



Higher Ground

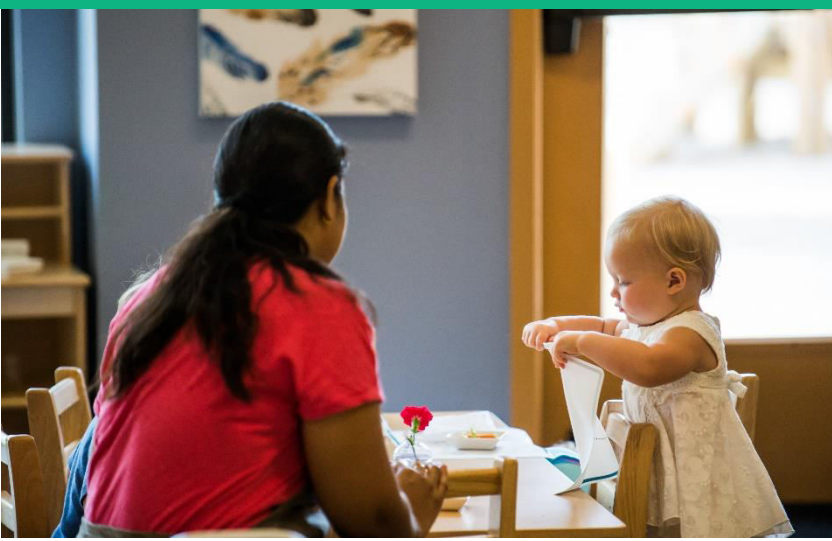
Seek Elevation, Reach Higher Ground

Ray Girn, CEO



Higher Ground's mission is to modernize and mainstream the international Montessori movement, and thereby enable children across the world to realize their human potential as knowledge-guided, value-oriented, efficacious beings, so that they experience, undiluted and unimpeded, the joyous process of growing into successful adults.

Our Vision is to offer parents *network-level access* to a global system of schools implementing *high-fidelity, next-gen* Montessori from infant care through high school.



In a supply constrained childcare market, Higher Ground offers parents a new choice: high-fidelity Montessori combined with next gen offerings

High Fidelity

A Scientific Pedagogy

25 program experts and trainers implement evidence-based curriculum in accordance with Montessori principles



Inspired, Well-trained Educators

Comprehensive training and PD, combined with centralized oversight, enable educators to expertly customize programming



An Intentional World For the Child

Intentionally designed, highly customized learning environments full of tested, curated materials that optimize learning



Next Gen

Global, adaptable, future-proof pedagogy

- Language immersion
- Placed-based and experiential learning
- A global curriculum with travel opportunities
- Classroom technology, ambitiously and thoughtfully



Communication, convenience, community



- Extended hours, unmatched flexibility
- Nanny and parenting services
- Backup care and sick care
- Continuous, cloud-powered parent communication
- Childcare for events, date nights³

