

# **News Release**

*For Immediate Release*

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***Montessori School of Pensacola seventh- and eighth-graders return from immersive camp with a deeper understanding of global hunger and how rural communities around the world can lift themselves out of poverty through farming***

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (Nov. 1, 2017)** — It's not what you'd expect most middle-schoolers to spend a lot of time thinking about. But after a three-day field trip to a working farm in rural Arkansas, 28 seventh- and eighth-graders from Montessori School of Pensacola are thinking and talking about social responsibility and how they can make a difference for others. The students have just returned from Heifer International's Global Village, a 1,200-acre ranch in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains. There, they spent one night sleeping in a barn and another night in a village site representing some of the poorest rural settings in the world. They developed an appreciation and understanding of what it's like to cook a meal with limited resources and the struggles of daily living in many areas of the world. The experiential camp, one of three in the U.S., is part of Heifer International, a charity organization working to end global hunger and poverty by providing livestock and training to struggling communities. The organization's values are in keeping with the philosophy of the school, the only accredited Montessori program in the region. Montessori schools — named after the late Italian physician Maria Montessori — emphasize respect, self-direction, multi-age classrooms and experiential learning. "The goal of our schools is to help students grow in understanding that they are global citizens," headmaster Maria Mitkevicius said of the trip, "We need to think beyond ourselves and recognize that we should care about other people and about our shared environment." More than one billion people in the world go hungry every day. The students learned how Heifer helps bring sustainable agriculture to areas of systemic poverty, providing community

partners with both food and reliable income from milk, eggs and honey that can be traded or sold at market.

This marks the second time that Montessori School of Pensacola students have visited the Heifer International ranch. "It's an experience the students won't soon forget," Mitkevicius said.

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[PHOTO CAPTIONS/PHOTO CREDIT: MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF PENSACOLA]

**breakfast\_in\_the\_slums.jpg**—*MSP students eat breakfast in the simulated slums of Heifer International's Global Village, an immersive exercise designed to help them gain a deeper understanding of poverty and hunger in the world.*

**farm-to-table\_Pizza.jpg**—*MSP students collaborate on pizza-making at Heifer International's Global Village, learning how poverty-stricken communities are able to earn a livelihood through farming, including farm-to-table pizza making.*

**IMG\_20171010\_164052895\_HDR.jpg**—*Heifer International's overnight programs combine "the emotion of experiential education with the empowerment of service learning." During their overnight camp, MSP students were immersed into farming and poverty to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of the world and to think about their roles and responsibilities as global citizens.*

## **ABOUT MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF PENSACOLA**

Since 1977, Montessori School of Pensacola (MSP) has been a benchmark for quality education in the greater Pensacola area, combining the highly respected Montessori teaching methods with proven educational practices to provide a unique learning experience for children toddlers through middle school.

Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician who conducted careful observation and extensive research in early childhood development, concluded that every young child possesses a naturally curious and absorbent mind, and that allowing young students some latitude in exploring subjects of interest to them resulted in a far greater motivation for learning. MSP classroom materials are scaled to fit the age and skills of the child. Hands-on lessons and project-based learning promote a deep understanding of core academic concepts and keep learning fun.

MSP is the only accredited Montessori school in the Pensacola area. For more information visit [www.MontessoriPensacola.com](http://www.MontessoriPensacola.com).



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