



Pennsylvania Montessori Alliance Conference

Saturday, April 18, 2020

The Pennsylvania Montessori Alliance (PMA) is a non-profit group created to bring together Montessorians in the state to work on advocacy, networking, and professional development.

Conference Goals:

- To provide professional development for Montessori teachers of PA
- To raise awareness of PMA and raise funds for Montessori advocacy work in PA

Conference Location: The Laboratory School at Carlow University 3333 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Conference Schedule (See detailed workshop descriptions on next page)

- 8:30-9:00** Registration / Meet and Greet with light refreshments
- 9:00-10:15** Workshop Session 1
- 10:30-11:45** Workshop Session 2
- 12:00-1:00** Lunch (provided) and PMA Advocacy Update
- 1:15-2:30** Workshop Session 3

AMS Professional Development Hours: 5 hours awarded by American Montessori Society
(Approval of PQAS and Allegheny IU hours pending)

Nearby Hotel Accommodations:

- Residence Inn- 3341 Forbes Ave
- Hilton Garden Inn- 3454 Forbes Ave
- Quality Inn - 3401 Blvd of the Allies
- Hampton Inn- 3315 Hamlet St.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION **Registration deadline April 11, 2020**

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

School affiliation: _____

School Address (if different from above):

Conference fee \$70.00 for PMA and GPMS Members /\$85.00 non-members

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Register and pay with Paypal at www.Pennsylvaniamontessori.org **OR Make check payable to** : Pennsylvania Montessori Alliance **Mail to:** PMA % The Wetherill School 1321 Beaumont Drive Gladwyne, PA 19035

Please include workshop selection page for each attendee with registration form.

Session One 9:00-10:15

Workshop Title / Description	Presenter
<p>Outcomes of a Montessori Education Applicable to: Administrators and all levels</p> <p>The American Montessori Society has identified 9 outcomes of an authentic Montessori education. This workshop will provide a model for teachers and administrators to work collaboratively to create a classroom observation tool to assess if children are demonstrating these outcomes and how to use the resulting data for staff development and continuous school improvement.</p>	<p>Mary Zajac, M.Ed., AMS EC - Teacher Education faculty and field consultant, Center for Montessori Education/NY. Mary is the former head of Penn-Mont Academy in Hollidaysburg, PA. Mary holds a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction and she is PA certified for grades K-8 and Special Education. Shannan Ake, M.Ed. AMS 3-6, 6-9, 9-12 Director of Elementary Education at Penn-Mont Academy and Liza Scholl, AMS EC Director of Early Childhood and Penn-Mont Academy</p>
<p>Meeting the Needs of the 3 year old in the Toddler Environment Applicable to: Toddler, EC & Admin</p> <p>Do your three-year-olds seem to have outgrown the toddler environment and you find yourself wanting to move them up to the 3-6 level rather than having them finish the school year in the toddler class? Come learn new roles that the three-year-old can take on, as well as challenging activities and extensions that will take the child through the end of the school year. Participants will learn why keeping threes in the toddler environment is actually beneficial!</p>	<p>Erin Conway, M.Ed. AMS IT - Head of School, Montessori Cottage, Fallsington, PA. Erin has 15 years of classroom teaching experience and administrative experience. She is a former instructor at the Chestnut Hill College Montessori Teacher Education Program in Philadelphia and the Princeton Teacher Training Program in Princeton, NJ.</p>
<p>Demystifying Everyday Phenomena by Using Simple Language and Powerful, Classroom Appropriate Scientific Experimentation Applicable to: ALL</p> <p>Participants will engage in collaborative, hands-on discussions, activities and experiments to illuminate physical phenomena like never before. We will demystify everyday occurrences and reduce them all to a common thread...the movement of particles. Using a variety of props and materials and following the participants' ideas and questions, we will delve into scientific inquiry: What do you see? What do you notice? What do you think would happen if...? Why? Who agrees with her? Who disagrees? This will allow us to crowd-source our information based on the participants' knowledge, not the presenters'. Following the inquiry, participants can test their knowledge with experimental setups, which helps to dismantle the belief that there are "experts" out there that know things, and the rest of us don't. We then get to test our own knowledge to see how it stands up to reality.</p> <p>Participants will leave with an understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> everyday physical phenomena related to the matter that makes up our world, and they will be able to articulate and meaningfully present their new understandings to peers and students. the knowledge to create original activities to guide peers and students to new understandings of energy/heat/matter, and will also receive handouts on the interactive activities experienced. 	<p>Andrew Siegle – AMS 6-9 Lower Elementary Guide at Gladwyne Montessori School. Gladwyne, PA. Andrew holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physics with a secondary concentration in education from the University of Maryland. Previously, Andrew was a travelling science teacher from 2015 - 2018 with the Philadelphia-based company Wondergy.</p>
<p>Three Essentials for a Successful Montessori Journey Applicable to: EC and Administrators</p> <p>This workshop will look at Enthusiasm, Passion and Love as three components for a successful Montessori experience as a teacher or administrator. We will look at the top 10 "By-Products" of these three components, and will discuss how to help develop enthusiasm, passion, and love with a new staff, as a new teacher, or as a teacher needing to re-connect with the joy of a Montessori Classroom. participants will leave this workshop with a renewed approach to the daily time in their classrooms. We hope that they are able to tap into the roles as mentors for new teachers and positive leaders as administrators.</p>	<p>Nancy Mehalic Nancy has been teaching Montessori for 3-6 year-olds since 1984 currently at a school she founded, Montessori School for Creative Learning in Moon Township, PA</p>

