

METRO DAY 2019:

INCLUSION FOR PLURALISTIC SCHOOLS

White Flint Children's House
11810 Parklawn Dr
Rockville, MD 20852

For registration information contact
laura@metromontessori.com
or call (202) 232-2233

8:30- 4:00

October 4, 2019



8:00-8:30

Breakfast and Registration

8:30-9:00

Welcoming Remarks

9:00-11:00

Session 1

Keynote Speaker: The Franklin Schools (MD)

Workshops: Apple Montessori, Broad Branch Children's House
Fernwood, White Flint Children's House, and Franklin Montessori



11:00-1:00

Session 2

Keynote Speaker: White Flint Children's House, Apple Montessori,
and Fernwood

Workshops: The Franklin Schools (MD), Broad Branch Children's
House, and Franklin Montessori (DC)



1:00-2:00

Lunch and Networking

2:00-4:00

Session 3

Keynote Speaker: Franklin Montessori (DC) and Broad Branch
Children's House

Workshops: The Franklin Schools (MD), White Flint Children's House,
Apple Montessori School, Fernwood Montessori



METRO DAY 2019: INCLUSION FOR PLURALISTIC SCHOOLS PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

JEN CORT, LCSW-C, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Language for Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Justice

Jen Cort's career blends her experience as a clinical social worker and educator. Her educational administrative experiences are as an assistant head of lower school, head of a middle school and senior administrator. Jen's therapy background includes serving as a counselor in lower, middle and upper schools as well as private practice. She began consulting after seeing a need for supporting schools to live out their missions regarding diversity and inclusion such that students can be seen and heard while learning to be visible and use their voices in productive ways. Jen is the host of an internationally syndicated podcast "Third Space With Jen Cort" bringing student, faculty, staff, and parents voices focusing on equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice.

Maria Eva Chaffin, M.Ed. and Brynn Rangel M.B.A

Addressing Challenging Behavior in the Early Childhood Montessori Classroom

Working with The *Montessori Foundation*, Montessori guide and special educator, Maria Eva Chaffin, M.Ed.; and behavior analyst, Brynn Rangel, M.B.A have joined together to deliver comprehensive and unique insight and guidance on addressing children with challenging behavior.

Bryann Rangel brings her insight as a behavior analyst in the Montessori classroom to better understand and identify patterns and strategies for children with varying exceptionalities.

Maria Eva Chaffin offers extensive Montessori and special needs teaching and classroom experience to leverage the Montessori method to interpret and apply behavioral strategies in the classroom to support and include struggling children.

METRO DAY 2019: INCLUSION FOR PLURALISTIC SCHOOLS PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

IANA PHILIPS, MAT

Am I black enough? An Inclusive Conversation: Finding the Universal in the Personal

An American Montessori Society (AMS) credentialed Elementary I (6-9) and II (9-12) teacher of nine years and credentialed Administrator, Iana has worked in multiple Montessori environments and models; public, private, and public charter. Over the course of her Montessori career she has served students in the classroom and works with adult learners, as an instructor at the Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies in Silver Spring, MD, an AMS consultant, and a volunteer MACTE verifier. Iana has recently been appointed to the board of Montessori Public Policy Initiative and is a nationally recognized presenter. Iana holds degrees in History from Mary Baldwin College and New Mexico State University. Iana also holds a Master's degree in Teaching from Trinity Washington University. She considers herself a humble Montessori parent, supportive consultant, enthusiastic learner, and proud Montessorian of Colour.

SABA AHMED

Anti-Bias and Equity in the Early Learning Classroom

Saba Ahmed is the Staff Recruitment and Professional Development Manager at Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day. She has been in the field of early childhood education for 17 years, working in every capacity from after school aide to Program Director. She's also worked in different roles within NAEYC and in partnership with CAEP. Saba's earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and holds a Masters in Special Education w/ a primary focus on Emotional and Learning Disabilities. Saba believes not just in educating young children, but in empowering and equipping them with strong social, emotional and cognitive foundations to carry with them as they begin their journey into the world. Her passion is communicating with and supporting families and children as they work to find their own path in life.

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TAMMY OESTING

Building an Equitable Holiday Approach

Tammy a Oesting is an intrepid world traveler whose interest in learning and education has sent her and her husband on a lifelong journey into optimizing the education process.

Tammy has held positions at every level within Montessori schools and is certified to teach Early Childhood (3-6), Elementary I (6-9), and Elementary II (9-12) students. She is a teacher educator and advisor for multiple training centers, an accomplished public speaker who delivers lectures, workshops, and keynote addresses globally, and a practiced consultant who advises schools and training centers around the world.

BARBARA LUBORSKY, OTR/L

Collaboration is the Key: Understanding the Role of the OT in Supporting Successful Inclusion in the Montessori Classroom

Barbara Luborsky, OTR/L is a pediatric occupational therapist with over 25 years of experience treating children with various diagnoses. Following her OT training, she earned an Infant Toddler Specialization certificate after spending a year as a Research Fellow at the Georgetown University Hospital Child Development Center. She is the owner of *Way to Grow*, LLC a private practice in Frederick, MD. Barbara has been involved with Montessori, as a teacher trainer, and as a speaker at 2 national NAMTA conferences and at the Montessori Congress in Prague. In June 2019, Barbara was co-director of Foundations of Montessori Inclusion in Milwaukee, WI. This course brought European Inclusion trainers to present their model of Montessori Medical Pedagogy for a 2-week course, presented for the first time in the USA. Barbara has a deep appreciation for Montessori's methods and materials and for the affinity of the method with OT methods and principles.

