

Yellowstone Experience School Founding Board Bios



Baily Goodwine

B.A. Economics, University of Victoria

Baily Goodwine, a lifelong Livingston resident, is dedicated to expanding educational opportunities in Park County. As the school board president of Elevate Montessori and the broker-owner of Maverick Realty, Baily combines her business acumen with her passion for accessible, high-quality alternative education. With two young children of her own, she understands the importance of cultivating engaging, student-centered learning environments. Baily is also active in the community, leading the marketing and communications committee for Yellowstone Experience School, where she leverages her expertise to strengthen community awareness and support for educational initiatives. Her strong local connections and commitment to serving Livingston families make her an invaluable advocate for the Montessori approach and innovative education in the region.

Emily Post

M.A. Economics, University of Montana

B.S. Biology/ Botany, Western Washington University

Emily Post, most recently worked with consultants, parents, and teachers to develop and launch a project-based learning school for kids ages 4-14 in Livingston, Montana in 2019. Educatio's mission is providing equal access to world-class education through an applied/ project-based approach to: STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math); Social-Emotional Learning and Leadership; and Community Impact. Our most recent learning focus was how to help Montana wildlife thrive. Through this interdisciplinary learning topic, students researched the biology and population of MT wildlife species, dove into the concept and importance of biodiversity, designed innovations inspired by nature through biomimicry, restored a section of public land with native plants for pollinators, researched and interviewed community agencies and organizations working to help wildlife thrive, and developed a public outreach campaign and learning exhibit displayed in downtown Livingston to educate and inspire wildlife knowledge and conservation. In addition, Educatio students and educators worked together with farmers and ranchers to discuss and further our understanding of how to live with wildlife while living and working within agricultural fields. Our students developed a Montana-sourced ingredient ice cream brand, innovating and refining value-added ag products. This learning included graphic design, budgets, recipes, and business plans.



In 2018, Emily worked with founders, board members, community members, teachers, school administrators, parents and most importantly students, to develop an experience-based workshop program for middle school students in Livingston. The intention of this partnership was to connect adults from the community with students to share their skills, passions and character to raise the ceiling for kids about what is possible and help them develop their interests and strengths. Together they developed every aspect of this new program from content, to student connection and engagement with workshop leaders, recruitment and volunteer training, evaluation metrics, fundraising, and public outreach. The entire community embraced the program and so many people showed up to help, share ideas and knowledge, and create learning experiences for students. Emily's favorite workshops were those that invited students to learn alongside workshop leaders to explore their curiosity and find creative solutions towards a common goal. Emily passionately believes that school should be the most interesting, enriching, expansive place in a child's life and that **all** kids deserve a rich, inspiring, transformative education to enjoy increased opportunity, choice, and empowerment throughout their lives.

Leslie Kennedy

Leslie Kennedy is the co-founder and education director at Elevate Montessori School, an early childhood education center for children from 12 weeks to 6 years old. The school opened in February 2020 with three students and has expanded to 45 students, 14 teachers, 50-ish guppies and a bunny named Fluffy. I am the lead guide in the toddler classroom and directly mentor teachers among all age levels at Elevate; plan and implement monthly creative staff continuing educational opportunities; and provide at least 6 family learning events yearly. Elevate Montessori School has developed a culture of transparent communication (among staff and families); a focus on providing a high fidelity Montessori experience; and is committed to providing an experience of personal growth for staff, the students and their families.

I am highly passionate about Montessori pedagogy. It is rooted in respect, curiosity, compassion and love. Inspired by my daughter, I began the journey to Montessori and the path of helping our community. I am an AMS Montessori certified guide from the Hope Montessori Educational Institute for infants and toddlers (0 to 3 years old). I have been working with young children for the last eight years and have learned to hold a high standard of care for the children.

Before having our own children, I lived and worked as a tour guide in Yellowstone National Park - sharing the science, history and beauty of the National Park and the Greater Ecosystem that will be YES's backyard.



Kate Bower RN, BSN

Livingstonian for eight proud years, registered nurse and mother Kate Bower wholeheartedly embraces an expansive education that fosters curiosity and hands-on learning through outdoor adventures. With more than a decade of experience in neuroscience, Kate deeply values mental well-being, advocating for an educational model that empowers students to navigate their learning journeys with autonomy, reducing anxiety through self-led inquiries.

Inspired by her conviction, Kate is thrilled to be a part of Yellowstone Experience School. Her vision is to bring this transformative opportunity to Livingston's exceptional youth, providing them with the space and resources to discover their unique learning styles while nurturing their mental health. Kate is incredibly excited for the Yellowstone Experience School to come to life, providing resources that will inspire generations of confident, curious, and resilient children.

Vanessa Kurtz

Vanessa Kurtz is a compassionate and driven leader and parent in the Livingston community, dedicated to empowering individuals and families to live healthier, more balanced lives. As the founder of Limitless Holistics, she combines her expertise as a Life and Wellness Coach with advanced neurofeedback technology to help community members overcome challenges like stress, anxiety, ADHD, and emotional eating. Her holistic approach emphasizes mental, physical, and emotional well-being, fostering resilience and growth in those she works with.

Beyond her professional role, Vanessa is a devoted advocate for youth development and innovative education, contributing to projects like the Yellowstone Experience School. Her passion for fostering connection and creating supportive spaces extends to her work with individuals struggling with addiction, helping them rebuild their lives through non-invasive therapies.

Vanessa's commitment to her community is rooted in her belief in the power of relationships and mutual support. Whether helping a client rediscover their sense of purpose or collaborating with local organizations, Vanessa's work inspires others to embrace their potential and live with greater joy and fulfillment.