



An Invitation to Create the First Wildflower Junior High in the Minnesota

Wildflower Schools of Minnesota is seeking an innovative, equity-minded, entrepreneurial Montessori middle school teacher to start and lead a small-scale adolescent community in the Twin Cities.

The vision and model for the school will be yours to shape alongside [Wildflower's nine principles](#). You will work directly with the CEO of the national Wildflower Foundation and the leader of Wildflower Schools in Minnesota, and you will have the support of a community of fellow innovators starting the first Wildflower middle schools in several other cities across the U.S. mainland and Puerto Rico.

You will receive financial support from The Wildflower Foundation for a full-year school design fellowship leading up to the launch of your school in the Fall of 2019.

Our Schools

Wildflower schools are very small - typically serving about 30 students. They are committed to equity, and unite diverse communities of children, families and teachers in a shared pursuit of interconnectedness, justice and peace. Wildflower schools use Montessori methods, honor the importance of each phase of human development and protect children as they progress through life's unfolding journey, respect the connectedness of all aspects of human development and support children as they grow into the people they are meant to become.

While they share values and principles, each Wildflower school is unique, a reflection of the training, life experiences and educational vision of the small team of teachers who lead it. Because Wildflower schools blur the boundary between homeschooling and institutional schooling and between education and the rest of life, Wildflower teacher-leaders have extraordinary autonomy to extend the prepared environment in any direction to serve the needs of families, children and educators.

Wildflower started in 2014 as a single Children's House affiliated with the MIT Media Lab and has since grown into a decentralized, non-hierarchical network of more than 20 schools in Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, Minnesota, Rhode Island and Kentucky, with many more under development in communities across the country and around the world. The [Wildflower Foundation](#) works to create the conditions that nurture the growth of Wildflower schools across the U.S. and eventually around the world.



What You'll Do

- Collaborate with 1-2 other teacher-leaders to **develop a vision for an authentic Montessori junior high school** serving the diversity of the Twin Cities community
- With the support of the local and national Wildflower teams, **select and prepare one or more school sites** - this often involves identifying, leasing and renovating shopfront space, and for a middle school, might also involve securing access to farmland or other settings
- **Develop the prepared junior high school environment** in alignment with your vision
- **Recruit and enroll children and families**
- **Participate in the shared governance of the Minnesota Wildflower Charter School** - the legal structure that supports many Minnesota Wildflower schools and will enable the Wildflower middle school to be completely free to all families

What You Bring

- **A deep commitment to authentic Montessori** - Your expertise will position you to be a highly effective facilitator of children's learning and to extend the values of Montessori to include the adults within your school community.
- **A background working in Adolescent Communities** - You have deep experience working with 12-15 year olds, either as a trained Montessorian or in another progressive educational model (plus interest in completing Montessori training).
- **Entrepreneurial leadership** - Your default mode is "yes." You are flexible, open-minded, see opportunity in obstacles, and are energized by using creativity and resourcefulness to create solutions to problems.
- **Commitment to serving diverse and multifaceted communities** - You are eager to expand access to Montessori for racially and socioeconomically diverse communities and are committed to supporting the development of intersectional communities.
- **Generosity of spirit** - You live with kindness, practice gratitude and lead with love. You seek advice openly and are comfortable working in a non-hierarchical organization.
- **Willingness to work hard** - You have the aptitude, stamina, time, and appetite to rise to the challenge of starting and leading your own school. You will not be alone, but you will be busy.
- **A desire to learn and grow** - You are eager to stretch beyond your current experience, to develop new skills and expertise and to more fully explore your purpose and potential.

To learn more, read our [FAQ's](#). If you would like to explore further, reach out to matthew.kramer@wildflowerschools.org.