Session Two 10:30-11:45

Workshop Title / Description	Presenter
<p>The Power of Positive Communication Applicable to: ALL Effective communication is not only an art, but a critical ingredient in building positive relationships. In this workshop, we will explore the fundamentals of communication and provide ways to ensure you are doing so effectively. We will share types of communication, examples of negative communication, Montessori's view of praise, encouragement vs. praise, active and reflective listening, acknowledgement of feelings, and reforming everyday expressions. We will facilitate activities to sharpen your communication skills and enable you to become more positive when speaking with both children and adults.</p>	<p>Marie Conti, M.Ed. AMS EC credentialed, currently head of The Wetherill School in Gladwyne, PA since 2012, and is a former member of the AMS board of directors 2016-19. Marie taught in Montessori EC classes for 25 years before joining AMS in 2007 as director of school accreditation and member programs. Marie is a former instructor of the Chestnut Hill College Montessori Teacher Education Program in Philadelphia and the Montessori Institute of Teacher Education in DE. She served as EC education director at Wilmington Montessori School in Wilmington, DE from 2005-2007. Marie has been a frequent presenter at national and local conferences including PMA, AMS, NAEYC, DVAEYC, and The Montessori Foundation. Marie is a founding board</p>
<p>Teacher Coaching Applicable to: Administrators Coaching in a public or private Montessori School is an important aspect of maintaining Montessori integrity in the classroom. Attendees will gain an understanding of what classroom coaching looks like, and the tools utilized throughout the process - specifically the Developmental Environmental Rating Scale (DERS). Coaching in the classroom helps to prepare teachers for formal observations utilizing the Danielson Framework.</p>	<p>Mark Zelnick, M.Ed. and Jill Duncan, M.Ed. Mark is the Principal/Chief Academic Officer, Montessori Regional Charter School Erie. Jill is the Academic Fidelity at Montessori Regional Charter School in Erie. She holds a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction and a 6-9 AMS credential and 19 years classroom teaching experience at the 6-9 level.</p>
<p>Setting Behavioral Expectations and Working with Challenging Behaviors in your Classroom Applicable to: Administrators and all levels Testing limits and pushing boundaries is a necessary part of growing up and developing inner discipline. Join us as we discuss practical tips for preparing an environment and supporting your students in developing the social and emotional skills for making good behavioral choices no matter what stage of development they are in—toddlers through tweens.</p>	<p>Bridgid Beames, M.Ed., AMS EC and ADM credentialed Bridgid also holds an M.Ed. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. She is the founder and head of Namaste Montessori School in Ithaca, NY. Bridgid has 25 years of classroom experience and 15 as head of school. She has published articles and presented at conferences including AMS, IMC and NAEYC.</p>

Session Three 1:15-2:30

Workshop Title / Description	Presenter
<p>Growing Leadership from Within Your School Applicable to: Administrators and School Leaders</p> <p>Educational leaders play a pivotal role in affecting the climate, attitude and reputation of their schools. They are the cornerstone on which learning communities function and grow. Effective school leaders build and sustain reciprocal family and community partnerships and leverage those partnerships to cultivate inclusive, caring, and culturally responsive school communities.</p> <p>As heads of schools we are both leaders and managers. These two roles have one crucial difference: leaders deal in change, whereas managers deal in stability. In order for a school to thrive, they need both.</p> <p>In this workshop, we will begin to unpack all the varied roles a head of school must possess. We will discuss 15 areas of effective leaders, what distributed leadership is and how to implement at your school, and how to stay sane doing all of this!</p> <p>Participants will leave with an understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what effective leaders do • Distributed Leadership and how to begin implementing at your school • what the Head of School's role is in creating leaders from within 	<p>Diane Force, M.C.A.T. Currently Head of the Bala House Montessori School in Bala Cynwyd, PA since 2004; Assistant Director from 1999-2004.</p> <p>She is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Montessori Teacher's Association of PA 2009-2018. Diane served as a Montessori Representative on the Think Tank for the re-visioning of the Keystone Stars Quality Rating System. In 2015, she was the winner of the PA CAPE Early Education Administrator of the year award. Diane is co-founder and president of the PA Montessori Alliance.</p>
<p>Special Education and Collaborative Instruction Practices Applicable to: Elementary and Administration</p> <p>Information will be presented to help attendees to gain a better understanding of Special Education in a public Montessori classroom with an emphasis on Collaborative Instruction practices. Accommodations and Specially Designed Instruction using the Montessori Philosophy will be explored and discussed.</p> <p>Participants will leave with an understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • special education in a Montessori classroom • Collaborative Instruction Model • How to guide families through the Special Education process 	<p>Mark Zielinski, M.Ed. and Kelly Zimmerman, M.Ed. Mark is the Principal/Chief Academic Officer, Montessori Regional Charter School Erie.</p> <p>Kelly is AMS 6-9 credentialed and holds a Master's in Special Education. Kelly has over 15 years of teaching experience, 8 as a special education teacher at the Montessori Regional Charter School Erie and now serves as Dean of Students.</p>
<p>Introduction to Process Art Applicable to : All levels</p> <p>This workshop will be a process focused art experience Attendees will have a choice of participating in the prepared art activities, experiencing various art materials organized by different art media, including paint, collage and printmaking. This open-ended art experience will guide teachers in creating art experiences for the children their classrooms. Participants will be permitted to photograph the activities and projects. The goal is to create open-ended, individualized and original art to allow for freedom of expression in a relaxed setting, just as we should provide for children.</p>	<p>Meishan Hutchison, M.Ed., MFA Meishan holds several degrees, B.S. in Educational Development, M.Ed. in Creative Education and an MFA. Meishan was responsible for designing and implementing a Montessori inspired art curriculum for birth-3 and 3-6 year-olds and lead all related teacher trainings across a 40+ school education group in Beijing, China. Meishan founded a community-based art center in Philadelphia: SplashLab Arts and taught art at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.</p>