

Seedlings & Saplings

We would like to welcome back all of our returning children and families, and extend a warm welcome to all of our new children and families! August is always a time of excitement, yet with that comes anxiety and nervousness for many children. We will do our best to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible, and ensure that each child feels loved, respected and safe. A Montessori learning environment is like no other... our main objective in the classroom is to provide a carefully planned, stimulating environment which will help children to develop within themselves the foundational habits, attitudes, skills, and ideas essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and learning. Respect and courtesy are the foundation for everything we do in the Seedlings and Saplings classroom. Each child will soon learn the following important skills:

- How to put their work away where they found it
- How to tidy up after themselves
- The importance of helping a friend in need
- The importance of respecting the materials, the teachers and each other
- How to tuck in their chair when they leave the table
- How to walk in the classroom
- How to be self-directed and find their own 'work'
- **How to be independent!**

Each child will feel empowered in the Seedlings & Saplings classroom. They will experience how great it feels to do things on their own! Ms. Nolan, Mrs. Voland, Ms. Georgia, and Mrs. Cowell are here to nurture, support and guide your child every day. They are committed to making your child's Montessori preschool experience productive, stimulating and fun! We are honored that you have chosen our school and we are confident that this will be a wonderful year for everyone involved!

We are looking forward to getting to know each child and working with each family to make this year a successful one! If at any time you have questions or concerns, please email us to discuss your questions/concerns in detail.

The education of even a small child,
therefore, does not aim at preparing him
for school, but for life - Maria Montessori

A Poem for Parents

*When children come home at the end of the day,
The question they're asked as they scurry to play is,
"What did you do at school today?"
And the answer they give
makes you sigh with dismay.
"Nothing, I did nothing today!"
Perhaps nothing means
that I played with blocks, counted to ten, or sorted some rocks.
Maybe I painted or learned to tie my shoe
Or learned what happens when you mix red and blue
Maybe I learned to tuck in my chair and put my work away
Or maybe I learned to be kind to a friend while I was playing outside today,
Maybe my scissors followed a line and I learned to write my name.
Maybe I learned some sounds or numbers or learned to play a new game,
Maybe I made a craft or sang a song from beginning to end,
Or maybe I learned to play with a special, brand new friend.
When you're in preschool
And your heart has wings,
"Nothing" can mean so many, many things.*

(Author Unknown)

Meet the teachers

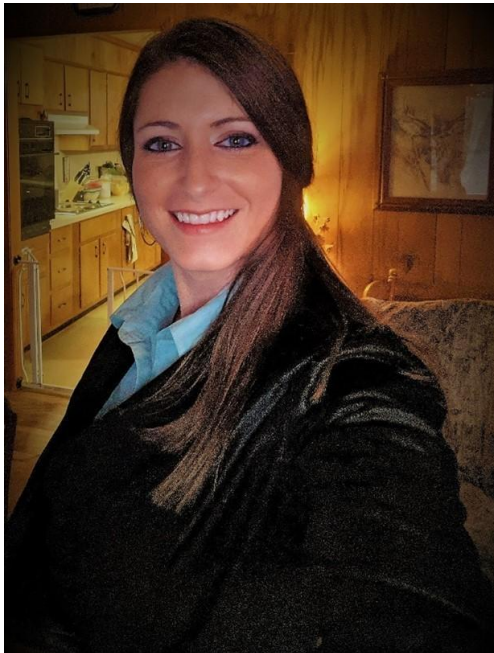


Rachael Nolan

Email: Rachaelnolan@abcstewart.com

Phone: Call or text 812.374.3131

I have two boys that attend ABC-Stewart School. Since I moved here 8 years ago from Saint Louis, it has been a dream of mine for my family to be a part of the Stewart family. I was introduced to the Montessori method through my grandmother, who taught in a Montessori school in the 1950s. I fell in love with the way the Montessori philosophy fosters independence and respect for each child. I love spending time in my garden and in the kitchen canning and processing the harvest from my garden. Hiking and exploring nature are two of my favorite things to do with my family. I began teaching in a Montessori classroom 4 years ago. I am excited to continue my journey here at Stewart helping each child reach their full potential!