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Wendy Bayer, Ed.D

Inclusion in Montessori Schools: Supporting the Needs of Parents and Families

Since earning her B.A. in Fine Arts, Dance Concentration, M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education, and Ed.D. in K-12 Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Wendy Bayer has accumulate over fifteen years of experience as Montessori educator. She also has Early Childhood (3-6) AMS Credential (1997). Dr. Wendy Bayer wrote a doctoral dissertation researched that is focused on parental perceptions of inclusion in private schools. She is a parent of two college aged children, both with special needs, who attended Montessori schools through grade 2. She is currently serving at Paint Branch Montessori School as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Pre-primary (age 2-3) Lead Teacher.

METRO DAY 2019: INCLUSION FOR PLURALISTIC SCHOOLS CONTENT DESCRIPTION

All conference hours combined will total six (6) hours in the specific content area of Professionalism. We are seeking to have the Metro Day 2019 approved for 6 hours of Core of Knowledge training in the content area of Professionalism.

Keynote: Language for Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Justice

Jen Cort, LCSW-C, Keynote Speaker

The language of diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice is changing rapidly. This workshop provides information on the changing understanding of bias and gender. Attend to deepen your understanding of bias including the role of bias in our work, and how to identify and begin addressing our own biases. In the second half of the workshop, we will address the emerging understanding of gender identity, gender expression, and what changes have occurred leading to educators needing more information. Participants will leave with workbooks, a digital library of resources, and increase understanding of bias and gender.

Addressing Challenging Behavior in the Early Childhood Montessori Classroom

Maria Eva Chaffin, M.S.Ed and Brynn Rangel, M.B.A

This course will identify growing trends of students with special needs and define how the Montessori method is able to meet the needs of students with varying exceptionalities. This will also include learning how to build positive relationships, tailor the environment and utilize specific interventions to meet the needs of each student in the classroom. The attendees will understand the role of observation and implement observation methods regularly and learn specific intervention strategies and lesson adaptations to apply when working with students in 3 different levels: whole group, small group and 1:1. Lastly, it will optimize relationships with staff, administration and caregivers to build teams of support and access necessary resources.

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Am I black enough? An Inclusive Conversation: Finding the Universal in the Personal

Iana Phillips

This is a refreshingly engaging and interactive discussion about race and identity that aims at recognizing, addressing, and dispelling some layers of bias. The connections presented are formulated by revisiting the experiences of a black woman of African descent in present day America. The key component of this conversation is valuing identity. Resolving to inspire and promote a stronger sense of who we are and why we are valuable members of the global community. This presentation is about identifying who we are as individuals and further breaking down barriers to understanding the role identity plays in freeing or restricting us. As Montessorians we know that the principles of Montessori philosophy are essential to understanding ourselves, how we are all connected and contribute to the global community. Therefore, having a conversation that address the question Am I black enough?, An inclusive conversation: Finding the Universal in the Personal sits as a centrepiece for reclaiming Montessori for Universal liberation.

Anti-Bias and Equity in the Early Learning Classroom

Saba Ahmed

This workshop is designed to prepare each participant to lead their respective organizations in the development of a framework for equity. This will include strategies for developing and communicating a compelling story about why this work is important and timely for your organization, identifying the right leaders to join in the effort, and facilitating consensus and buy-in around an organization-wide approach to equity.

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Building an Equitable Holiday Approach

Tammy Oesting

The Building an Equitable Holiday Approach Workshop helps the participant understand the importance of including holidays that reflect both their communities and the world, begin to view their current approach with an anti-bias lens, implement best practices for celebrating a variety of holidays, and provides the means to craft a new holiday policy. In addition to making the school and classroom more inclusive, taking the course helps teachers and staff use holidays to expose children to other cultures' celebrations, making the festivities a natural teachable moment.

Collaboration is the Key: Understanding the Role of the OT in Supporting Successful Inclusion in the Montessori Classroom

Barbara Luborsky, OTR/L

This course will focus on an introduction to occupational therapy and describing the commonalities between OT and Montessori philosophies. It will describe developmental OT and discuss the difference between school-based services as they exist in the public sector versus private sector OT and all that it has to offer to children who are learning differently. It will provide an outline of the sensory integration framework and how children with sensory processing difficulties might present, along with suggestions and ideas for how a classroom teacher can support a child with sensory challenges in the Montessori environment.

In addition, it will focus on how OT can be implemented in the Montessori environment. Specific interventions will be illustrated using case studies with many examples of how, specifically, the OT intervened in the classroom to address the child's difficulties. There will be a discussion that will explicate how medical information is an essential part of the problem solving process. It will discuss the collaborative process and the importance of trying to build a multi-disciplinary team to meet the needs of today's complex children.

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Inclusion in Montessori Schools: Supporting the Needs of Parents and Families

Dr. Wendy Bayer

This presentation will start off with asking the question, "What is inclusion?" The lecture will discuss the parental views of inclusion, how Montessori is uniquely equipped for inclusion, unique challenges regarding learning differences. The presentation includes personal research findings of the early detection of challenges, common parental themes (interventions, advocacy, and frustration), and what parents are looking for in a school program. Parents can be experiencing exhaustion, frustration, social isolation, and financial stress. Dr. Bayer will then talk about her personal journey as a parent of two children with special needs. The presentation will wrap up by talking about how school can be supportive for administrators, teachers, assistants, and families through difficult decisions.