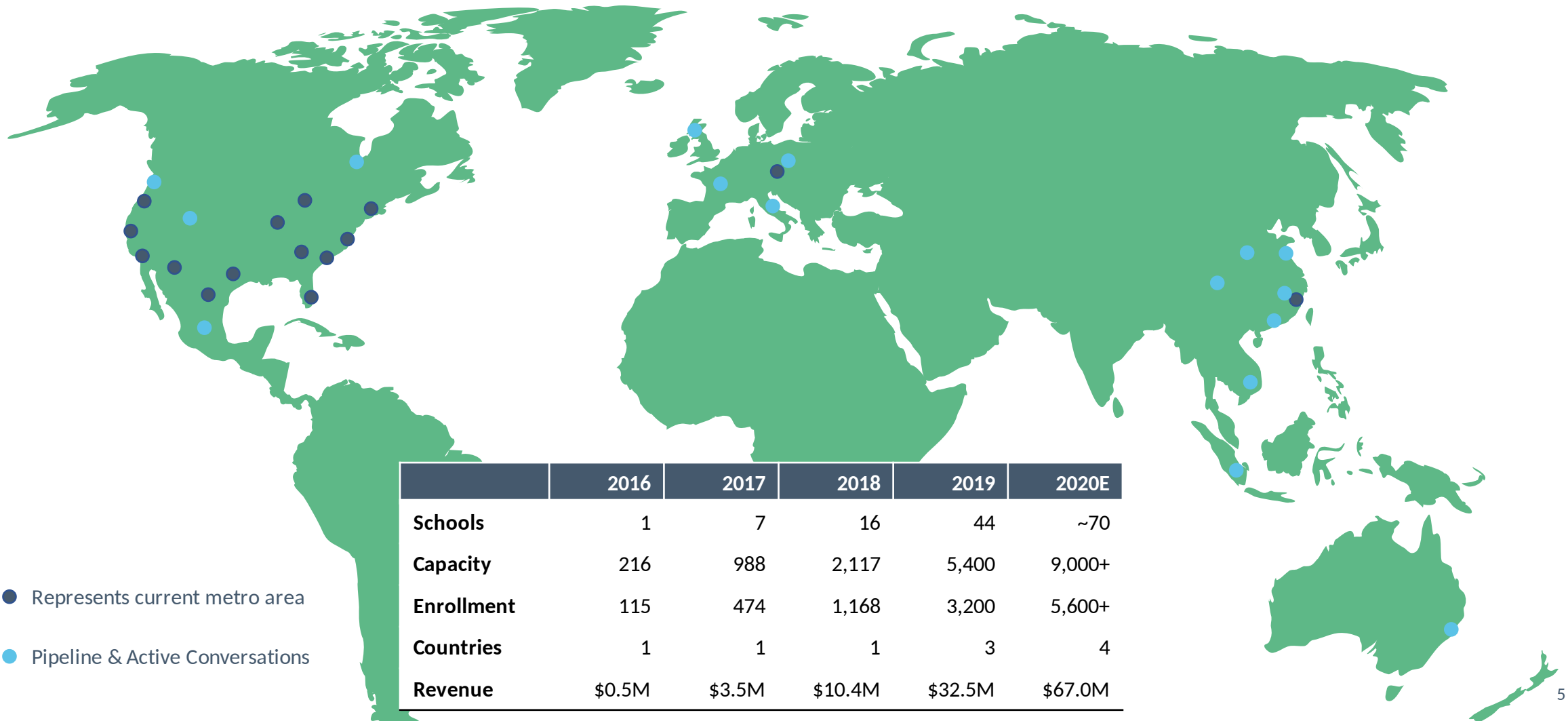
Parents will have *network level access*: a global membership for the global professional

As network expands, integrated education and travel experiences offer students and parents immense value



70 schools open by fall 2020, with programming from infant care through high school

Higher Ground has found deep demand globally, and is already the largest US Montessori operator



Growth is powered by an innovative platform solving key drivers of great education

Original, scalable
programming



Montessori principles applied to original, evidence-based programming, resulting in next gen curriculum and pedagogy for all ages

Original, scalable talent
solutions



Global recruiting pipeline powered by high quality, flexible, and accessible teacher training programs combined with loyalty-enhancing professional development opportunities

Original, scalable real estate
operations



Real estate expertise and environment design know-how, optimized for pedagogical excellence, and realized in conjunction with a broad base of dedicated real estate partners

Original, scalable school
management



Comprehensive, front-to-end OS enabling proprietary retail best practices, school analytics, centralized KPI and back-office processes at scale

Our greatest strength is meeting our single greatest need: talent and trained educators



Our innovative teacher training platform, the Prepared Montessorian Institute, is accredited by MACTE, the only accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for Montessori teacher training

- ✓ Capacity to offer high quality training to hundreds of educators per year (and growing)
- ✓ An innovative online instructional model combined with local practicums allow for easy, unprecedented scale

