16th -20th, 2022- Families notified of scholarship award.

August 31st, 2022 - Families shall confirm acceptance of scholarship no later than this date.

**Catherine Fritz SEAFOM Scholarship Application Form
2022-23 Academic Year**

Please complete this form for scholarship consideration. The **application and other required information must be submitted by August 15th, 2022**. Submit materials to the Catherine Fritz SEAFOM Scholarship Committee by mail to the SEAFOM , P.O. Box 21142, Juneau, AK 99802

If the application is not complete – your application will be returned and may not be put up for consideration if not back in due time.

Applicant (Child): _____ Child's DOB _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

Address, Phone Numbers, email: _____

Child's Years in Montessori: _____ Montessori School Attended: _____

Siblings at Montessori Borealis: _____

Siblings at JMS: _____

SEAFOM Member (Y/N): _____ (If No, please submit \$10.00 for the annual membership fee with your application)

SEAFOM projects/issues that family has been involved in: _____

Total household size _____ Amount of Scholarship requested _____ / school year

Do you participate in Childcare Assistance? _____ If yes, amount _____

Parent Work Status: _____

Parent Work Status: _____

If part-time, seasonal, or retired – please give more

details _____

Gross Income	
Net Income	

Please provide a tax return from 2021. If it is not available tax return 2020 and please attach a

monthly pay stub. Additional income _____

What other assistance does your family already receive? _____

Expenses per month (average)

Mortgage or Rent	
Utilities	
Food	
Car / Gas / Transportation	
Medical /Insurance	
Dental	
Loans	

Statement of Need:

Why did you choose Montessori preschool education for your child?

Would you consider continuing his/her Montessori education in the elementary and adolescent programs available in Juneau's public schools? (Yes/No). Please explain reasoning. _____

Any other information or other financial strains that you feel the Scholarship Committee should consider

I/We have provided complete and truthful information herein. I/We have read, and agreed to the criteria outlined, and if awarded a scholarship will fulfill the stated expectations.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Scholarship Committee Use Only:

Scholarship Awarded _____

Amount Awarded _____