

Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.

-Maria Montessori.

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### Paraprofessional: teachers assistant; instructional aid

Our paraprofessionals act as Montessori teaching assistants to provide *essential* support ensuring that every child has an authentic montessori experience.



## PARA SPOTLIGHT

*Ms. Kelly Grossman, Paraprofessional*

Ms. Kelly supports her students through guidance, knowledge, and enthusiasm. She has been a beloved para in Ms. Watkin's Lower Elementary Class for 3 years and helps Ms. Watkins guide students with ambition and passion. If you have spent any time in Ms. Watkin's classroom it is easy to see that Ms. Kelly plays an essential role in the day to day functioning of the classroom. Not only do she and Ms. Watkins have a great rapport, the students love her! J. Allen Axson is fortunate to have her lively spirit and nurturing personality caring for and educating our children. Montessori classrooms thrive when teachers have the support of classroom paras.



"Ms. Kelly plays a vital role in our classrooms. She is more than a helper at lunch or someone to grade papers. Ms. Kelly teaches small group lessons, helps with conflict resolution, encourages independence and help correct mistakes. Mrs. Kelly and all of our paras do this and so much more!"

- Ms. Ashley Watkins  
Lower Elementary Teacher

"Ms. Kelly is so nice and fun. She checks my work and helps me solve math problems and takes us outside for lunch."

- Alex Richman  
3rd grade student



# FAME

Friends of Axson  
Montessori Elementary

## ABOUT FAME

**Mission:** FAME is a 501c3 parent-led organization, which raises funds to pay the salaries of the paraprofessionals (assistants to our teachers) at our public elementary magnet school, J. Allen Axson Montessori (Axson).

**Vision:** Each year, our school’s budget changes depending on the amount of funding received from the state and district. Therefore, FAME was formed in 2006 to support the Montessori environment by funding a paraprofessional in every classroom. We help provide J. Allen Axson the environment to create life-long learners, in a child-centered, highly personalized learning environment necessary to the Montessori Method. FAME works to provide funding necessary to support student education by ensuring every classroom has a paraprofessional. We gave \$63,000 last year to support paraprofessionals for the 2018-2019 school year.

### How do paraprofessionals help us fulfill our mission?

Paras are essential to the Montessori environment. They directly support the children through keen observation used to enrich curriculum by identifying the needs of each child as an individual learner. Paras help educate the whole child by modeling grace and courtesy and fostering a peaceful classroom. Perhaps most importantly, paras enable classroom teachers to be more effective by preparing the learning environment, assisting in lessons, and attending to immediate needs.

$$\begin{array}{r} \$15 / \text{month} \\ \times \\ \text{Every Axson Family} \\ = \\ \text{Funding for 9 Paras} \end{array}$$

## HOW CAN I SUPPORT FAME?

Own a Business? Become a Corporate Partner and gain access to prime advertising opportunities.

Become a sustainer. A small monthly donation goes a long way! Click the donate now button to learn more.

Did you know you can support FAME and J. Allen Axson when you shop on Amazon? Shop amazon smile and select Friends of Axson Montessori Elementary as your non-profit of choice. There is no cost to you but Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase back to FAME.



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# FOLLOWING THE CHILD

The Montessori method of education is unique in its aim of nurturing the child's intrinsic desire to learn. Maria Montessori had a vision of following the child to determine their individual needs. There is a misconception that the phrase "follow the child" means let the child do whatever they want. On the contrary, following the child is simply forming an understanding of subject areas they are drawn to and those they avoid, where they succeed easily, and where they struggle. It is only through this understanding that the Montessori teacher can guide each child as work toward mastery of their work.

Through observation the Montessori educator learns what areas a student needs to develop, what areas are a challenge, and where they thrive. This opportunity to learn and grow in a carefully prepared environment is highly dependent on the Montessori guides. The families of J. Allen Axson are fortunate to have access to a free Montessori education and through the generosity of our families, community members, and corporate sponsors, FAME continues to provide the teachers and students the support necessary to thrive.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Community Garden Day: Saturday, October 6th 8:00-10:00am**

*Join teachers and families to beautify our outdoor spaces and gardens.*

**October Early Dismissal Days: Wednesday, October 17th & 31st**

*All students dismissed at 1:30*

**No School-Teacher Planning Day: Friday, October 19th**

**Fall Festival: Friday, November 2nd 1:30-6:00**

*Join Axson families for a family event fun for all. This is a great opportunity meet other families and support your child's education! Don't forget to save money by pre-purchasing your child's wrist band by **October 26th**.*

***Square One Art is around the corner. This is great opportunity to support FAME and enjoy your child's custom art work!***



Friends of Axson Montessori, Inc. is a non-profit 501c3 organization recognized by the State of Florida under Sunbiz #N05000003088 and by the IRS as a non-profit organization with EIN #83-0374970.

*FAME c/o J. Allen Axson Montessori Elementary School*

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