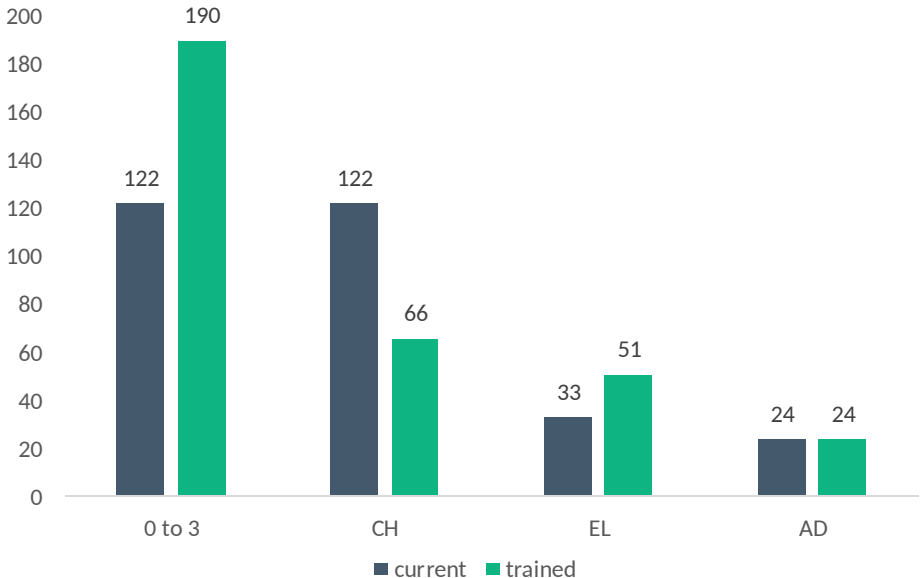
175 in accredited Montessori diploma coursework

500 completed professional development courses

100 school leaders completed leadership training

Teaching Staff Internally Trained

All staff expected to be internally trained, including a pipeline of trained assistant teachers ready to step in at any time



This unprecedented vision is being led by an idealistic, experienced team

Higher Ground's management team has the unique track record of *twice* building the largest Montessori school operator in the US

Leadership Team

After transforming LePort Schools into the largest Montessori school operator in the US with 22 schools, Ray Girn and 12 fellow LePort executives founded Higher Ground Education to build a global platform.

By The Numbers

As of Feb 1, 2020:

3,500+ students

47 schools globally

As of Oct 1, 2020 (based on confirmed deals alone):

5,000+ students

67 schools globally



Ray Girn

Founder & Chief Executive Officer



Maris Mendes

Chief Operating Officer



Guy Barnett

Chief Development Officer



Mitch Michulka

Chief Financial Officer



Rebecca Girn

Chief Program Officer & General Counsel



Steve Xu

Chief Strategy Officer & CEO of HGE China



Alma Reza

VP of Development



Joel Mendes

ED of Prepared Montessorian



Jane Erickson

VP of Programs



Jocelyn Scotty

VP of Schools



Matt Sears

VP of International Growth



Lindsay Sloan

VP of Operations



Matt Bateman

VP of Pedagogy



Elan Walsh

VP of Construction & Real Estate



Steven Gaudino

VP of R&D

We are well positioned to serve military families, as they serve our country

- We already serve military-affiliated families across 22+ of our schools
- We have been conducting diligence and feasibility for almost a year to understand the wants, needs, goals, and constraints of military families and institutions
- We have recently launched a number of exciting pilot programs
- Serving military families is squarely an expression of our mission, and we have both the skill set and motivation to deliver value



Thank You

*If hope and salvation are to come, they can only come from our children,
for children are the makers of men. — Maria Montessori*



Higher Ground

Paradoxically, to create the education of the future, we must look backwards

Montessori provides a pedagogical framework that is both high agency and deep knowledge, and that can be extended across all programmatic approaches and age groups, from educationally infused infant programs through to re-envisioned high schools

