

Teacher honored

MMS teacher first W.Va. educator to receive national scholarship award

Mountaineer Montessori School teacher Alasha Al-Qudwah has been awarded a scholarship from the American Montessori Society Joanne P. Hammes Scholarship Fund.

Al-Qudwah is one of a select group of educators nationwide, and the first in



Al-Qudwah

West Virginia, to be honored by the nation's foremost Montessori organization with a scholarship toward specialized training. Al-Qudwah is pursuing Upper Elementary II certification at the Montessori Elementary Teacher Training Collaborative in Waltham, Massachusetts. As part of the intensive, two-year program, she will spend six weeks this summer, as well as fall and spring sessions, training with educators from across the country and around the world at the METTC campus outside of Boston.

This fall will mark Al-Qudwah's sixth year in Montessori education. She previously served in various administrative and arts capacities as well as an elementary classroom assistant.

Starting in August, she will lead one of the two Upper Elementary classrooms at Mountaineer Montessori, serving students in fourth through sixth grades.

Al-Qudwah holds bachelor's degrees from Ohio University and West Virginia State University and is trained in the

TEACHER

FROM PAGE 1

Wilson Reading System. She is a composer, music instructor and performer, and contributed to the success of one of West Virginia's most notable bands, Quiet. She currently performs with "Minor Swing."

"I feel this the next step in my life and career," Al-Qudwah said. "I had many amazing experiences of touring big cities through my music, recording albums in studios of famous audio engineers, creating and running a creative studio and overall nurturing my creative passion with music for 20 years. To now



"We congratulate Alasha on this well-deserved honor, which recognizes her dedication to Montessori education, commitment to our students and highest standards of professional excellence. During her time at our school, Alasha has introduced wonderful new opportunities for our students."

Jennifer Carriger, director at Mountaineer Montessori School

spend my upcoming years nurturing a classroom for our students feels like an opportunity I've been grooming toward since the start of my employment in a Montessori school. I feel my personal sacrifices will ultimately become personal gains, as the Montessori classroom will help shape our future thinkers with compassion, creative insight, and social, environ-

mental and cultural awareness."

"We congratulate Alasha on this well-deserved honor, which recognizes her dedication to Montessori education, commitment to our students and highest standards of professional excellence," said MMS Director Jennifer Carriger. "During her time at our school, Alasha has introduced wonderful new opportunities for

our students. We can't wait to see the enhancements she will bring to Upper Elementary as a Lead Guide starting in August."

Mountaineer Montessori School, 308 20th St., Charleston, is West Virginia's original and largest Montessori school, serving 140 students ages 3 to 14. MMS is the only member of the American Montessori Society in the state.



AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY®
education that transforms lives
Member School

Charleston Gazette-Mail/Metro East
July 17, 2019