



Jan. 12, 2017

Dear Gilpin Montessori families,

Thank you for your continued support of your school and your students. In recent meetings, as we have had difficult conversations about the future of Gilpin, we have heard clearly your concerns about a continued Montessori presence in Near Northeast Denver.

In response, we want to provide information about options for parents interested in continuing a Montessori education:

**Garden Place Elementary**, a nearby school rated green on our School Performance Framework, will be adding a Montessori program for the 2017-18 school year. Principal Rebecca Salomon and her staff are excited about this addition, and we will soon be announcing details about opportunities to meet the Garden Place team and tour the school.

Montessori at Garden Place will run alongside the school's traditional program, a model similar to what we currently offer at Lincoln Elementary. Families transitioning from Gilpin can submit a choice form for Garden Place for any grade in the new Montessori program, ECE through grade 6 (or for the Garden Place traditional program, ECE through grade 5).

Gilpin students who live in the Near Northeast Enrollment Zone and who attend Garden Place will be provided transportation by Success Express Transportation, which will have a stop at Gilpin.

**Montessori programs at Monarch, Denison, Lincoln, and Sandoval** (Montessori and dual-language combined). Current Gilpin students in grades ECE-5 who apply through SchoolChoice to one of these four options will receive priority. A seat cannot be guaranteed at one of these options, but Gilpin students will be prioritized. This means that once current program students and their siblings have been seated, Gilpin students will receive priority for enrollment.

*For those families interested in the Montessori model, we will ensure that there are enough seats for current Gilpin ECE 3 students to continue in ECE 4 Montessori.*

Beyond Montessori, options for Gilpin families include:

**Cole Arts & Sciences Academy, Downtown Denver Expeditionary School, University-Prep Arapahoe, Whittier K-8 and Garden Place Academy's** traditional program. Gilpin students are guaranteed a seat at one of these five nearby schools. In addition, for any other DPS school, once all boundary students and siblings of currently attending students have been seated, Gilpin students will receive priority.

Additional information about transportation options is provided in the attached letter from DPS Transportation Services Director Nicole Portee.

To learn more about any of these options, or for general information during the choice process, please reach out to Terri Davalos, who is supporting Gilpin families through the transition. She can be reached



at 720-423-7730. In addition, questions or concerns may be shared with the DPS Family & Community Helpline at 720-423-3054.

Warm Regards,  
*Susana Cordova,*  
*Deputy Superintendent*