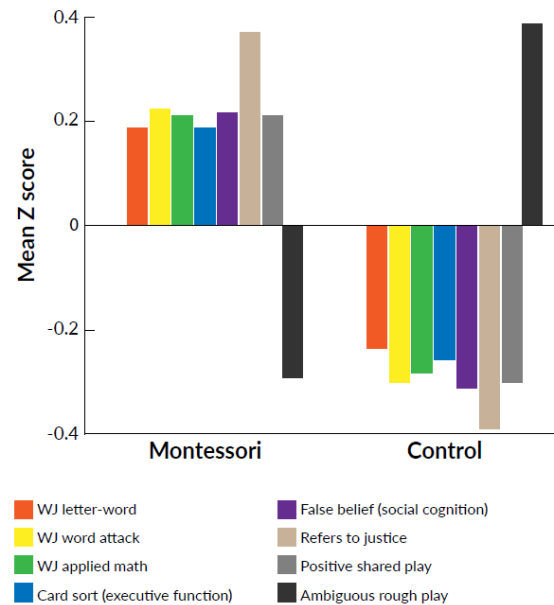
The Montessori Approach

- Birth through adolescence
- Designed learning environments
- Mixed age classrooms, extended work time, deep concentration
- Individual or small group lessons, with customized pacing and mentoring,
- Sequenced, rigorous academics explored with curated materials and curriculum



Time-tested

- 100+ years of practical refinement
- Globe in dozens of languages
- Solid and growing basis in research¹



Timely

"The Montessori educational approach might be the surest route to joining the creative elite."
-WSJ



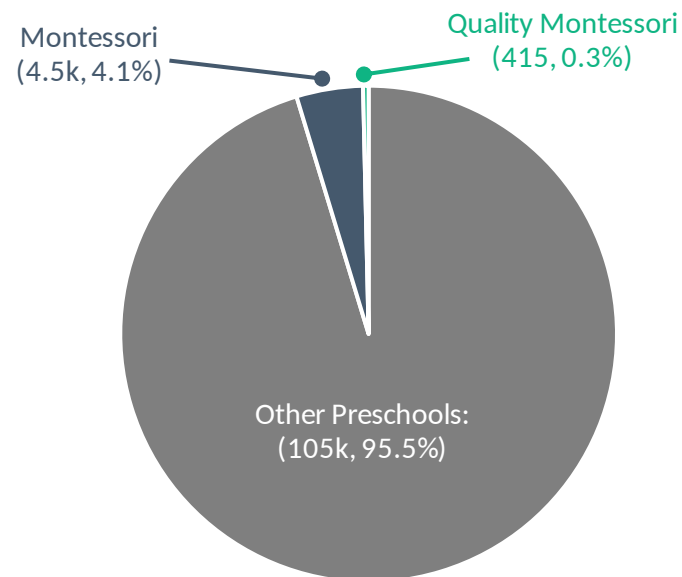
- Long list of prominent Montessori alumni speak to its wide appeal and recognition
- Most cutting-edge innovation in education is an expression of Montessori principles. Khan Academy, AltSchool, makers movement advocates, and more have all described themselves as "Montessori 2.0"

Despite validation and popular appeal, quality Montessori is virtually non-existent

Because it's difficult to implement well, Montessori schools rarely offer "high fidelity" execution of pedagogical principles

Pedagogically Consistent Montessori Is Rare

- **Good Montessori training is inaccessible**, leading to a constricted talent pool; most training programs are substandard
- AMS and AMI USA, the two leading Montessori trade organizations, have **accredited only 415 schools in the U.S.**
- **High quality Montessori is a fraction of a percent** of early childhood education



Fidelity is Key

- No trademark; the vast majority of Montessori is "in name only"
- Research shows that Montessori makes a difference when it's executed with integrity—in carefully designed learning environments, with educators who understand and are committed to the approach.

