

## Natassha Firestone Elementary Educational Coordinator/Directress

Teaching children has always been a passion of mine. I am the oldest in my family and always loved taking care of my siblings. I enjoy teaching children because both the children and I learn something new each day. It is a joy to see how their faces light up when they learn and my students remind me how important it is to be a child at heart.

I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education with an

endorsement in Special Education. I also hold a Montessori lower and upper elementary certificate from Midwest Montessori Teacher Training Center. Through my studies and clinical experiences, I have developed a strong desire to connect with all students and provide them with an excellent education. With all the opportunities I have had to interact with children, I decided that becoming a Montessori teacher would be the perfect profession for me. As a teacher I want to be a role model. I want to be someone the children can be themselves with, respect, and look up to. I want to provide children with a positive learning environment where they feel safe to take risks because they know I am there to help them through any challenges they might encounter. Success and effort are two key concepts I hope to achieve with every student that walks into my classroom. By empowering students to

take ownership of their learning I hope to turn them into life-long learners. I'm extremely grateful to have found the Montessori Method early in my teaching career, and I wouldn't teach any other way.

For the last eight years I have been the Elementary teacher here at AGBMS, it is my second home. The students in my classroom were my children until 2017 when I blessed with twin boys, Logan & Parker. Not only is Montessori a wonderful way to learn and teach but it is also a wonderful way to parent. It is such a joy to have my boys at work with me and see my students teach and learn alongside them. Nature and



animals are a big part of our family's life. We have three dogs, who you will most likely find roaming the halls of AGBMS. When we are not at school we are outside. We love to go camping as a family, take our dogs for walks and explore the forests.

"Let the children be free; encourage them; let them run outside when it is raining; let them remove their shoes when they find a puddle of water; and when the grass of the meadows is wet with dew, let them run on it and trample it with their bare feet; let them rest peacefully when a tree invites them to sleep beneath its shade; let them should and laugh when the sun wakes them in the morning"

- Maria Montessori -