Lydia Voland

Email: lydiavoland@abcstewart.com

Call or text: 812.374.6692

I am married to my husband, Logan, and we have two sons, Layne, a 5-year-old and Legend, a 3-month-old. My family and I love nature, we spend much of our time fishing, camping, hiking, foraging, hunting, gardening, canning, and spending time with our family and friends. I have been teaching early childhood education for seven years and I have worked with all aged children, from newborn to 6 years old. I have an associate degree in Early Childhood Education, and I have studied the Montessori Method throughout my college career. This will be my son's second year at ABC Stewart, as well as mine! I am ecstatic to begin this new journey with you and your child!

Meet the teachers



Georgia Richards

Email: georgiafrichards@gmail.com

Call or text: 812.350.7951

Hi, I'm Georgia Richards. I have been working at ABC-Stewart for the past two years. I am a graduate of our elementary school, beginning in the Two's room. I am currently a college student studying Psychology and Early Childhood Education. With my passion for children and Montessori teaching, I always knew I would find my way back to Stewart. I have learned a lot over the past two years as a Splendid teacher. I am very excited to bring my skills and passion to the Seedlings & Saplings classroom.



Mary Cowell

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Call or text: 812.374.9652

My name is Mary Cowell. This is my first-year teaching at ABC-Stewart School. I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, as well as a bachelor's degree in Special Education. I have over 10 years experience working with kids ages 0-12. My husband Brian and I have 4 kids, twin boys aged 11, a daughter who is almost 4, and another boy who is almost 2. We enjoy camping, playing outside, going to the movies, and just hanging out together. I am looking forward to joining the Stewart community!

Supply List

Backpack	Lunchbox and ice pack
Rainboots to leave at school	Water bottle
Antibacterial Wipes	Paint Brushes
Tissues	Watercolor Pallet
A box of Diapers and wipes	Durable Folder
Set of extra clothes	Family photo (5x7)
Photo of your child (4x6)	Optional: A copy of your child's favorite board book

Classroom Expectations

Please drop off your child on time each day. It is important for your child to get used to their new routine, and consistency is key. When a child is late, it interrupts the flow of our classroom and makes the late child feel uncomfortable and rushed. While we understand life happens, please make it a priority to bring your child to school on time. Our class begins at 9:00 am and will end at 11:30 am daily.

Please dress your child appropriately in clothes they feel comfortable in. Clothing should not restrict a child from running and playing freely. We will often use paint and other art materials, as well as allow children to play in the dirt and mud outside. Please do not send your child in nice clothes that cannot get dirty.

Please leave toys and other belongings at home. The classroom is filled with amazing materials for your child to explore. If your child is staying for naptime, a stuffed animal and or small blanket is the only exception to this rule. They will remain in their backpack until your child is ready to nap. If your child will stay for naptime, please send a blanket to remain at school. The blanket will be washed weekly.

We will provide snacks and water for your children throughout the day. If your child is staying for Splendid Days, please provide them with a nutritious lunch. We are happy to warm up your child's food in the microwave, but please do not send them with food that needs to be cooked.

Birthday Celebrations

Children love to be remembered and cherished on the special day they were born. The Montessori Celebration of Life is a lovely way to celebrate a child's birthday at school. Children enjoy hearing about their journey from birth to present day. They love listening to stories, looking at photos, and remembering special milestones and events. They want to know how cherished and important they are. Each child makes the world, and our classroom, a better place. The Montessori Celebration of Life is the perfect way to share this with your child.

In our classroom, we use a wooden sun, visual representation of the months, candles, and a globe to demonstrate the passage of time, as well as each child's growth from birth to this birthday celebration. The birthday child will walk around the sun for each year of life. Our class will sing a sweet birthday song as he or she walks around the sun. Each time around, he or she will pause, and teachers will read a memory/milestone provided by you for your child.

In preparation for the Montessori Celebration of Life, please provide a picture for each year of your child's life, and write a short life story to accompany each picture. We ask that these be brought into school two days before the child's celebration. We want every child to have the opportunity to experience the Celebration of Life during the school year. Children born during the summer months will celebrate their "half birthday".

Child Survey

Please fill out the following questionnaire and return it to school in your child's backpack.

Child's name:

How would you describe your child:

What are your child's strengths:

What hopes or goals do you have for your child this school year:

What strategies do you use to de-escalate your child when they are angry or sad:

Favorite color:

Favorite food:

Interests:

Dislikes:

Tell us a little about your family and what you do for fun: