

*A teacher “must be able to participate with the child in a ‘life of becoming.’”  
Maria Montessori*

My name is Michelle Loomans. I have been a member of the Armatage community for the past 10 years as a parent, an Associate Educator, and I am now privileged to serve Armatage Montessori as a 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teacher.

I have had a very busy summer. As the quote from Dr. Montessori above suggests, I have had a summer of participating in a “life of becoming.” I have been working on my Masters degree in Montessori Education at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls and will continue to do so for the next two years. I have enjoyed the courses immensely and have even had the opportunity to spend 2 weeks in the dorms!

I received my B.A. in Education from the University of Michigan and taught 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in an elementary school in Ann Arbor, MI. I left teaching once my children were born to stay home and mother full time. My husband, John, and I have three children. Our oldest, Sam, will start high school this year at Southwest High School; our daughter, Claire, will be in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Anthony Middle School; and our youngest, Jane, will be in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Armatage. Yes, three children at three schools. 😊

The foundation of my teaching philosophy is that *all children can learn*. Every child comes to the world with a potential to fulfill and it is my job to guide that development. Education in the Montessori classroom is based on the relationship between the child, the teacher and the environment, an environment that requires responsibility and fosters independence. Finally, relationships are essential. As a Montessori teacher, I must build relationships by respecting the child.

This is what I look forward to the most in the coming year, building relationships with my students and joining them in a “life of becoming,” in a journey of life-long learning!